May your troubles be less, your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door!
Celebrate Your Baptism

Celebrate your birthday. Celebrate your wedding anniversary. Celebrate your graduation or retirement. But most of all, celebrate your baptism!

First, because it opens heaven. That's how it was for Jesus. Baptized by cousin John there in the Jordan … and immediately heaven was opened to him.

It was the same for you and me. Surely our infant eyes didn't see it, nor did anyone else present at the miracle moment of our baptism. But it happened nonetheless. That word-and-water miracle did it, opened heaven to us, made heaven our eternal home. The door to God and endless joy is open and can never again be closed. It's the blessing of your baptism.

Celebrate your baptism, in the second place, because it offers you the Spirit. Baptized by cousin John there in the Jordan, Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending on him like a dove. And that dove-like Spirit made Jesus a person of peace and gentleness and cheek-turning love.

It is the same for us. Baptized we are, and the dove-like Spirit fills us. And then what? The Spirit of God works to transform us into people of peace and patience and gentleness, forbearance and long-suffering, people of cheek-turning, healing, reconciling, forgiving, Christlike love.

Celebrate your baptism, because it proclaims us to be God's dear children. Said the voice from heaven over the baptized Jesus, "You are my beloved!"

Is that what you heard at your baptism? Probably not. Nor did anyone else. But it was said nonetheless, said by your God, as the pastor poured that baptismal water over your head: "My beloved son, my beloved daughter!" "… With whom I am well pleased." God blessed us with a purpose, to participate in self-giving ministry, sacrifice and service.

Celebrate your baptism, finally, because your baptism makes you strong for the desert. So it was for Jesus. Baptized there in the Jordan by cousin John, and then immediately driven into the desert, there to endure forty days of testing and trial. Why didn't he wilt in the wilderness, lose those fierce and savage battles with the evil one? Because he was baptized, and in that holy cleansing filled with the Spirit. The Spirit makes people strong in the desert.

Indeed he does. And so whatever the desert of fiery testing and trial, suffering and sorrow in which you presently are or one day may be, be assured that you'll have the strength, faith, courage and hope, not only to endure and persevere in the desert, but ultimately to triumph and win.

Celebrate your baptism this year, intentionally and specifically. Remember it’s blessing each Sunday as you begin worship by dipping your fingers in the font and tracing the sign of God’s love, the cross, on your forehead.

Celebrate!!

Epiphany blessings and joy,
Pastor Karen
Morning Circles
Jan 3 — 9:15 a.m.
   Deborah.......Helen Eidem
Jan 3 9:30 a.m
   Mary.........Karen Rasmusson
   Naomi ........Meet at Duffers
   Rachel .......Addie Fry
   Sarah ........(At Church)

Afternoon Circles
1:00 p.m.
   Hannah .......No Meeting
Jan 10 – 1:00 p.m.
   Martha…….Nancy Krumrey
   (At Church)

Evening Circle
Jan 8 — 6:30 p.m.
   Priscilla .........Ellen Gifford
   (At Church)

Piecemakers – The Piecemakers will be back at work on Thursday, January 4 making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and for local needs. Everyone is invited to join us at 9:00 every Thursday in Luther Hall. There are lots of tasks for people who don’t sew. If you’d like to be part of this wonderful fellowship, join us any time. You can also pick up kits to sew at home.

Thank you to everyone who helps with this project.

This month’s Gather is for January and February, so don’t throw it away!

Jan 14
Rachel Circle
Jan 08 9:30 a.m.
   Sit and Chat
Jan 17 9:15 a.m.
   Visiting Phoebes
Jan 17 9:00 a.m.
   Altar Guild
Jan 24 10:00 a.m.
   Bible Study Leaders

No General Meeting Until March 19, but Circles will continue to meet.

