

JANUARY 2021
NEWSLETTER



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
HERALD

Pastor's Devo... In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. *Genesis 1:1-5*

"Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind..." so the song goes. "Auld Lang Syne", a traditional song for the New Year's Eve celebration...but I'm not going to focus on the song, but these words from it, in the context of forgetting someone...someone truly important...or at least He should be. And by my capitalization of the first letter of the pronoun, "He", you know who (or is it "whom") I'm speaking of...

In the beginning, GOD...created..."everything". Moses relates to us that primary fact. God created all things and after having done that, all just by using His voice, He made His "very good" thing, our forefather, Adam. And we're instructed by Moses that God did this wonderful thing not with His voice, but with His very own hand...literally putting that "personal TOUCH" on this creation to set it apart...make it SPECIAL...make it, "in His own image".

And this specialness often goes forgotten. We are something special in all creation. The God who made everything, made us differently, and different...we've been made and called "very good" because God had a plan for us...He made us in His image to be special to Him...so much so that, as you've probably heard me say a time or two, "So He could have a special relationship with"...Scripture tells us in just a few chapters after the creation story (Ch. 3 V. 8), God would walk in the garden He had created and put Adam in, to have dominion over and tend to. And after some time, noticing that Adam had no "suitable helper" gifted him with Eve...

Then, again, after some time, it seems someone else made their way into the garden. This certain someone must have had a notion that Adam and his help-meet had fallen into a time of "forgetting old acquaintances". And acted upon this forgetfulness, a very human trait, and seized upon the opportunity to bring about, "The Fall"...from which we've been suffering ever since...that is, until God, fulfilling the promise He made to those two was made good on that "Silent Night" and the virgin bore a son, who was given the name the humble mother and her help-meet were told to give the man-child who

(whom?) she had given birth to...the one “Born that man no more may die”...Immanuel...Jesus, “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Mt 16:16)

So now I ask...have you forgotten??? Is He someone, “who never comes to mind”??? I pray not. But in as much as we’re beginning a New Year, why not take this time to renew your effort to strengthen this relationship...this “gift” we just finished celebrating...(and to be truthful, we haven’t even arrived at “The Epiphany of the Lord” officially, it’s still several days away.) The gifts that “wise Men” from the East...and again, maybe not “We Three Kings”, but we know from Scripture there were three very expensive gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh, given to Him, who had been born, “King of the Jews”, as these wise men recognized.

I sure hope this brand new year is better than this last one...probably can’t be any worse...but as we say “So long, and good riddance” to 2020, might this New Year give us BETTER VISION as to how we ought to live lives in response to what we’ve been gifted...”a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Lk 2:11). And may we, the people of God, His “Very Good” creatures, never forget what He’s done, and even better still, promised to all those who respond to this gift as He teaches...to love God with all our heart, all our mind, and all our strength (Mk 12:30). Now and forever, Amen!

