

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015 VOLUME 38, ISSUE 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Explore the Bible

Nehemiah in January and February

Our second 3-month Bible study continues until March. In December we studied and heard sermons on Esther and Ezra. We will now be spending the majority of our study and sermons in Nehemiah where God inspires us to get to work and be faithful in adversity. God has called us all to do our part, get an understanding, return to a restoring God, and commit our way to the Lord (all great themes to start a New Year). Again, there is a personal study book for your use to “go deeper” at home or with others in small groups (see the back table). Here are our themes in January:

January 11 – “God Inspires the Work” (Nehemiah 2:1-8, 17-18)

January 18 – “Protect Human Life” (Sanctity of Human Life Sunday)

January 25 – “Be Faithful in Adversity” (Nehemiah 6:19)

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25, at 12:15 p.m.

Potluck meal at 11:45 a.m.

Our congregational meeting on Sunday, December 14, did not pass a budget for 2015 as the congregation requested more information on the budget. The congregation requested that we have another meeting in January with the questions raised to be addressed before a budget is passed. A more detailed budget will be presented as well as several options to address the deficit budget as presented. Both Boards met on December 22 to address these issues and have formulated some options. The Board will meet again on January 18 with their final proposals completed to present at the congregational meeting on January 25. The meeting will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall to allow more time for discussion (also, meeting between services disturbs Sunday School and does not allow S.S. teachers to attend). A potluck meal will follow the second service before the meeting begins.



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4th Annual Chili & Soup Cook-off and Family Game Night

Saturday, January 31
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Service Times

8:30 a.m.

Traditional worship

9:40 a.m.

Sunday school for all ages
Coffee & Fellowship

10:45 a.m.

Contemporary worship

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: "A BROKEN AND CONTRITE HEART"

On Christmas Day my son, John and I went to movie "Unbroken." The movie is based on a true story about Louis Zamperini, a former Olympic track star who survived a plane crash in the Pacific theater, spent 47 days drifting on a raft, and then survived more than two and a half years as a prisoner of war in several brutal Japanese prisoner-of-war camps. It is a story of survival, resilience, and redemption. The movie is about two enemies (foes during World War II)—one who is seeking to break the will of the one while the other refuses to let his will be broken. Watanabe (the cruel commander of the Japanese prison camp in Tokyo) puts Louie through incredible pain in hopes of breaking his spirit but Louie's motto is: "If I can take it, I can make it." Remarkably he survives his days adrift on a raft and 2 ½ years of torture as a prisoner. In the end Louie breaks the spirit of the Japanese commander. After the war, Louie dedicates his life in service to God and spends much of his life in Japan forgiving those who tortured him during the war and seek reconciliation with many of his enemies. One spirit that Louie could not break with forgiveness was

Watanabe who refused to meet with Louie.

I share this movie because we, by nature, are more like Watanabe than Louie. We have strong, independent spirits that want to be control of our own lives and if we are offended, we refuse to reconcile and seek forgiveness. Yet, if there is one thing that Jesus preached over and over again, it was forgiveness. From His Sermon on the Mount ("You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be called children of your Father in heaven." Matthew 6:43-44) to His last words on the cross ("Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34), Jesus proclaimed a forgiving spirit within those who claim to be His followers. In fact, Jesus insistence on this forgiving spirit would cause Him to be crucified and killed. People would rather kill (get rid of) the messenger than let our spirit become contrite and broken.

King David, after he realized his great pride had destroyed his relationship with God, confessed to God in Psalm

51 these words: "You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." (Psalm 51:16-17). Even King David confessed that the key to life is having a broken and contrite heart before God. In fact, Jesus placed this key aspect right in the middle of the Lord's Prayer when he told us pray: "Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us."

So what is the condition of your heart as we begin this New Year? Is it broken and contrite or is it hard and callous? Forgiveness does NOT mean sin and those who have sinned (hurt me) is simply dismissed as if it was not wrong. Sin is always wrong but God has an entirely different way of dealing with sin. If we confess our sin (that is, display to God a broken and contrite heart), God who is faithful and just will forgive sin and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Louie was a remarkable man of great courage and resilience. Although he would not let the Japanese prison camp commander break his spirit, Louie did let God

break his spirit so that he could forgive his enemies and live in the joy of reconciliation.

