



PASTOR'S CORNER

Trust and Joy in the Midst of Trouble

17 Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;

though the produce of the olive fails,
and the fields yield no food;

though the flock is cut off from the fold,
and there is no herd in the stalls,

18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord;

I will exult in the God of my salvation.

19 God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.[n]

Habakkuk 3:17-19

The first week of December we heard these words from Habakkuk as Quinn Stone, Luther Point's Program Director shared God's word with us. As I look to the new year, these words strike me again. It has been a rough year. Many devastating things have happened in our world, in our communities and in our families. New years are usually looked at with hope. It can be hard to look with hope in the midst of trouble. In Habakkuk's words we are reminded that we look for hope in the midst of trouble, not of our own accord, but with God. God who is our salvation and our strength.

In these past couple of months, since Jeff's death, it has been hard to look with hope. There are times when all seems lost. But in the midst of that I know that God is with me, the girls and all of us and in the midst of my own weakness, I can lean on God's strength and the strength of those whom God has placed around me.

I know many of you have faced and are facing difficult times. We are in the season of Christmas and Epiphany, a time when we have been reminded that God

In This Issue

• **T**RUST AND JOY
IN THE MIDST
OF TROUBLE

• **P**ARISH
LEADERS

• **J**ANUARY
SCRIPTURE

• **F**AITH
FORMATION

• **W**ELCA

• **T**HANKS,
PRAISE &
PRAYERS

• **B**ANNERS
AND ALTAR
HANGINGS

•

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FAITH AND CARE GROUP

January			
Craig & Jamie Carlson	Karen Dehret	Denise Donaghue	Tom Donaghue
Don Jon & Jennifer Erickson	Brian & Judy Hanson	Scott & Kay Jacobson	Steve & Jeanne Jensen
Betty Larson	Richard & Marge Lauring	Jack & Kim Lundgren	Doug & Patty Nelson
Dave & Rose Offerdahl	Dave & Yvonne Snyder	Jim Snyder	Steve Warndahl
Liz Williamson			

came down to this earth, Jesus who came to live among us, to teach us love. Jesus came to give us the ultimate gift in love and that is his life for our salvation. In Epiphany we are greeted again by the wonder and awe of the truth in what God has done for us. As we move through this season may we be reminded that God has come and is with us in every season of our lives, and it is with God's strength that we can enter each new day trusting God is with us and has placed us where we are to walk with one another on this journey.

Last Epiphany we handed out Epiphany stars, each having a word on it for you to ponder and pray over for the year to come. I encourage you to take out those stars and ponder on their meaning to you this past year. (We will again have Epiphany stars for you to take one, they will be handed out at the Annual meeting worships.) I came across Jeff's Epiphany star last month and his word was victory. It was a holy moment to look upon that star of wonder and ponder the truth in those words. Jeff has received his victory and God continues to walk with us as we wrestle with the effects of that on our lives until we all receive that same gift. I pray that the words the Holy Spirit entrusted to you have blessed you the past year and that the words you receive will draw you closer to the wonder and awe of our Lord.

At Jeff's funeral we sang the song With Hope, by Steven Curtiss Chapman. It is with hope that we can wait, that we can cry, that we can laugh, that we can remember, that we can grieve and we can celebrate. It is with hope that we walk this journey supporting one another. I am so grateful for all of you that God has placed in mine and the girls' lives. I am honored and humbled to be called to walk with you in the joys and troubles of your lives. Together may we boldly live in God's strength and live each day in hope. May we go into this new year with the patience to wait and wonder and awe to see God's blessings among us.

A Blessed New Year to All.
 With Love and Hope,
 Pastor Marilyn

January Scripture

<i>January Scripture</i>			
Jan 6	Lessons and Carols		
Jan 13	Mathew 3:1-17	Carol Medchill	Don Swanson
Jan 20	Mathew 4:1-17	Emily Crossfield	Emily Crossfield
Jan 27	Matthew 5:1-20	Jacob McKinven	Karen Johnson

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

18 You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. 20 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

Faith Formation

Changes to Together in Faith Schedule

Due to postponements Together in Faith will plan to meet as follows.

