



JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



January Sunday Worship

A Time of Repentance, Preparation and Redirection

During the month of January we enter into the season of Epiphany. Epiphany means “appearing: to make known.” During this church season we will be looking into the first chapter of the gospel of Mark. Mark, recognized as the first gospel that was written, wants the message of Jesus Christ (the “Good News”) to get out to everyone as quickly as possible. Jesus begins calling disciples to follow Him for the Kingdom of God has come near. During January we will hear a similar calling to follow Jesus and invite others to follow Him as well. Come and hear again the call of Jesus upon your life.

January 7 – (Mark 1:4-11) – **Baptism of our Lord**

Jesus is revealed as God's servant.

January 14 – (John 1:143-51) – **Epiphany 2**

The calling of the first disciples.

January 21 – (Mark 1:14-20) – **Epiphany 3**

The calling of the disciples at the sea.

January 28 – (Mark 1:21-28) - **Epiphany 4**

The healing of one with an unclean spirit.

Wednesday Night Alive/Worship on Wednesdays

After a short break over Christmas and the New Year, WNA and WOW will begin again on Wednesday, January 10. We will return to our usual schedule: 6:15 – Meal; 7:00 – Worship. We will meet for five Wednesdays (Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7) until Lent begins February 14 with our Ash Wednesday service. During these five weeks our message will center on the **Years of Preparation** (the years that elapsed between the birth of Jesus until His baptism at age 30). For approximately 30 years Jesus is growing “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52). These are the years of His preparation. These are sometimes called “the hidden years” because they precede His emergence onto the public stage. So we will be thinking about the childhood and boyhood of Jesus, His growth into maturity, His work at the carpenter's bench, and the witness borne to Him by John the Baptist.

Upcoming Lenten Theme

Lent Begins February 14

The theme for our mid-week Lenten services this year is “**Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World.**” Our resource will be the latest book by Max Lucado with the same title. Max Lucado shares inside this book cover these words: “It’s a low-grade fear. An edginess, a dread. It’s a wind that won’t stop howling. It’s not so much a storm as it is the certainty that one is coming. Always . . . coming. The anxiety has reasons. We worry. We even feel anxious about feeling anxious.” Sound familiar? Don’t fret. We all encounter anxiety but how we deal with it is another story. Using the familiar passage of Philippians 4:4-7, we will discover some key mile markers along the road to peace and calm. Is God sovereign over our circumstances? Is He mightier than our problems? Does He have answers to our questions? According to scripture, the answer is yes, yes, and yes! We can trust Him and we can “be anxious for nothing.” Watch for more details in our February newsletter as we list several key mile markers along the road to the peace of Christ that passes all understanding. Each mid-week service begins at 7:00 p.m., preceded by a free-will offering soup supper in the fellowship hall beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Chili/Soup Cook Off and Game Night

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the annual Chili and Soup Cook-off, Pitch and Cribbage Tournaments! This fun event, back by popular demand, will be **Saturday, Jan. 27**, at **5:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. **DON'T MISS THIS EXTREMELY FUN FUNDRAISER** for the Confirmation Class. Their Chili & Soup cook-off, Pitch and Cribbage tournament/Family Game Night is a night packed full of fun and fellowship! If you haven’t made one yet, THIS is the time to attend. If you’re tired of the cold, dreary winter evenings this activity will be just what the doctor ordered to beat the winter blues! It’s the perfect opportunity to fill your tummies with some of the finest soups in the Northeast during the Chili and Soup Cook-off and fill your hearts with the chance to visit and laugh with members of the church family and those they invite to attend!

Bring those dollar bills and vote for your favorite pot of chili or other soup and see who will get the coveted GOLDEN SPOONS! Feeling competitive? Bring a pot of soup or chili and enter for your chance at a Golden Spoon! The entrance fee is \$5 per pot of soup or chili. If entering a soup, we ask that entries be at the church by 4:00. Not feeling like a chef but still feeling like you might like a little competition? There is a \$5 entry fee into the pitch and cribbage tournaments. Each year the competition to win the coveted GOLDEN DECK gets more intense. If you don’t play either of those games, you can bring your favorite games from home. This event promises plenty of soup and plenty of fun! Invite friends and family and plan on the best night! **Saturday, January 27, beginning at 5:00** until we are done. This is one event you DON'T want to miss.