One of the greatest joys in life is reconciliation—when two parties, once separated by hurt and wrongdoing, are reunited in gift of forgiveness to each other. Jesus is looking at your heart today. He is inviting you to let go of past hurts and failures and come humbly to Him with a broken and contrite heart. For those who do come to God in this way, God promises to "restore to you the joy of his salvation and grant you a willing spirit that will sustain you" (Psalm 51:12). God will give you a pure heart that will allow the Holy Spirit to truly live in you. In 2 Corinthians 5, the apostle Paul reminds that we have given a ministry of reconciliation.

This New Year, instead of making resolutions that few of us will be able to keep, I invite you to begin this year by offering God a broken and contrite heart!

Pastor Steve

PASTOR MATT'S LETTER

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

There is no end to the thoughts and views of a New Year before us. With every passing year more and more people make their statement of the New Year in hope, despair, joy, and even loathing. Here are just a few of them:

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man.

Benjamin Franklin

Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.

Jonathan Edwards

"I would say happy New Year but it's not happy; it's exactly the same as last year except colder."

Robert Clark

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making

new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

Neil Gaiman

Placement of hopes, and dreams, even loathing and sorrow is important when it comes to how we face the events of life. The world, in its sin run design, compounds and frustrates all the possibilities of God's desires and directions for our lives and our relationships. God reminds us and demonstrates for us repeatedly that His desire is for us and for good. So how does one seek the seemingly illusive Happy New Year? How can one find a way to rise above the squalor of life's attempts to make you miserable, feel uncared for, to cry out that it's not fair?

The answer is simple but requires a New Year's resolution for each day of life. To grow in an ever deepening relationship with Jesus who is the only answer to a broken and fallen

world. The one we sing about with such zest and passion just one week prior to New Year – the one who brings us peace because there is Good News for all the people that a Savior has been born for us and we can find Him wrapped up in the manger of scripture for us to honor, praise, adore, and search for...

Wise men (and women and youth) still seek Him today; because in the roll of each year in this world, with all of the unforeseen attempts that will come once again to wage war against us and to assail us from every side, He remains Lord of lords and King of kings. His goodness and mercy last forever. Jesus Christ, the same – Yesterday – Today- Tomorrow.

Let us seek him.

Happy New Year

Pastor Matt

Sunday School is out in deep exploration this year — As we begin a new session of Exploring the Bible we are all going to be looking at the books of Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah and what it is speaking to us still today. If you haven't been a part of classes yet, come on in and join the exploration adventure. Head out into the wilderness of God's Word to see what He has in store for you and where He is calling your life to join him in this Bible Adventure.

3 and 4 year olds, and Kindergarten are studying the Story Book Bible as an overview.

1st through 3rd Grade is a class group taught by Becky B. and Amanda C.

4th through 6th Grade is a class group taught by Judy C. and Susan T.

7th and 8th Grade is a discussion group led by Nate M. and Brian A.

High School and College is a discussion group led by Mary W., Greg M., Charlie S., and Linda M.

Wednesday Night ALIVE! is going back to its regular schedule from now until Ash Wednesday. Confirmation and FLYTE classes begin at **5:00 until 6:30 p.m.** Our AMAZING food ministry teams will be cooking to warm your hearts and strengthen your bodies once again for a meal you can't beat for a \$3.00 donation to help cover costs. The Youth Group will go back to its regular hours as well starting at 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Come on out, worship, fellowship, and grow together as the people of God. Bring a friend, bring a family. Hope to see you all there.

IT'S CHILI, SOUP, and CARD PLAYING TIME — That's right, it's back and bigger and better. The Confirmation Class fundraiser Chili AND SOUP Cook-off and Cribbage and Pitch Tournaments with Family Game Night (still need to find a better name). If you haven't made it before, this is the time to come and see what all the talk is about. Right in the middle of a cold and dreary winter comes a great way to warm up and fellowship with the Body of Christ. Come out, eat some chili AND SOUP, and help to vote for the winner of the coveted GOLDEN SPOONS. Entrance to the chili AND SOUP cook-off is a \$5.00 entry fee (and a chili OR SOUP) and voting for the best chili and SOUP happens with \$1.00 bills, so head to the bank and make sure you have plenty of singles on hand. We have seen all kinds of chili's over the years and if you are an eater you never lose in this competition. There is also a \$5.00 entry fee into the Cribbage and Pitch tournaments. Each year the competition for the coveted GOLDEN DECK gets more intense. Not a cribbage or pitch player? No problem, bring a game to play with others and have a blast. **SATURDAY January 31st beginning at 5 p.m. until done!** You don't want to miss out on this night.