January Readings

- January 1 Is. 61:1-11, Luke 1:57-80
January 2 Is. 62:1-12, Luke 2:1-20
January 3 Is. 63:1-14, Luke 2:21-40
January 4 Is. 63:15-65:2, Luke 2:41-52
January 5 Is. 65:8-25, Luke 3:1-20
January 6 Is. 66:1-20, Luke 3:21-38
January 7 Ezek. 1:1-14, 22-28, Hab. 1:1-3:19, Rom. 1:1-17
January 8 Ezek. 2:1-3:11, Rom. 1:18-32
January 9 Ezek. 3:12-27, Ezek. 4:1-11:25, Rom. 2:1-16
January 10 Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32, Ezek. 19:1-24:27, Rom. 2:17-29
January 11 Ezek. 33:1-20, Rom. 3:1-18
January 12 Ezek. 34:1-24, Rom. 3:19-31
January 13 Ezek. 36:13-28, Rom. 4:1-25
January 14 Ezek. 36:33-37:14, Rom. 5:1-21
January 15 Ezek. 37:15-28, Rom. 6:1-23
January 16 Ezek. 38:1-23, Rom. 7:1-20
January 17 Ezek. 39:1-10, 17-29, Rom. 7:21-8:17
January 18 Ezek. 40:1-4, 43:1-12, Ezek. 40:5-42:20, 43:13-27, Rom. 8:18-39
January 19 Ezek. 44:1-16, 23-29, Rom. 9:1-18
January 20 Ezek. 47:1-14, 21-23, Rom. 9:19-33
January 21 Joel 1:1-20, Rom. 10:1-21
January 22 Joel 2:1-17, Rom. 11:1-24
January 23 Joel 2:18-32, Rom. 11:25-12:13
January 24 Joel 3:1-24, Rom. 12:14-13:14
January 25 Zech. 1:1-21, Rom. 14:1-23
January 26 Zech. 2:1-3:10, Rom. 15:1-13
January 27 Zech. 4:1-5:11, Rom. 15:14-33
January 28 Zech. 6:1-7:14, Rom. 16:17-27
January 29 Zech. 8:1-23, 2 Tim. 1:1-18
January 30 Zech. 9:1-17, 2 Tim. 2:1-26
January 31 Zech. 10:1-11:3, 2 Tim. 3:1-17



January 04	Daryl Veenstra
January 07	Sheila Wisecarver
January 17	James Fisher
	Jackie Costello
January 21	Pastor Smith
January 24	Sue Baldus
January 27	Sharon Anseth
January 30	Aiden Fancher



January 31	Loius & Eyvonne Scheick
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Minutes of November 2020 Voters' Assembly

November 8, 2020

Chairman Larry Smith opened the meeting and asked Pastor Smith to provide a devotion. His prayer was for God's grace for a meeting made difficult by our congregational separation.

The Chairman declared that a quorum of voting members existed and this was an official meeting. He advised the membership, both in person and viewing by live streaming, of the ways to cast ballots for the various items on the agenda. The ballots for all agenda items would be counted November 10, 2020, and the outcome made known at that time.

Referring to the written agenda item concerning the approval of the minutes of the 2019 Voters' Assembly, the chairman said that we would defer consideration of this item until the April 2021 Voters' Assembly. This gives everyone an opportunity to review these minutes.

The Chairman presented the slate of candidates for open positions for 2021. A copy of the ballot is attached and by this reference made a part hereof. He asked those members attending in person today to mark the ballots, and those who were at home to either send to the church their written ballots or send an email with their vote. Bob Thureau asked why there were no Trustees position on the ballot. The chairman explained no Trustees' positions were open for 2021.

The Treasurer presented the proposed congregational budget for 2021. She referred to her spreadsheet of the budget, a copy of which is attached and by this reference made a part hereof. She provided a recap of the highlights and entertained questions. There was none. She asked for approval of the proposed amount of \$104,219.60. Ballots were cast for the measure.

There was an opportunity for officers and chairman of standing Boards to present reports. The Pastor, the Elders, and the Trustees provided written reports, copies of which are attached and by this reference made a part hereof. The written record of this Voters' Assembly shows there were no questions about the reports from the voting members.

Referring to the agenda, the Chairman asked if there was any Old Business to discuss? The written record of this Voters' Assembly shows there were no questions or comments.

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Having concluded the agenda, the Chairman adjourned the Voters' Assembly. Pastor provided a closing Devotion.

These minutes are submitted by me, Beverly Smith, Secretary of the Congregation.

News & Notes

Thank you Dale Stanton thanks you, the congregation, for the very benevolent Christmas bonus.

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift, which was very much appreciated, Cathy Larson

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas gift, Kathleen Grondin.

Elder Meeting Thursday, January 7th.

Council meeting Tuesday, January 11th.

Looking ahead...

Lectors If you would like volunteer to read, the new sign-up sheet is on the board in the Narthex.

LWML ladies would like to resume meeting in February. Keep posted for updates.