Looking Ahead
January brings a new Bible Study in Gather. For the next 4 months we will consider Mark Allan Powell’s “Multiple Meanings—Learning from other interpretations.”
January/February: Session one – Washing hands with distant hearts.
Session two – Prepare the Way of the Lord
March: Session three – The Good Samaritan
April: Session four – The Prodigal Son
On March 19 our regular meetings resume.
Don’t forget our monthly Sit and Chat is at 9:30 on January 8.

Shopping With Single Parents
Thank you to everyone who supported this project with their dollars and their time. Because of you, we were able to provide shoppers and funds to help 12 families have a happier holiday. Coordinator Debbie Olson had 12 volunteers who shopped with our families: Bonnie Larson, Anne Costa, Mary Boicourt, Marilyn Cornwell, Lorraine Miller, Beth Pautsch, Carol Hildre, Theda Hall, Kay Anderson, Carole Walford, Tonja Seusy, and Lisa Twitty.
Thank you to all our volunteers and to Debbie for the great job she does in coordinating the project.

Thank You to Hannah and Mary Circles for the Christmas Tea held on December 9. They provided us with wonderful sandwiches and delectable desserts. We were blessed with special music from Sarah Stephenson and her friends. As we always do, we paused to remember those women from our congregation who passed away in 2017. A gift of $5 was given to the Memorial Fund in honor of each woman.
Thanks to all of you and to Thrivent for the tree full of mittens and hats! It was a display of amazing generosity. We had more than 80 sets of hats and mittens and individual hats.

Thank you to everyone for your gifts in support of our annual Thankoffering appeal. With your help we have met our 2017 commitment to the Women of the ELCA.

Thank You, too, to every one who helped with the Soup Suppers. Your willingness to bring food and to serve and clean up made the Advent Season better for all of us!
Women of United -
Take a minute to *Sit & Chat* with friends on Monday, January 8th @ 9:30am

We will discuss the article written by James E. Ryan, *‘Ask And Ye Shall Perceive’*. 
Ask and Ye Shall Perceive

James E. Ryan, dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and author of Wait, What? And Life’s Other Essential Questions, makes the case for curiosity.

and I still have a lot of questions.

Being inquisitive is essential for a lawyer, but I believe it’s crucial to success in just about every area of life. The right questions help teachers spark curiosity, give leaders a way to find solutions, and make us better friends, parents, and partners.

Sometimes we’re afraid to ask because we don’t want to admit what we don’t know. I see this in the classroom all the time—yet it never fails that when one person finally says “Okay, this might be dumb, but...,” everyone else starts nodding, as if to say “Thank goodness.” Next time you’re in that situation, be the person who asks. You’re almost certainly not the only one who’s wondering.

Instead of worrying about having all the answers, I’d like to suggest that we spend more time thinking about asking good questions. By that I mean honest ones, posed because we are genuinely seeking to know. This could be as simple as saying to a friend, “Really, how are you doing?” Or asking someone in trouble, “How can I help?” This question acknowledges that the person needs assistance, signals that you’re willing to offer it, and humorously suggests that she knows best what she needs. Contrast “How can I help?” with the polite thing we often say: “Let me know if I can help.” It’s the rare person who will come back with “Actually, you can.”

We’re living in a time when there aren’t as many honest questions as we might hope for, especially in public conversation. Often we’re only partially paying attention to someone’s response because we’re busy thinking of what we want to say next. Or we’re making statements disguised as questions, hoping to entrap the other person. But when we dismiss as ignorant those who disagree with us, we keep ourselves in the dark.

One of the best questioners I’ve ever witnessed is former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. When he questioned lawyers, he was never bombastic or intent on making his own arguments. Time and again, he would respectfully say, “Counselor, could you clarify your point?” More often than any of his colleagues, he would break open the case by finding the single question at the heart of it. Making the effort to hear someone else’s viewpoint might not change our minds, but it can more fully inform our own judgment and help us better understand one another.