SUPER BOWL SUBS are going on sale again in January to support the Youth Group. Please see a youth group member and place your order for sub sandwiches for the Super Bowl and beyond. (They freeze and thaw quite well.) We're holding prices steady even though inflation is on the rise, so you can get your subs for the still unbelievably low price of \$4.75 for one or \$21.50 (a 10% discount) for packs of 5 subs you can still get the same high quality and delicious subs you've come to know and love. Please see a youth group member to place your orders, and if you would like to help them out by selling to those you work with ... perhaps there is a ransom that can be arranged. Subs will be made Saturday, January 31, and can be picked up in the afternoon after 4:30 p.m.

Vibrant Faith Corner — The Vibrant Faith page on our website isn't just for parents. Godparents, grandparents and step- parents have tools and ideas provided so that Vibrant Faith can be shared with children in every direction. If you are a grandparent and want to grow closer in faith to your grandkids, all you have to do is start at the Vibrant Faith @ Home link on our web page. You can also go to Vibrantfaith.org to look at blogs and Learning Exchange for other things to ponder.

“I pray that everything may go well with you, and that you may be in good health, as I know you are well in spirit.” – 3 John 2

Keeping the Resolution

If you are one of the nearly 100 million Americans who made a resolution such as exercising more, losing weight, quitting smoking, cutting down on alcohol and eating a healthier diet, you'll have a much better year if your resolution sticks.

Keep it real A sure way to fall short of your goal is to make it unattainable. For example, resolving to never eat your favorite food again because it has too many calories could be a bad choice. Strive for a goal that is attainable, such as avoiding it more often than you currently do.

Plan ahead Don't make your resolution at the last minute. If you wait until the last minute, it will be based on your mindset that particular day. Instead, it should be planned with enough time to allow you to mentally prepare for your lifestyle change.

Develop a specific plan Decide how you will deal with the temptation to skip that workout or have one more cigarette. This could include calling on a friend for advice, practicing positive thinking, and positive self-talk.

Write a Pro and Con list It often helps to see a list of items on paper to keep your motivation strong. Develop a list over time, and ask others to contribute to it. Keep your list on hand and refer to it when you need help keeping your resolution.

Talk about it Don't keep your new resolution a secret. Tell friends and family who can be there to support your resolution to change yourself for the better or improve your health. One method proven to be successful is to find yourself a buddy who shares your New Year's resolution and motivate each other.

Keep track of your progress Keep track of each small success you make toward reaching your bigger goal. Short-term goals are easier to keep and small accomplishments will help keep you motivated.

Never beat yourself up Obsessing over the occasional slip won't help you achieve your health-related goals. Do your best each day, and take each day one at a time.

Stick with it Experts say it takes about 21 days for a new change to become a habit, and six months for it to become part of your personality. Your new healthy habits will become second-nature in no time.

Keep trying If your commitment starts to run out of steam by mid-February, don't despair. Start it over again! There's no reason you can't make a resolution any time of year.

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Find ways to get and stay healthy this year

Make healthy food choices. Grab a healthy snack on the go. Eat more fruits and vegetables.

Be active. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Park farther away and walk.

Protect yourself from injury and disease. Put on a helmet, sunscreen, or insect repellent.

Wash your hands for 20 seconds.

Manage stress. Don't overschedule or overcommit. Take short breaks throughout the day.

Make an appointment for a checkup, vaccination, or screening.

Quit smoking. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free counseling on how to quit smoking for good.

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Feel energized again

Three subtle changes to your daily habits can make a big difference.

- 1) Do 15 jumping jacks in the morning. If your sleep was lacking, this quick bout of heart-pumping activity will invigorate you for the day ahead.
- 2) Drink a glass of water when you feel fatigued. Even slight dehydration can leave you tired and lethargic, so it's also a good idea to carry a reusable water bottle with you.
- 3) Try a (small) random act of kindness. The "helper's high" can actually give you a little jolt due to the endorphin rush. Offer a compliment or drop off a batch of healthy muffins to a neighbor.

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January Wellness Tips

Nutrition

When bigger is better: When given the choice, choose full-size carrots over the baby version. While baby carrots are a convenient source of vitamins, the bigger ones contain 23 percent more beta-carotene.

Fitness

Get-lean routine: Mix up your cardio pace to see faster results by shifting between time spent walking, jogging and sprinting.

Health

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month: Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide. HPV is found in 99 percent of cervical cancers. Surprisingly, 80 percent of all women will have been infected by some type of HPV by age 50. It is only the High Risk HPV (a small percentage of all the HPVs) that causes cell abnormalities or cancer. Regular pap testing is the best way to detect the presence of cell abnormalities and protect against invasive cervical cancer. When testing, make sure your doctor checks the box on the submission form to the lab that tests for the presence of High Risk HPV cells.