Pastor Steve's Letter: **"Read Your Bible – A Worthwhile New Year's Resolution"**

Once again we turn our calendar to a New Year. Happy New Year and welcome to 2018! As the New Year begins, no one knows what the year ahead holds for us. It will certainly hold both joys and sorrows, memorable events we wish could never end and events we wish we could erase. As unknown as the year will be, we as believers place our trust and confidence in the One who not only knows our future but walks with us through each and every one. As David wrote in Psalm 139, we put our trust in God: "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thought from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely . . . all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psalm 139:1-4, 16) I don't know about you, but these words of promise give me comfort and strength as I look forward to the year 2018. May you, too, know the same confidence and strength!

As with every beginning of a New Year, it is time for resolutions of positive change. While the airwaves are full of advertisements encouraging us to use their product to lose weight, I too would like to use this newsletter to motivate you to a worthwhile resolution – read through the whole Bible in one year. Yes, you heard me right! Read the entire Bible in one year. I am talking about reading your Bible only 15-20 minutes a day. Before you say "I've tried that before and it didn't work," let me suggest a different method of reading. Most people when they try to read through the whole Bible, they usually start with Genesis and read straight through Revelation. As admirable as that may seem, some books of the Bible are not as easy to read through day after day. Thus, a different approach – **The One Year Bible Reading Plan**. The One Year Plan is arranged in such a way that every day you read from 4 different biblical passages – Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. This arrangement brings variety and a fresh approach to each day's reading, while providing a clear understanding of the Bible's larger message. No other "through the Bible" plan presents the entire Bible in such a user-friendly format. Simply select the month and date to link to the passages for the day. (One thing I have discovered in this method is trying to keep up if you miss a few days in a row. You don't have to try to make up your reading, just read the passages assigned for the day it is today.)

I am suggesting for you two different approaches to help you read through the Bible in one year. First, use your own Bible and pick up a copy of the reading plan on the back table with the suggested daily reading plan for each day. Second, purchase a One Year Bible itself which arranges the Bible with the 4 different biblical passage readings on each day (no need to turn back and forth in your Bible). You can order your own or sign your name on the back table and the church will order you one (\$15). Also, there is an excellent One Year Bible Companion which lists each of the 66 books of the Bible by author, date, content and theme. Then the companion book asks and answers four questions based on the daily readings each day (\$13). Again, order your own or sign up to order one through the church. Sample copies of the One Year Bible and One Year Bible Companion are available to view on the back table.

Why the encouragement to read through the Bible on your own this year? While I could give you a million and one reasons, I will give you my main one. I have been reading through the Bible for over 40 years and every time I read scripture those words have been imprinted in my mind. The more times I re-read scripture the stronger those words are given to my memory. As a follower of Jesus, Jesus many times told us that the Holy Spirit would remind us of His words that He has spoken. The more words of Jesus (and the Bible) I put into my mind, the Holy Spirit is able to speak to me more and more. I cannot begin to tell you how often this has been true in my life. Whether I am writing a sermon, reflecting on what to share in a certain situation, or simply meditating by myself in prayer and devotion, words and images of scripture come running with vivid memory to my mind. And the joy I experience in those moments is beyond words or description. The more I read the Bible the more the Holy Spirit speaks to me. I rejoice this day realizing all those moments and years of reading scripture have never been in vain or just a religious duty. The Word of God is truly living and active as the writer of Hebrews puts it (Hebrews 4:12).

So let's get to work! Let's start a new habit that will enrich our daily lives and become a source of strength in all life's circumstances this year and beyond.

Living in the Word,

Board of Administration Meeting
November 20, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Richard Hillrichs, Jan Puls, Wanda Muhs, Judy Carstens, Warren Bennett, Steve Freese, Pastor Steve

Richard called this meeting to order and offered the opening prayer. The minutes of our last meeting were reviewed. Wanda offered a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Steve, and the motion carried.