It’s just as important to listen carefully when we ask questions of ourselves. For instance, “What truly matters?” This is a powerful question, but only if it’s an honest one. You may believe your family matters most, but if you look at how you’re spending your time, you might discover that you’re not living in a way that’s consistent with that answer. We find out what we really value in the daily decisions that we make, so we might do well to stop occasionally and respectfully ask ourselves: What truly matters? Asked regularly and fearlessly, it is the single question that will help you get to the heart of your life.
Our 2018 church year is off to a good start!
Weekly rehearsals are getting back on schedule:

**Tuesdays**
Blue Grass Gospel Band --- 6:30 PM - Starting date to be announced

**Wednesdays**
Orchestra --- 5:45 PM - beginning January 3
Choir --- 7:00 PM - beginning January 3

**Thursdays**
Bells --- 3:15 PM - beginning January 18

The Music Suite is getting a “new look”! Jeff Peleaux is finishing up painting all the walls a neutral color which will match the new carpet being laid this month. The Music Suite will also be rearranged for better utilization of space and light. If you haven't been in the Music Suite recently, please stop by and check out the progress!!

If you have been considering joining one or more of our Music Groups, NOW IS A GOOD TIME to start coming to rehearsals! No try-outs, just show up and join us!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
THANK YOU, Janet Troutner, for playing the flute accompaniment for the choir anthem, “We Thank You, Lord” on Thanksgiving Eve, and for playing with the Choir Anthem, “Rise Up This Holy Night” on Christmas Eve.

THANK YOU, Ralph Picht, for singing the solo in the Choir Anthem, “Star Child” during our morning Worship Service December 24th.

THANK YOU, Kate Lennon, (Ardy Schultz's granddaughter) for your vocal solo, “O Holy Night” which was the Special Music for the 2:30 PM Christmas Eve Service.

THANK YOU, Claire Redlaczyk, for singing during Communion for the 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service.

THANK YOU, Laura Thompson (Cathy and Paul Anderson's daughter) for your vocal solo, “Heaven's Child” which was the Special Music for the 9:30 Worship Service December 31.

THANK YOU to All who participated and made possible the Cantata “Emmanuel: God With Us” on Sunday, December 10 during our Worship Service. This includes choir members, Virginia Dale (accompanist), John Cornwell (maracas), Janet Troutner (flute), Louise Wobig and Bob McNew (narrators), Jerry Shaw(projection), Barry Mann (sound).
PARISH NURSES:
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our wish for all United Lutheran members is a year filled with health, joy, peace, happiness, laughter, and God’s blessings.

God has given each one of us a gift of 86,400 seconds every day. Imagine that your time bank credits your account each day with $86,400. No balance is carried over from day to day. There are no overdrafts, no going back for a second chance, no leftovers, time bank does not allow us to borrow. How do you use your gift of time that God gives you? Time stands still for no person. Time denotes our existence here on earth, the dash between the dates of our birth to the last day of your life contains a personal history of who we were, how we lived, who we knew, and what we did with our lives. In the midst of our living, time continues on its endless journey. We all have to learn how to manage our time. Time is a gift. Everything we have is a gift from God. Food, clothing, rain, fruitful harvest, wisdom, abilities, health, talents, knowledge, time, and the list goes on. Each of us has something to give.

Each of us should take the time and thank God for all he has given us. We have so much to be thankful for. Everyday might not be the best day of your lives, but there is always something to be thankful for and that is life. It’s a great blessing. Be thankful for what you have as well as what you don’t have. Be grateful for small things, big things, and everything in between. Count your blessings not your problems. When things go wrong, take a moment to be thankful for the many more things that are still going right.

May your New Year be Blessed in the Lord.

Proverbs 16:9 A person plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

Your Parish Nurses:
Charlotte Spencer & Tonja Seusy
Happy 2018!

There is nothing I like more about the new year then the opportunity to start over. On January 1st there are 364 days of unspoiled splendor before me. And then I hit day 2 or 3 and it is back to the chaos, catastrophe and emotional breakdowns of normal everyday life.

David was having a bad year. He was running for his life from King Saul. He was hiding in fields and caves and still trying his best to please the Lord.

David’s only comfort? His friendship with King Saul’s son Jonathan.

"Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." ~1 Samuel 18:1

Jonathan was not only a good friend, but most assuredly sent by God. Jonathan knew that supporting David in any fashion was a betrayal to his father. Yet….he did it anyway. More than once Jonathan kept David from harm. And even more astoundingly, Jonathan was willing to give up his own claim to the throne in order to set David upon it.

Jonathan could have been a Stephen Minister.

He really listened to his friend and went above and beyond. He heard David speak of all the hurt and doubt he was experiencing. Then he picked David up, dusted him off and gave him the support he needed to carry on.

Jonathan was a good friend….a kindred spirit.

My prayer for you this year…
To find a friend to “knit” your soul to, so that you may help each other carry on and over the next 365 days.

Blessings-
SARAH

JANUARY MEETINGS:
01/08 @ 3:30PM
01/22 @ 3:30PM
UNITED IN PRAYER - Mondays @ 2:45PM
Gracious Lord Jesus. You came into the world as one of us and you suffered as we do. Be with all on our prayer list and their loved ones in these days of special needs. Help them to see that YOU are with them in all things. Strengthen, heal, bless, and fortify their faith against fear and doubt in Your loving purpose for them. We give You thanks on their behalf and ask that You and ask that You would also keep them in our hearts and all of us in Your power, until we are freed from all that afflicts us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Members in Need of Prayer

Dorothy Altfillisch
Lucile Aasmundstad
Phyllis Bergstrom’s Family & Friends
Iris Benson
Marilyn Brown
Jason Carlson
Roger & Anne Costa
Virg Dykema
Dean & Karen Fevold
Jerry & Lorraine Herman
Blanche Johnson’s Family & Friends
Curt Kimpfbeck (recently moved)
Walt & Betty Knocke
Duane & Connie Kuske

Red & Bonnie Larson
Ken Lawson
Sally Leffler
Bill Lindeman
Al & Maxine McClain
Alice Medin
Duane Peterson’s Family & Friends
Al & Shirley Schmidt
JoAnn Shaver
Mable Shaw
Mike Spencer
Joyce Strunk
Cliff Stolpe
Ben Walford
Marge Wolf

Family & Friends in Need of Prayer

Rick Benson
Nat Bothwell
Annika Cutts
Hannah Dykema
Jackie Garner
Colleen Gress
Betty Kline
Cindy Lund
Phillip Phillips
Rachel Sparks
Rose Taylor
Larry Tuttle’s Family & Friends
ULC Staff

Pray for: the world & our country, our church, Pastor Karen & Jeremy, church council, staff, music, children’s ministry, members, the Phoebes and Shut-Ins, Stephen Ministers & care receivers, friends & family members.

Local Churches & Area ELCA Churches
Peace in Joplin – Christ the King
Neighborhood – Peace in Rogers
Good Shepherd – St. Luke’s
Faith – Emmanuel
Living Word - Pr. Solberg – Bishop & Staff

If you are aware of someone who should be added to or removed from the Prayer List, please call the church office at 479-855-1325.

Members in Care Centers

Highlands – Harold Crivello, Russ Salomo, Joe & Bea Raineri
Brookfield – Cleo Sundal
Green Acres (Holiday Island) – John Norris
Concordia – Dot Fritz
My brother’s wife, Maeve Jeffers, has proved to all of us that God hears our prayers. She is almost completely well! We are so grateful for all the prayers she has received – our most heartfelt thanks for that support. **God is good!** - Stevie Lamar

**WE THANK** Kay Anderson & Jane Nelson for the many years of coordinating the food for our Advent supper services. We greatly appreciate all your time and efforts to give us hearty and happy food at our supper services.