Birthdays

- Jan. 1 Katelyn Hall
- Jan. 3 Madison Metschke
- Jan. 6 Warren Bennett
- Jan. 11 Neely Kratochvil
- Jan. 15 Emilee Olson
- Jan. 16 BJ Koepp
- Jan. 17 Tara Bahnfleth
- Jan. 18 Delores Olson
- Jan. 20 Aaron Cyboron
- Jan. 22 Tammy Buckendahl
- Jan. 23 Audrey Polenske
- Jan. 24 Jacob Svitak
- Jan. 25 Roger Bowers
- Jan. 25 Lucas Petersen
- Jan. 30 Jason Jones

Congratulations and best wishes to everyone celebrating this month. May God bless you now and all year long!

NORFOLK RESCUE MISSION

Facial tissue, toilet tissue, paper towels, cleaning products, disinfectants, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, diapers (all sizes), deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, soap, shampoo, band-aids, Tylenol, antibiotic ointment, coffee, creamer, sugar, disposable plates and cups, sugar, salt, pepper, flour, cornstarch, ketchup, mustard, chili powder. Any of these items can be dropped off at any time during the year. Books can also be donated to the Rescue Mission throughout the year to be sold at their annual book sale/fundraiser.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Teen Mom Infant Childcare Program is looking for volunteers starting in February. Volunteers would help out around the childcare by rocking, feeding, and changing babies so that the children in the program will get more one-on-one care. We are also looking for people who are willing to be on a substitute list in case a staff member is sick or has an emergency. If you are interested please contact Liz at teenmomprogram@gmail.com or call (402)379-2477 or (402)379-1775 to leave a message.

DOMESTIC HOUSEWORK WANTED

Will do household work such as cleaning, cooking, laundry, ironing, mending, shopping, Spring cleaning, Fall cleaning, etc. If you would like to have an extra pair of hands, please call (402) 371-2630. Thank you.

BRIGHT HORIZONS

Any of the following items can be dropped off at any time during the year: Yellow ruled pads, steno pads, sticky notes; deodorant, children and adult Tylenol, cough medicine, band-aids, diapers (all the larger sizes); disinfectants, paper towels, toilet tissue, facial tissue; napkins, hair picks, shampoo, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets; gas cards, phone cards, Wal-Mart gift cards, grocery store gift cards.

NORFOLK FOOD PANTRY

Following is a list of items always needed: Soda crackers, snack crackers, canned soup, canned vegetables, beans (dry or canned), rice, tomatoes, canned meat, tuna, chicken, Tuna Helper, Chicken Helper, peanut butter and jelly. Laundry soap (powdered or liquid) is also accepted. The Food Pantry serves an average of 325 families each month.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia last month. They made a beautiful Christmas display! Please feel free to take your plant home.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A new flower chart for 2015 has been posted on the office door. Please sign up for dates when you would like flowers ordered in your name. The cost is \$10.70 (includes tax) per bouquet.

THANK YOU

We are deeply moved by the generosity of your church family. Thank you for your donations of either money or an actual pair of new pajamas. Through your generosity and many others in Norfolk, we were able to give needy children a new pair of pajamas. You gave many children a very merry Christmas. God thanks you for being such good servants.

Our deepest wishes for a blessed New Year,
The Salvation Army

JANUARY 2015

				1 Happy New Year (office closed) Pastor Matt on vacation	2 Church office closed 5:30 pm Girl Scouts Kathy on vacation	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 One Service only Pastor Matt on vacation	5 7 p.m. Childcare Oversight (library)	6 LCMC 3 Days of Prayer, 5:30 p.m. (library) 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	7 WNA! 5:30 pm Prayer meeting (library) 7:30 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	8 9 a.m. Agape Circle Prayer meeting 5:30pm (library) 6 p.m. Women of CTS meeting	9 Pastor Steve on vacation	10
11 8:30 worship 9:40 Sunday school/Coffee & Fellowship 10:45 worship Pastor Steve on vacation	12 Meals on Wheels	13	14 WNA! 5:30 pm Prayer meeting (library) 7:30 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	15 7 pm Wine, Women & Wisdom (Linda Miller) 6:45 MOPS/MOMSnext	16 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	17 Fellowship Hall reserved
18 8:30 worship 9:40 Sunday school/Coffee & Fellowship 10:45 worship 6:30 Joint Board Meeting	19 Meals on Wheels	20	21 WNA! 5:30 pm Prayer meeting (library) 7:30 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	22	23	24
25 8:30 worship 9:40 Sunday school/fellowship 10:45 worship 11:45 Potluck meal 12:15 Congregational meeting	26	27	28 WNA! 5:30 pm Prayer meeting (library) 7:30 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	29	30	31 5 p.m. Chili & Soup Cook-off and Family Game Night



5 p.m. FLYTE and Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7 p.m. Activity

FIRST SERVICE (8:30 a.m.)

