

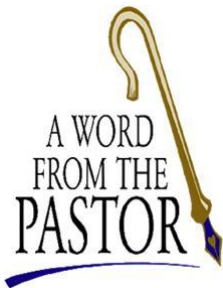


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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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QUIET MUTTERING

Even though we have passed Christmas, I hope that this letter finds you still in the light of the Christmas Season! I am so thankful to serve among such a kind community here at Our Savior. All of your Christmas greetings and generosity to me and my family have been greatly appreciated. I give thanks to God for all of you and pray that He continues to grow you in His service this new year!

An Epiphany reflection I would like to share with you starts in my childhood. I have always had a special place in my heart for the celebration of Epiphany. So much effort and focus is put into Christmas (and rightfully so), yet Epiphany is the completion of the Church's Christmas celebrations.

I remember growing up we did not open presents on Christmas but instead opened one each of the twelve days leading up to Epiphany. As the days would tick by there was a steady excitement continuing our Christmas celebration. Then finally, as we remembered the Wise Men arriving to give gifts to the baby Jesus, it was fitting to end with our focus back on Jesus, the true gift to us all.

As a child this spread out excitement was fun to wonder what I would unwrap each day. But as I reflect back, I realize the greater meaning behind celebrating Epiphany that this family tradition helped to plant within me. It is so easy to build up Christmas to a fever pitch that all of the sudden slides into gloomy winter. As the sun continues taking its winter rest, we so easily get sucked back into the monotony of our daily life after such a busy and hectic Christmas season. Epiphany stands as a reminder that the coming of Jesus is not a once-a-year celebration but a continual gift we are welcomed to unwrap fresh each day. The love,

forgiveness, and peace Jesus offers is meant for us every day. Just as the Wisemen came as foreigners to bring Jesus their finest gifts, we too are invited in: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

We come to Jesus and offer our time and resources not because He needs them or because it gains us favor. Rather we follow the example of the Wise Men and bring the best of what we have out of awe and reverence. We have been given access to the Savior, the true ruler of the world, who is working to restore all of creation. Jesus died and rose for you. A simple sentence, but one that a lifetime of pondering will only begin to unwrap. As we grow and digest this simple truth, I pray that the fullness of such a profound expression of God's love and provision will begin to shape you more and more.

So, in the end, the giving really only goes one way: from God to me and you. Everything we give is but a copy, or a return, of the generosity that Christ has first shown us.

"The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." 1 Timothy 1:5

**In His Grip,
Pastor Brenden Harrell**



JANUARY

Birthdays

| | | |
|-----|----|--------------------|
| Jan | 01 | Gregory Amaral |
| Jan | 02 | Jordan Hahn |
| Jan | 05 | Cana Harrell |
| Jan | 09 | Jay Hahn |
| Jan | 11 | Tom Heuchert |
| Jan | 14 | Georgiann Willie |
| Jan | 16 | Evon Thomas |
| Jan | 18 | Arlin Weiting |
| Jan | 21 | Crystal Shaffer |
| Jan | 22 | Terry Murdock |
| Jan | 24 | Inez Bauman |
| Jan | 25 | Joretta Borchert |
| Jan | 26 | Sharon Weiting |
| Jan | 26 | Katherine Lee |
| Jan | 28 | Sullivan Riley |
| Jan | 28 | Vedder Gurchinoff |
| Jan | 28 | Ramon Escobedo |
| Jan | 30 | Ernie Heuchert Jr. |

JANUARY

Anniversaries

| | | |
|-----|----|----------------------|
| Jan | 02 | John & Evon Thomas |
| Jan | 03 | Terry & Jill Murdock |
| Jan | 26 | Dick & Debra Scholar |



| | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Jan 16 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Parents' Night Out |
| Jan 18 | 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study |
| Jan 18 | 10:00 am – Praise/Communion Service |
| Jan 18 | 11:30 am – Council Meeting |
| Jan 20 | 5:30 pm – P/S Board Mtg. |
| Jan 20 | 9:00 am – Feb. Newsletter Deadline |
| Jan 21 | 10:00-11:30 am – Sm. Grp. Bible Study |
| Jan 24 | Mowing – Hathaway, Mayes |
| Jan 25 | 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study |
| Jan 25 | 10:00 am – Worship Service |
| Jan 28 | 10:00-11:30 am – Sm. Grp. Bible Study |
| Jan 31 | 10:00-1:00 pm – Snow Day |

ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



Jan 04 – Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Emma Olney

Flowers: - Velma Williamson (G. Lange)

Jan 11 – Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Becky Foley

Flowers: - OPEN

Jan 18 – Praise/Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Lori Williamson

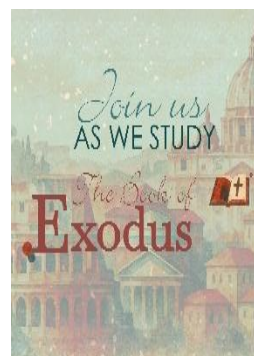
Flowers: - Caelynn LaBelle's 4th birthday (J. LaBelle)

Jan 25 – Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Sara Chaney

Flowers: - Inez Bauman's 95th birthday (B. Zielke)

| | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 03 | 1:00 pm – Rowland memorial |
| Jan 04 | 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study |
| Jan 04 | 10:00 am – Communion Service |
| Jan 06 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Shelter prep (SH) |
| Jan 07 | 10:00-11:30 am – Sm. Grp. Bible Study |
| Jan 08 | 4:30 pm - Elders' Mtg. |
| Jan 10 | Mowing – Atrops, LaBelle, Allred |
| Jan 11 | 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study |
| Jan 11 | 10:00 am – Worship Service |
| Jan 12 | 6:00-8:00 pm – Men's Group |
| Jan 13 | 9:30 – 11:30 am – Quilters |
| Jan 14 | 10:00-11:30 am – Sm. Grp. Bible Study |
| Jan 15 | 9:00 am – Feb. Ministry Availability Due |



LifeLight Small-Group

Bible Study begins

Wednesday, January 7, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room. This is a nine-week course that will cover Exodus, Part 2. If you missed the study of Exodus, Part 1, it's not a problem! For further information, please contact Rudy or Cheryl Stowell (805) 937-3654

MOWING for JANUARY



Jan 10 – Atrops, LaBelle, Allred

Jan 24 – Hathaway, Mayes

PARENTS Night Out

Make plans to support Parents Night Out by playing with the preschool kids on January 16th, February 20th and March 20th, 2026. We play, craft, eat dinner and build relationships from 6-8pm in Stanhke Hall. To sign up or get more information, call/text Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443.



Fikisha has so many volunteers to do tutoring, house visits and meetings but they were found lacking spiritual training so Small Group Meetings of volunteers were set up and transformations are happening. From a post on IG and FB, "One of our volunteers recently shared a

powerful testimony: before joining the group, she had never read the Bible. But through the warmth, encouragement and authenticity of our sessions, she found the courage to open God's Word for the very first time." Transformation is happening. To be a part of it from California, pray with us and support the programs. For more information, contact Paul and Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443.

Snow Day



**Saturday January 31
10am – 1pm**

Come, play and sled in the snow right here at Upward Bound! The sledding slopes are designed for children elementary and younger. Hope to see you there! Don't forget to tell your family and friends, because it's free and open to the public!

Would you be willing to make a (tax-deductible) donation of \$400.00 to buy a TON of snow? Two families can go together to make a ton @ \$200.00 each. Of course, any amount is helpful to defray the costs. We are hoping to have at least twelve tons this year. You can now donate online at www.lcos.net/donate-now/ And select the "Preschool Fundraiser" on the "Select Fund*" dropdown menu. Or pay by check to "L.C.O.S." and put "Snow Day" in the info line.

If you can or know of someone who would like to donate, please have them contact Katie Harrell or Diana Brown at upwardbound.lcos@gmail.com or (805) 938-5121. Thank You! DEADLINE 1/18/25.

Thank you for your support, which is greatly appreciated!

ELDER'S CORNER

A Friend

During our lifetime we will be blessed with many friends. A true gift from God. They are good listeners. They rejoice when we rejoice and mourn when we mourn. I found this story about a friend in my archives, author unknown.