**Thank you to all of our dear friends at UL!** You have remembered us in prayer, cards, visits, food and now Joppa Shepherd Group with caroling. Pastor Karen has been so helpful with her visits and encouragement. We love you and have loved such a loving and caring church. May the Lord bless you as we have been blessed. - Al and Maxine McClain

**A BIG thank you** to all those that came to decorate ULC for the Christmas season: Pastor Karen and Jeremy, Howard & Kay Anderson, John Cornwell, Day Dykema, Rick Hebar, Doris Horning, Bill Lindemann, Fred & Robin Nelson, Gary & Bev Rick, Bev Shelton, Katy Sojka, Lance & Lisa Twitty, & Carole Walford. Your assistance in making ULC look beautiful for the holidays is beyond appreciated! - Stevie Lamar

**Thank you** to all those who sponsored poinsettia’s for this year’s Advent/Christmas season: Harold Crivello, Steve & Tina Evans, Dean & Karen Fevold, Robert & Theda Hall, Darwin & Nancy Krumrey, Ken & Lois Lawson, Lorraine Miller, Gary & Bev Rick, Jerry & Bev Shelton, Dick & Joyce Strunk.

**Thanks so much** to the congregation, the circles, and all who supported our Advent soup suppers. **Thanks** to Marilyn Brown and Kay Anderson for their help! - Jane Nelson

**With sincere thanks...**

On behalf of the staff, many thanks for all of the cards and well wishes over this last holy season. Thank you for celebrating with us, the gift of Jesus, that continues to uplift us each and every day. We are truly blessed in so many ways. Grace, joy and peace be yours in 2018.

- **PK, Roz, Marilyn, Sarah, Lois, Jeff, Charlotte, Tonja, Margaret, Virginia and Kelsey**
Birthdays
January

1/6 - Lucile Aasmundstad
1/6 – Janice Dolan
1/8 – Ralph Picht
1/8 – Sherry Rainey
1/11 – Joe Patton
1/11 – Loletia Rear
1/11 – Melissa Seely
1/12 – Carrol Hildre
1/13 – Lorraine Miller
1/14 – Marlene Doran
1/14 – Chuck Seeley
1/16 – Phillip Matsler
1/17 – Tina Evans
1/17 – Charli Anne Stephenson

1/18 – Lorrayne Maki
1/18 – Kelsey Sojka
1/19 – Robert Rein
1/21 – Louise DeGroot
1/21 – LeRoy Kreager
1/22 – Jim Davis
1/22 – Pat Kugler
1/22 – Helen Smiley
1/23 – Curt Kimpfbeck
1/23 – Karen Rasmusson
1/25 – Jeremy Fowler-Lindemulder
1/27 – Marg Christianson
1/28 – Lorena Kilgore

If we’ve missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the church office know. Thank you!
January Events

PIECEMAKERS
Every THURSDAY
9:00AM
ALL ARE WELCOME!

EXERCISE
Every TUESDAY & THURSDAY
8:00AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH
BLOOD PRESSURE SUNDAY
8:45-9:15AM & 10:45-11:15AM

MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH
9:30AM
Sit & Chat
ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH & 24TH
8:00AM
BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH
8:00AM
BREAKFAST CLUB
Speaker:
Tom Anderson on the importance of listening

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH
10:00AM
W-ELCA BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
Immediately Following Worship Service
RALPH PICTH’S
90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH
9:00AM
CHRISTMAS DECORATION TAKEDOWN
*all volunteer helpers are greatly appreciated*

MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH
6:30PM
MOVIE NIGHT: The Fourth Wiseman
*popcorn provided*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH
9:15AM
BREAD FOR THE WORLD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16TH
BOOK CLUB
10:30AM OR 6:30PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD
12:00PM
SENIOR CIRCLE
To RSVP please call: 479-757-4106

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH
9:00AM
Ralph Picht’s 90th Birthday Celebration

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
BLOOD PRESSURE SUNDAY
8:45-9:15AM & 10:45-11:15AM

MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH
6:30PM
MOVIE NIGHT: The Fourth Wiseman
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Speaker:
Tom Anderson on the importance of listening

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH
10:00AM
W-ELCA BIBLE STUDY LEADERS
COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Due to owners leaving Bella Vista, (2) niches are available in the original section of the columbarium. Sale price is the original selling price of $450.00 per niche. If interested in this bargain price, please contact Darwin Krumrey or the church office.