Jan 16th 3yr. - Kind Lord's Prayer

Feb 13 1st & 2nd Baptism

Feb 20 3rd & 4th Bible/Ten Commandments

May 15 5th & 6th Holy Communion & Confession and Forgiveness

All meeting @ 6pm.

We will have Dinner Church for the Maundy Thursday Worship

January 2019 Together In Faith Schedule

2nd - Transit II meets @ 6pm

9th - Transit II meets @ 6pm

16th - Together in Faith: 3rd -
Kind meets @ 6pm

23rd Generation In Faith To-
gether meets @ 5:30 pm

Living our Faith

Our Vision is that; "All people are Fed, Clothed, and Cared for in Christ's Love."

Our Current Mission focus is on warm clothes. We will be collecting jackets, coats, snowpants, and winter boots. The need for socks is all year; from children to adult sizes. Items can be placed in the first Sunday School Room





First Circle Meetings

Jan 16
Circle @ 6:30pm
Sandy Jensen, Hostess

Laketown Workers

Cleaning - Joyce S.
Newsletter - Karen

Jan 3
8:30 - 12:00
Quilting Begins

Jan 13
Annual Meeting w/Potluck
Jan 16
Quilting Fellowship 7-9pm



Monthly
Cookbook
Meeting
January 9th
@ 6:30pm

**LAKETOWN LUTHERAN ASSEMBLED:
10 BABY KITS, 6 SCHOOL KITS, 6 PERSONAL
CARE KITS, AND 25 BARS OF SOUP AND 22
QUILTS**



150th Anniversary Cookbook

WELCA is asking you to submit your recipes!
As part of the celebration of our 150th year
In 2020 WELCA will be publishing an Ann-
versary Cookbook. Submit your traditional
and favorite recipes as well as slow-cooker,
gluten free and diabetic.

Thanks, Praise and Prayers

As God's beloved children, let us pray that the light of Christ shine on the nations, the church and all those in need.

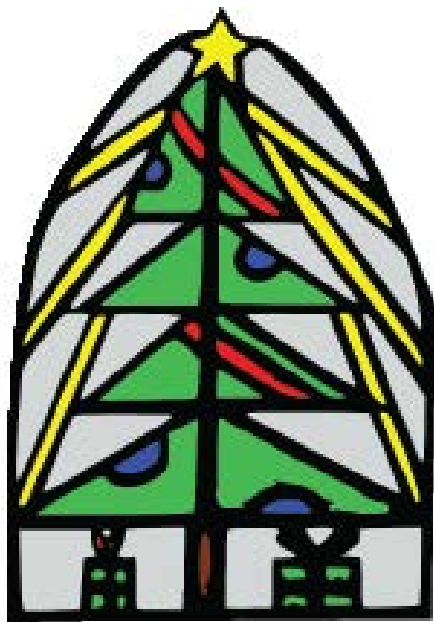
Sharon Doolittle, LaVonne Lumsden, Jennifer Schwartz, Gordon Fox, Paula Gudmunsen and others we name before God today

Sometimes in our busy lives we forget to stop, reflect upon our blessings, and take the time share our compassion and empathy with others. Since there has been very little room in the past few bulletins to pray for family and friends who need our immediate attention, let's do it now

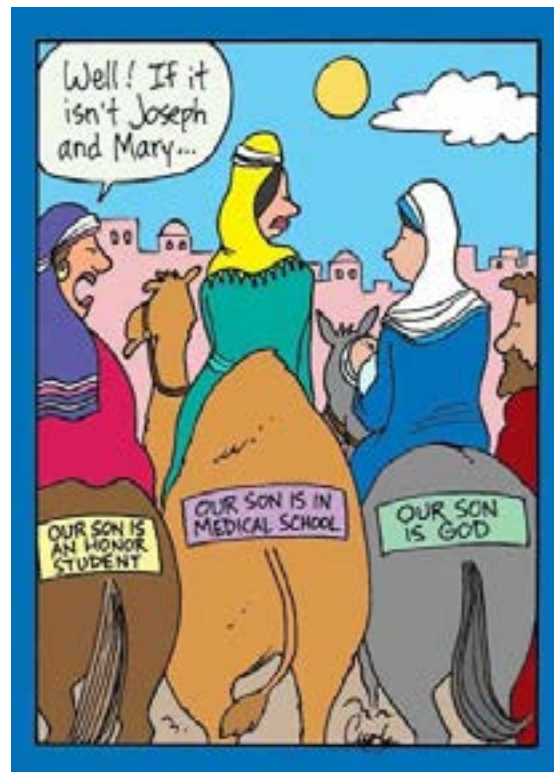
There are a number of ways to add someone to the prayer list. Call the church office and leave a message; make a note of it on Sunday morning with your name and name of person and give it to Pastor Marilyn or put it in the offering plate. We will keep the person on the prayer list for 6 weeks. If you would like the person to continue on the prayer list, just let us know and they will be added/kept on the list for another 6 weeks. There is no limit to the number of times a person can be put on the prayer list. Thank you for your help and for lifting one another up in prayer.

