

the Voice parish newsletter



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church
975 Washington Road Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228

[REDACTED]

Happy New Year ! God is with us!

Pastor Doug Heagy



January, 2023

BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY

Monday Nights & Thursday Mornings

Exploring Stories & Themes of the Sundays after Epiphany

MONDAY NIGHT

The 1st Readings for the Sundays after Epiphany

7:00PM-8:00 PM

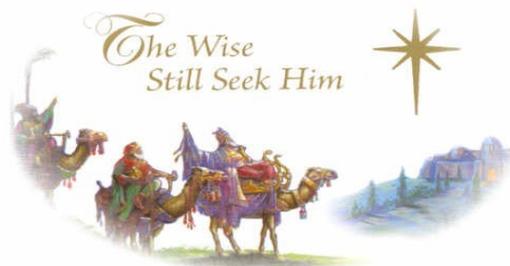
January 9	Isaiah 42:1-9
January 16	Isaiah 49:1-7
January 23	Isaiah 9:1-4
January 30	Micah 6:1-8
February 6	Isaiah 58:1-12
February 13	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (and a peek at Sirach 15:15-20)
February 20	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 (and a peek at Exodus 24:12-18)

THURSDAY MORNING

The 2nd Readings for the Sundays after Epiphany

10:00 AM-11:15 AM

January 12	Acts 10:34-43
January 19	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
January 26	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
February 2	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
February 9	1 Corinthians 2:1-16
February 16	1 Corinthians 3:1-9
February 23	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 (and a peek at 2 Peter 1:16-21)



From the Stewardship Committee

New Year's resolutions to steward your life

Have any resolutions for 2023? (It's not too late to make them!) New Year's resolutions are a great way to boost the stewardship of your life. After all, resolutions are just goals for enriching our lives.

Here are some areas to consider:

Spirituality: Grow in faith by engaging spiritual practices. Resolve to pray and read scripture daily, attend worship, give generously, cultivate spiritual relationships, serve church and community.

Health: Gain vitality by resolving to lose weight, eat healthfully, exercise regularly, learn about health and nutrition and get checkups at your doctor and dentist.

Intellect: Keep your mind active by resolving to read books, check out educational programs and podcasts, take a class to learn a new language or skill.

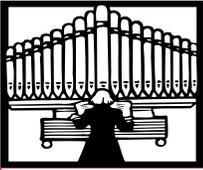
Relationships: Resolve to make new friendships and deepen existing ones. Work on family relationships to strengthen bonds and bring people closer to you and other family members.

Leisure: Include resolutions to help you enjoy life! Vacations, hobbies, activities, getaways, day trips.

Financial: Get your financial house in order. Resolve to make and keep a budget, reduce debt, increase income, save more and become more learned in money matters.

We are stewards of the life that God has given us. For 2023, pray for God's guidance and make a few resolutions that address your priority issues. And pray for God's help in keeping them. Blessings for 2023!

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Musical Musings—January, 2023

The Baptism of our Lord

We celebrate the *Baptism of Our Lord* on Sunday, January 8. Sea shells will be distributed to worshippers. One hymn we will sing on this day is, *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* (ELW 304), composed by F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). His biography, extending into our nation's civil rights movement, is interesting. He was a contemporary of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

Born in Virginia in 1895, F. Bland Tucker was the youngest of 13 children. Both sides of his family were among the First Families of Virginia. Upon being ordained, he served at St. John's Church in Georgetown (Washington, DC). Beginning in 1945, he served for 22 years as Rector of Christ Church in Savannah, Georgia, then was named "rector emeritus" and told he could live in the rectory for the rest of his life. A few months after his arrival at Christ Church, Tucker received an offer to be bishop of North Carolina. Although two of his brothers were bishops, he declined, preferring to be a parish priest. During the civil rights movement, Tucker refused to condone the practice of white churches excluding people at services for fear of "kneel-ins." He said, "I would not presume to speculate as to why my own parishioners come to church, much less someone I do not know," so Christ Church's doors remained open to any who wished to enter. F. Bland Tucker died on New Year's Day, 1984, and was buried at Savannah's historic Bonaventure Cemetery beside his beloved wife, Mary, whom he'd survived for a dozen years. As we sing F. Bland Tucker's hymn on Sunday, January 8, let us give thanks for his life, ministry, and that our parents did not see fit to name us, "F. Bland."