INVITE, INVITE, INVITE

New Year’s is often seen as a time of fresh starts and resolutions. January maybe one of the easiest times (following Christmas and Easter) to Invite, Invite, Invite. Think about the people you see everyday, friends, relatives, neighbors. Are they involved in a faith community? Ask them. If they say yes, ask what they like about it? Share what you enjoy most. Talk about your faith, your love of God, your desire to serve, it will may be the light someone needs that day.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY DINNER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH @ 5:30PM AT PAPA MIKE’S

It’s time to celebrate yet another year. Please join Mark and me for a Birthday Dinner! Thursday, January 11th @ 5:30pm at Papa Mike’s. Mates or dates welcomed! RSVP to Mark or Lorrain Maki @ 479-855-7958 or bvmaki@juno.com. Thanks! - Lorrain Maki

BIG NEW YEAR BLESSINGS FOR THE LITTLE PANTRY!

Deb Olson has secured a Thrivent grant for items for the little pantry. THANK YOU DEB! We are collecting canned goods and personal hygiene items to restock the Little Pantry. We are collecting items through January and beyond! Please bring in any canned goods or hygiene products you’d like to donate to the Little Pantry to bring about BIG blessings to others in 2018!

DINNER FOR SIX

It’s time to sign up for new “Dinner for Six” groups for 2018. The groups will again meet 3 times a year with each couple hosting once. “Dinners” may be brunch, lunch, picnics, dinner, or breakfast. When each group meets, the host couple will furnish meat and the other 2 couples will furnish sides and dessert. PLEASE SIGN UP BY JANUARY 15, 2018. Any questions, please call Carole Walford (479-855-2789) or Dorothy Klitzke (479-855-4939).

BREAD FOR THE WORLD UPDATE

Members of Bread for the World are very thankful for all of ULC’s support during 2017! There were over 200 letters signed and sent to our elected officials in support of Bread for the World efforts. We also collected $865.00 in donations! Thank you for the continued support to help us end hunger in our country and around the world.

Bread for the World will meet again on January 10th @ 9:15am - all are welcome to join us!
Dear Friends,

2017 has been a year of change for us. After nearly 20 years of retirement in Bella Vista, Arkansas, we moved this past June to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We currently reside in Meadowstone Apartments, a Good Samaritan Society senior living residence in southwest Sioux Falls which we have found to be more than satisfactory. We have enjoyed getting acquainted with the other residents here who have been welcoming, friendly, and helpful to us as we transitioned to this new environment.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our new address and mobile phone:

Jim & Mary Lou Schmidt
5324 W. 49th St.
Apartment 204
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

(479)936-6776
"We are created in the image of God and are living temples, and this alone gives each one of us self-worth." 1 Corinthians 3:16

Getting Ready for the Gathering.
January Study- Gathering for LOVE

This month’s study focuses on self-worth. To love others, we need to love ourselves. This is a foundational component to building community and building on social justice. Seeing ourselves as created beautifully by God (as God sees us) opens us up to engage in the experiences, seeing others through that same lens of how God sees us and loves us. God’s love through Jesus changes everything. Living in that love and sharing that image of a loving God takes the Gathering beyond Houston and into the world we live in. Share this love- the love of God through Jesus that changes everything!

A lot of people have a hard time having a positive self-image. Often, we base our image on the things we do, stuff we have, or other people’s view of us. But if you get your value from those things, what is going to happen? At some point, you are going to feel like you have no value because those things come and go. The fact that you were created by God means you matter, and that will never change.

Ask yourself:
- What does it mean to be created by God?
- What did God say after he saw the things he created?
- How does that affect the way you view yourself?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?
  If we don’t like the way God created us, how do we then love our neighbor?

The Gathering will encourage youth to:
- Stand up- against a world that tells us “stuff” makes you worthy.
- Stand with- those who are told or made to feel they have no worth.
- Stand for- changing the world, that the most important image is the one that we are created by God.