New Business

Pastor Steve shared that the Thompson family would like to do something for the church in memory of Galen. Suggestions included 1) dry-walling the east and west walls in the sanctuary; 2) dry-walling the fellowship hall, and 3) purchasing new tables for the fellowship hall. The board approved dry-walling the sanctuary (possibly also the fellowship hall, family's choice), so Pastor will follow up with Susan. Warren offered to take someone from T&H around to get estimates.

Old Business

Richard reviewed our insurance coverage and confirmed that drivers are covered when transporting others to church events under "non-owned vehicle liability coverage."

Electricity has been turned off at the picnic shelter for the season.

Cable One installed phone lines on October 23 so we no longer have phone service with Century Link.

\$2,050 was deposited to the parsonage deck fund on Nov. 6. The fund drive continues, and Richard will share this with the congregation.

Personnel

Steve reported that he and Arlynn Boelman met with Pastor and Kathy on Nov. 7. Topics discussed included expanding our social media presence, concerns about using furnace rooms for storage, changing furnace filters (Warren volunteered to do this), Pastor Steve's desire for a strong vision for the future, focusing on grades 1 through 4; needing help with quilts, medallions, and faith chests for baptisms; a plan for when Charlie Skoglund is not available to assist Pastor Steve (Richard can do this); setting up visitations with shut-ins (Judy's committee has been doing this) and providing training for lay people to do this. Wanda asked if this is what the membership care team does.

Property

We need people to set up the manger scene on Saturday, as well as a pickup to haul the pieces. Warren offered to help, Wanda will let Wendell know, and possibly Lonnie and Doug could also help. The soffit and fascia are done. Wanda reported that the carpet by the coat rack is wrinkling and needs to be stretched. She suggested that we budget to clean the carpet in the fellowship hall next spring.

Membership/Stewardship

Judy shared that 24 pledge cards were turned in, representing a commitment of \$83,090. Her committee has sent out several cards to visitors, and one family continues to visit.

Finance

Jan reported that there is \$29,595 in our checking account as of the end of last month. Greg's financial report was reviewed.

Kathy asked if we want to spend \$49 per year to join Quill+Plus, where she orders paper and other supplies. We would save on the cost of paper as well as shipping. The board approved this, and Kathy will get us signed up.

Bills to be paid

\$4,949	Unkel Woodworks (labor on parsonage deck)
\$2,900	Unkel Woodworks (labor for soffit and fascia on church building)
\$221.00	Volkman Plumbing & Heating (replaced bad pilot burner on furnace)
\$ 59.40	Heartland Fire Protection (annual fire extinguisher inspection/recertification)
\$807.12	Century Lumber (railing materials)
\$247.50	Gerald Asplin (piano tuning)

Steve offered a motion to approve all bills, seconded by Warren, and the motion carried.

There being no further business, Steve offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wanda. Next meeting: Monday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Spiritual Oversight Meeting
November 21, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Jessen, Doug Witte, Linda Cyboron, Pastor Steve
Absent: Brian Anderson, Deb Olson

Doug shared a devotion, "Keep A Sane Pace," from "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff," then led the opening prayer. Pastor Steve continued our Bible study on Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 2:1-10).

The minutes of our last meeting were reviewed. Doug offered a motion to approve them as written, seconded by Linda, and the motion carried. The financial report was distributed and discussed.

Doug pointed out a discrepancy in our bylaws as to when our annual meeting is to be held. There is also a lack of opportunity for board members to have input into the budget process. We need to start talking about the budget in September as opposed to waiting until the end of October, and the committees need to give their input as well. Doug offered a motion to meet with the Board of Administration on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 6:30 (alternate date Nov. 27) to discuss the budget for 2018, seconded by Linda; motion carried. Pastor then called Richard Hillrichs, who can be at said meeting and will notify the rest of his board. Greg Moen will also be able to attend. There is, on the schedule, a congregational meeting on Dec. 3 to review the proposed budget, with a vote scheduled for Dec. 17.