Please Note!

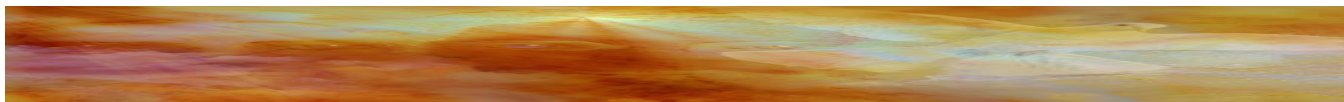
Please remember to have family notify the church office if you are in the hospital. The privacy data laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church of your admittance.



We would like to extend a special thank you to John and Sherry Tamalt for setting up and decoration the Christmas tree.



LUKE'S VISION FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD



This continues to be the banner theme for January as we look at Dr. Luke's other book, Acts. This is a fitting banner as we continue through Christmas-Our Lord's Birth, Epiphany, as Luke's Gospel gives us the life of Jesus from his birth to his ascension. The book of Acts gives us the birth and life of the Church thought today. And if you think that things have changed in the last two thousand years put your name and in the place of those people and events and then tell me that things have changed.

The following excerpt is from the book "Adventuring Through the Bible" by Ray C. Stedman found in the chapter on the book of Acts sets us up for the reading the book of the Bible.

"The essence of the book of Acts, is the account of the way the Holy Spirit, moving through the church, continued what Jesus began to do in His earthly ministry. So the record of the Gospels is the story of only the beginning of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you come to end of the Gospels, you have come not to the end, nor even to the beginning of the end, but to the end of the beginning. In the book Acts, the Holy Spirit now begins to fulfill the program of God. He begins to carry on His work through the reincarnated body of Jesus Christ-the church.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He exchanged His own resurrected body on earth for a different kind of body on earth-the church, which the New Testament calls "the body of Christ." Instead of a single human body that can be in either Galilee or Samaria or Judea and that must stop every now and then to sleep, He now has a body that reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth and is active twenty-four hours a day! We now live in the age of the Spirit--an age inaugurated on the day of Pentecost, the first major event of the book of Acts.

The Holy Spirit gives us the outline of the book of Acts in a very well-known verse, chapter 1, verse

8-our Lord's words to the disciples:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you ... "

That statement encompasses the first two chapters of Acts-the chapters concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Lord, in 1:8, goes on to say:

" ... and you will be my witnesses ... "

That is the theme of the rest of Acts, chapters 3 through 28. The concluding phrase of Acts 1:8 then divides chapters 3 through 28 into several parts:

" ... in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. "

As we read Luke's book of Acts we see ourselves as the people of the Body going out empowered by Him/ the Holy Spirit to tell others about this man Jesus and what he has done for me. I would like to encourage everyone to read the book of Acts this month. You can do it any way that works for you but with 28 chapters that is one chapter a day for the month. I also would challenge you to read one other book of the Bible this month of your choice there are 65 others to choose from, Proverbs is an easy one to start with it is 31 chapters long.

The Alter hangings for this month are white for Christmas through Epiphany.

Yours in Christ,
Steve Jensen



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Ministry Messenger

A Publication of First and Laketown Parish



Laketown Lutheran Church

We seek to know and love God, share His love and word throughout our faith through the Holy Spirit, and as servants of Christ serve those in need.



First Lutheran Church

As part of God's family we seek to grow in our faith, provide spiritual nourishment to our congregation, and reach out to others.

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