Prayer:
God, thank you for loving us and creating us in your image. Thank you for giving us purpose. Thank you for giving us value. We ask that you help us see ourselves the way you do and be content in knowing that we belong to you. Amen.

ELCA Youth Gathering- June 27-July 1 in Houston.
BOOK STUDIES with PASTOR KAREN

*Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint*  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16TH @ 10:00AM* OR 6:30PM

Pastor Nadia’s fresh and uncompromising perspective gives a whole new meaning to the transformative power of grace.”  
*Please let pastor know if you would like a 10am option, otherwise we meet at 6:30pm for a delightful discussion.*

February Book:  
*Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis*  
By: Lauren Winner

From the book flap: Lauren F. Winner has written an engrossing reflection of literary grace and spiritual wisdom with *Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis.*  
As she lives through a failed marriage and the loss of her mother, Winner finds her Christian faith slipping away. Through reading religious works and tomes and being counseled by leaders of the church, she learns she must find the courage to trust in God in order to find His presence.  
Elegantly written and profound, *Still* offers reflections on how murky and gray the spiritual life can be while, at the same time, shows us how to see the light we do encounter more clearly.  
If you would like for us to purchase a copy of "Still" for you, from Amazon, let Roz know. We will place an order first week of January. You may pick up your copy on office, cost $12.  
Come join the book study. Talk with Pastor if you are interested or if you have questions.
MOVIE NIGHT CONTINUES IN JANUARY

New Day .... Second Monday,
January 8, 6:30pm
The Fourth Wise Man

Based on Henry van Dyke’s classic, The Story of the Other Wise Man, this fictional story set in Biblical times is told in gently comic terms. A Magi named Artaban (Martin Sheen) sees a sign in the heavens that he hopes will lead him and his faithful servant to the Messiah. Artaban takes with him three precious gifts to present to the Messiah. For 33 years Artaban pursues Jesus, only to miss Him at every turn. Along the way, Artaban uses his gifts to help people in dire need. He now has nothing to present to the Messiah when he finds Him. The story culminates on Easter Sunday as Artaban, old and dying, finally encounters the new King, bringing peace to his life. A deeply moving experience examining what true faith really means. Starring Martin Sheen and Alan Arkin.

*popcorn provided*
Prayer Corner

In the Lord’s Prayer it says:
‘...and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us.’
In other words, God will do for us what we do for others. We must ask ourselves if what we do for our neighbors is something we want God to do for us.

Submitted by - Ruth Dronen
At the turn of the year we meditate on endings and beginnings, knowing that all the world’s time begins and ends in God. We watch and keep vigil for the coming of God’s justice.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love.

Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever - the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.
**Blessing for a Home at Epiphany**  
**Chalking of the Doors**

On the Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, family and friends traditionally gather at the main entrances to homes or apartments (nursing home quarters, extended care facility, hospital rooms!), and ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there. You are invited to use this in your own home, or visit your loved ones and use it there.

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother” (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

Twelfth Night (January 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing for the home. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 18. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing Christe mansionem benedicat, which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspur, Melchior, and Balthasar).

**Greeting**
May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. *Proverbs 24:3-4*

**Reading**
As we prepare to ask God’s blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being, and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

*John 1:1-4, 14, 16*

**Inscription**

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 + C M B + 18

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,
M Melchior, and
B Balthasar,

followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand
18 and eighteen years ago.

☩ Christ, bless this house,

☩ and remain with us throughout the new year.

**Prayer of Blessing**

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then everyone may walk from room to room, blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree.