"One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class walking home. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd.

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said that he had gone to private school before now.

I would never have hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same about him.

Monday morning came and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said,

"Boy, you are really going to build some serious muscles with this pile of books every day!" He just shrugged, laughed and handed me half his books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew we would always be friends, that miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation.

I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys who really found himself in high school. He had filled out and really looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous.

Today was one of those days. I could see he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll do great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those rough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach.... but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story."

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying all his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile.

"Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me and

smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse.

God puts us all and each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others. Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."

Submitted by Mark Hathaway

Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11,16)

Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)

— Gus Nichols

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)



C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)



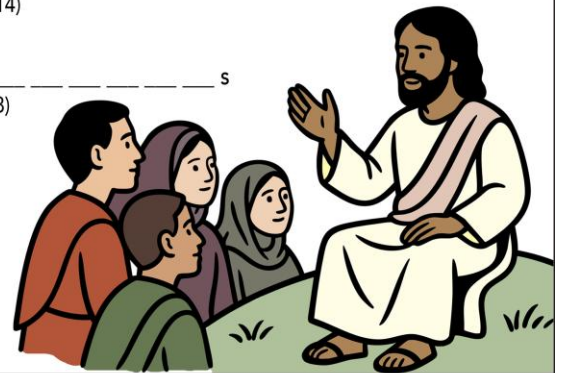
S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11:26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses



JANUARY 2026

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

| DAY | TIME | ACOLYTE | ELDERS | USHERS | LESSON READER | MEDIA | ALTAR GUILD/FLOWERS |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| 4 Sunday | 10:00 AM Communion | Ali Mayes | Mark Hathaway Tom Heuchert | Mike Foley | Debbie Heuchert | Ed Buchholz | Altar: Emma Olney |
| | | | | | | | Flowers: Langes for Velma Williamson |
| 11 Sunday | 10:00 AM | Drew Schofield | Rudy Stowell | Paul Mattson | Jill Murdock | Terry Murdock | Altar: Becky Foley |
| | | | | | | | Flowers: OPEN |
| 18 Praise Sunday | 10:00 AM Communion | Trevor Schofield | Dennis Payne Todd Martin | Bill Williamson | Reese Riddiough | Estelle Schofield | Altar: Lori Williamson |
| | | | | | | | Flowers: J. LaBelle for Caelynn LaBelle's 4th birthday |
| 25 Sunday | 10:00 AM | Elder | Art Atrops | Jim LaBelle | Becky Zielke | Chad Thorstenson | Altar: Sara Chaney |
| | | | | | | | Flowers: B. Zielke for Inez Bauman's 95th birthday |
| Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>> | | ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675 | ELDERS *Dennis Payne 934-1101 | USHERS *Art Atrops 937-0485 | READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873 | MEDIA *Dennis Payne 934-1101 | ALTAR GUILD Becky Zielke 598-6924 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Debbie Heuchert 264-4599 |

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(s) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER

2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(s).

3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES(s) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE - 937-1116

JANUARY 2026

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 New Years Day- Church office closed | 2 | 3 1:00PM – Rowland memorial |
| 4 9:00AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00AM –Comm. Svc. | 5 | 6 3:00-4:30pm – SH in use (Shelter) | 7 10:00AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study | 8 4:30PM – Elders’ Mtg. | 9 | 10 Mowing: Atrops, LaBelle, Allred |
| 11 9:00AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00AM – Worship Svc. | 12 6:00PM – Men’s Group | 13 9:30AM - Quilters | 14 10:00AM– Sm. Grp. Bible Study | 15 Ministry Availability Deadline | 16 6:00 – 8:00 PM Parents’ Night Out | 17 |
| 18 9:00AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00AM – Praise/Comm Svc. 11:30AM – Council Mtg. | 19 | 20 5:30PM – P/S Board Mtg. Newsletter Deadline | 21 10:00AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study | 22 | 23 | 24 Mowing: Hathaway, Mayes |
| 25 9:00AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00AM – Worship Svc. | 26 | 27 | 28 10:00AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study | 29 | 30 | 31 10:00AM- 1:00PM Snow Day |