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	COMMUNION
JAN. 4 10:00 A.M.	ONE	SERVICE	ONLY		
JAN. 11	Dean & Doris Hoffart	Wendell Hahne, Doug Witte	Katelyn Anderson	Brian Anderson	Michelle Anderson, Linda Miller
JAN. 18	Sharon & Arlynn Boelman	Dennis & Linda Miller	Usher	Charlie Skoglund	Becky & Tara Bahnfleth
JAN. 25	Nate & Darcy Metschke	Roger Young, Arlynn Boelman	Usher	Susan Thompson	Doug & Pat Witte

SECOND SERVICE (10:45 a.m.)

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	COMMUNION
JAN. 4 10:00 A.M.	Danita Broders	Kevin & Rhonda Piske	Elizabeth Broders	Lonnie Svitak	Margaret & Lonnie Svitak
JAN. 11	Jo Roberts & Steve Morton	Gary & Mary Weich	Ethan Olson	Steve Morton	Michelle Anderson, Lu Carter
JAN. 18	Jeremy & Sharel Olson	Ron & Korrie Hall	Kelcie Hall	Linda Cyboron	Gary & Mary Weich
JAN. 25	Rich & Deb Olson*	Warren Bennett, Dallas Puls	Usher	Connie Atkinson	Bob & Andy Lutz

*Rich & Deb Olson OR Jeremy & Sharel Olson

Coffee Servers

- Jan. 4 Mary Lund
- Jan. 11 Holly Heller
- Jan. 18 BJ & Sharon Koepp
- Jan. 25 Dean & Doris Hoffart

Communion Bread: Korrie Hall

Altar Guild: Margaret Svitak and Pat Witte

Membership Care Team

Michelle Anderson, Julie Freese

Counting Teams

- 1st Dean & Doris Hoffart
- 2nd Meg Donovan and Nell Finkral
- 3rd Marsha Burke and Rhonda Piske
- 4th Darcy Metschke, Korrie Hall

CHRIST THE SERVANT
2014 Financial Information
Through November 2014

Income	Budget	92%	YTD Actuals
Total Revenue	270,733	85%	230,034
Less:			
Administration	189,529	91%	172,499
Worship	8,400	101%	8,493
Discipleship	13,366	40%	5,343
Parsonage	4,581	128%	5,871
Church Building and Grounds	27,457	131%	35,871
Fellowship and Evangelism	3,100	139%	4,309
Mission Outreach	15,100	79%	11,854
Service/Local Mission	8,700	11%	920
Stewardship	500	53%	266
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	270,733	91%	245,424
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	-		(15,390)

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Funds Balance
2014-11-30

Reconciled Bank Balances		
Checking Account	\$	111.51
Endowment Account (4076)		9,121.71
Improvement Account (2367)		14,478.69
Savings Account (4034)		84,366.17
Good Samaritan Account		155.06
Youth Checking Account		20.10
Total Cash In Bank	\$	108,253.24
Designations for Restricted Use		
Mission Fund - Rystrom	\$	-
Mission Fund - A&A Cyboron		(25.00)
Mission Fund - Amanda		(545.00)
Mission Fund - Marissa		(100.00)
Mission Fund - B&A Cyboron		(825.00)
Worship Fund		(2,500.00)
Mission Fund - Weichs		-
Mission Fund -India		659.00
Good Samaritan Fund		(155.06)
Daycare		(1,106.34)
Military Bible Sticks		(250.00)
Church Property Fund		(73,661.78)
Parsonage Fund		(3,023.73)
Confirmation - Youth Fund		399.55
Youth Fund		(680.50)
Ministry Expansion Fund		-
Tanzania Mission Fund		(8,017.48)
Youth Tanzania Fund		(13,932.70)
Disaster Relief Fund		(100.00)
Memorial Fund		(3,211.26)
Missions/Growth Fund		(1,060.09)
Total Designations	\$	(108,136.39)
Operating Funds Available @11/30/2014	\$	116.85

CHRIST THE SERVANT
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CALLED

TRANSFORMED

SENT