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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1 - Monday</td>
<td><em>STAFF OUT OF OFFICE IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR’S DAY</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| January 2 - Tuesday       | 8:00AM - Exercise  
                           | 1:00PM - Staff Meeting                                           |
| January 3 - Wednesday     | 9:15AM - Deborah Circle  
                           | 9:30AM - Circles: Mary, Naomi, Rachel, Sarah  
                           | 5:45PM - Orchestra Rehearsal  
                           | 7:00PM - Choir Rehearsal                                         |
| January 4 - Thursday      | 8:00AM - Exercise  
                           | 9:00AM - Piecemakers                                            |
| January 6 - Saturday      | EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD                                                  |
| January 7 - Sunday        | FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY/BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  
                           | BLOOD PRESSURE SUNDAY  
                           | 9:30AM - Worship & Communion  
                           | 10:45AM - Youth Sunday School  
                           | 10:45AM - Adult Christian Education                              |
| January 8 - Monday        | 9:30AM - W-ELCA Sit & Chat  
                           | 1:00PM - Staff Meeting                                          
                           | 2:45PM - United in Prayer  
                           | 3:30PM - Stephen Ministries                                     
                           | 6:30PM - Priscilla Circle                                        
                           | 6:30PM - Movie Night: The Fourth Wiseman                         |
| January 9 - Tuesday       | 8:00AM - Exercise  
                           | 9:00AM - Worship and Music                                      
                           | 1:00PM - Martha Circle                                           |
| January 10 –Wednesday     | 8:00AM - Bible Study  
                           | 9:15AM - Bread for the World                                   
                           | 9:30AM - W-ELCA Board Meeting                                  
                           | 5:45PM - Orchestra Rehearsal                                    
                           | 7:00PM - Choir Rehearsal                                        |
| January 11 - Thursday     | 8:00AM - Exercise  
                           | 9:00AM - Piecemakers                                           |
                           | 6:00PM - Church Council Meeting                                  |
| January 14 - Sunday       | SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY                                         
                           | 9:30AM - Worship & Communion                                    
                           | 10:45AM - Youth Sunday School                                   
                           | 10:45AM - Adult Christian Education                             |
| January 15 - Monday       | MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY                                           
                           | 8:00AM - Breakfast Club                                         
                           | 1:00PM - Staff Meeting                                          
<pre><code>                       | 2:45PM - United in Prayer                                       |
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tuesday Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>8:00AM - Exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00AM - Book Club: Pastrix</td>
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<td>6:30PM - Book Club Too: Pastrix</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>9:00AM - Altar Guild Meeting</td>
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<td>9:15AM - Visiting Phoebes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:45PM - Orchestra Rehearsal</td>
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<td>7:00PM - Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>The Confession of St. Peter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00AM - Exercise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00AM - Piecemakers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:15PM - Chancel Bells Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30AM - Worship &amp; Communion</td>
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<td>10:45AM - Youth Sunday School</td>
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<td>10:45AM - Adult Christian Education</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
<td>1:00PM - Staff Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:45PM - United in Prayer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30PM - Stephen Ministries</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td>8:00AM - Exercise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00PM - Senior Circle</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>St. Timothy, Pastor &amp; Confessor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00AM - Bible Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00AM - W-ELCA Bible Study Leaders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:45PM - Orchestra Rehearsal</td>
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<td>7:00PM - Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>The Conversion of St. Paul</td>
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<td>8:00AM - Exercise</td>
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<td>9:00AM - Piecemakers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:15PM - Chancel Bells Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>St. Titus, Pastor &amp; Confessor</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</td>
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<td>9:30AM - Worship &amp; Communion</td>
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<td>10:45AM - Youth Sunday School</td>
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<td>10:45AM - Adult Christian Education</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
<td>1:00PM - Staff Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:45PM - United in Prayer</td>
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<td>January 30</td>
<td>8:00AM - Exercise</td>
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<td>January 31</td>
<td>5:45PM - Orchestra Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00PM - Choir Rehearsal</td>
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EMERGENCY FORMS

It’s still not too late to fill out an emergency form and return it to the church office so that it can be placed in their file in the event of a medical or family emergency at church. The form will include basic information as well as what hospital you would prefer, emergency contact, etc. Please fill the form out in its entirety. If you like, we can also provide you with an emergency contact wallet size card. Thank you!