Discipleship:

Doug is enjoying the Growing Up small group in which he participates, and shared that he concurs with Pastor regarding the Sunday school curriculum (see pastor's report).

Outreach:

Linda is excited about the Eucharistic Ministry. There are 5 teams, and two teams of two will be sent out each Sunday. If there were eight teams, each team would only have to go out once a month. She shared that the First Fruits auction was successful. Regarding the general mission fund, the Mission and Ministry team should propose where the money goes and present their suggestions to this board.

Pastor's Report (see handout). Pastor also shared a handout showing each board member's role and when their term in office will end. The nomination review committee will meet in January. Steve recommends that the Finance position on the Board of Administration be restructured into a long-term role versus a 3-year term.

There being no further business, Doug offered a motion to adjourn. Pastor led the closing prayer, and Steve declared the meeting adjourned. Next meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Katelyn Hall	1-1
Mick Kullbom	1-4
Warren Bennett	1-6
Lisa Cornelio	1-7
<i>Merlin & Kris Lee</i>	1-12
Emilee Olson	1-15
BJ Koeppe	1-16
Tara Peters	1-17
Tammy Buckendahl	1-22
Audrey Polenske	1-23
Lucas Petersen	1-25
Jason Jones	1-30

Women of Christ The Servant
Board Meeting
November 28, 2017

- Minutes from November 7 were approved online
- Sunset Plaza Tree of Giving is up at the Sunset mall
- WCTS account balance = \$1,954.48
- December Gathering will be November 30 to decorate the church
- WCTS Constitution, Chapter 4 changed
- December Gathering we will be decorating the church

God's blessings to everyone celebrating this month!
If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please provide the office with the month, day and year.

Congregational Meeting
December 17, 2017

Steve Jessen, president of the congregation, called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened the meeting with prayer. The only agenda item was the proposed budget for 2018, copies of which were placed in members' mailboxes two weeks ago. Connie Atkinson offered a motion to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Millie Drey. The floor was opened for discussion. There being none, a voice vote was taken. All votes were affirmative, none were opposed, and the budget passed. Greg Moen, financial secretary, reported that the accounts have been reconciled and there is \$49,000 in the bank. Meeting adjourned.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY CLOSED	2 6:30 Women of CTS board meeting 6:30 Childcare oversight meeting	3	4 9:00 PieceMakers 6:30 MOPS steering committee	5 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 6 Girl Scouts Overnight (fellowship hall)	
7 <i>Baptism of our Lord</i> 8:45 S. school 10:00 worship Fellowship Mission & Ministry <i>Pastor Steve gone</i>	8 5:30 Welcome & Hospitality meeting 6:00 Via de Cristo Ultreya @ CTS	9	10 5:30 confirmation 6:15 meal 7:00 worship 7:45 youth group	11 9:00 Agape Circle	12 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 13 6:00 Little Servants Christmas party	
14 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:45 S. school 9:00 Adult study 10:00 worship Potluck	15 6:30 Administration board meeting	16 6:30 Spiritual Oversight board meeting	17 5:30 confirmation 6:15 meal 7:00 worship 7:45 youth group	18 2:00 Card Club 6:45 MOPS	19 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 20 5:30 Girl Scouts Deadline for newsletter articles	
				----- Pastor Steve at Via de Cristo -----		
21 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:45 S. school 10:00 worship Fellowship <i>Pastor Steve at Via de Cristo</i>	22 7:00 Via de Cristo Ultreya @ CTS	23 7:00 Worship committee meeting	24 5:30 confirmation 6:15 meal 7:00 worship 7:45 youth group	25	26 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 27	5:00 till ??? Chili/Soup cook-off, Cribbage/Pitch tournaments and Family Game Night
28 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:45 S. school 9:00 Adult study 10:00 worship Fellowship	29	30	31 5:30 confirmation 6:15 meal 7:00 worship 7:45 youth group			

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday thru Thursday 8:30-12:30; 1:30-4:30
Friday 8:30-12:30