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: January, 2023

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please switch with another server. If you cannot get a substitute call the church office at 412-563-0300 or Pastor Doug at [412] 926-5440; or email the church at mteboluth@aol.com



	8:30	10:00
January 1 Crucifer	Henry Keplar	Milo Bucher
January 8 Crucifer	Dylan Snyder	Owen O'Brien
January 15 Crucifer	Chase Lutz	Luke Frankovitch
January 22 Crucifer	Henry Keplar	Easton Darcy
January 29 Crucifer	Annaleigh Dwulit	Nico Provins



The worship links to Facebook & YouTube can be found on our website:



www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

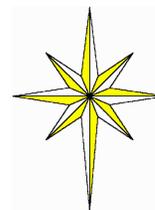
Sunday's
8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE
Posted later on our YouTube channel

THE WORD of the LORD

January 1	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23	Christmas 1
January 8	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Baptism of Our Lord
January 15	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Epiphany 2
January 22	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Epiphany 3
January 29	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Epiphany 4

Feast of Epiphany Devotions
 Online virtual only / Live Facebook
 Friday January 6
 7:30 PM

Images of Epiphany



Epiphany is a season *out of sorts*. To many Christians in the West, the feast from which the Epiphany weeks are named seems something like a misplaced Christmas. Popular piety and more than one Christmas Eve worship has placed the Magi at the manger beside the shepherds [and in many South Hills' front yards as well!]

The Season of Christmas lasts just two weeks! And when it ends, and like children who have opened all their presents, we're not sure what to do next! Is the excitement over? Do we go back to what we had been doing a few weeks ago?

The Season of Epiphany is a time for rejoicing in the light that shines in our darkness, the light that reveals both our sin and the One who has come to forgive it.

The major feature of the Christian Epiphany is that it provides an affirmation that whatever disclosures of the ultimate might come among us, the essence of God's disclosure in and through Jesus lays bare both the complexity of our own existence and the wonder of God's being.

As the Magi travel to Bethlehem, the proclamation is that the Christ child is born for the whole world. The identity of the travelers from the East remains a mystery, but they were Gentiles.

They found the one they sought not among the powerful or even comfortable. The one sent to reveal God to the nations came by means of an oppressed people and was greeted by foreigners.

The message of Epiphany is clear: Light shines not only in darkness, but God acts through the *unlikely* to touch the lives of the excluded.

And this theme continues throughout the Epiphany Season starting with Jesus' baptism at the River Jordan; God in man made manifest to all of creation. It continues until the final Sunday of the Epiphany Season, the Festival of the Transfiguration of our Lord [February 19], on which the revelation comes even to those who persistently misunderstood it.





ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with



myEoffering

www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

WHAT IS myEoffering?

myEoffering is a service we've teamed up with to give you the ability to send your offerings online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. We chose to use myEoffering because they are part of a trusted, Christian family-owned company, who have been serving the needs of churches for nearly 100 years. Their product is solid, secure, easy, and convenient.

WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

Many of you already pay for most of your purchases electronically, whether online or with a credit or debit card. So we have decided to offer this service as a convenience to you - you can stop writing checks or having to remember to bring cash every Sunday. Simply log in to our service and set up your offering. You can set the donations to match your pay periods, and even send your one-time donations to the special offerings we may have from time-to-time. This new service allows you to give any amount, at any time, from home or on the road, with your computer or even your mobile device. Now you can control how and when you give your tithes.

HOW DOES IT HELP?

Online giving is the future. In the lifetime of our young people, we will see electronic payments overshadow traditional methods of paper payments. In order to position ourselves to continue doing the work of God in the future and to make it as convenient as possible to be a cheerful giver to God's work, we have decided to offer online giving to you. In addition to easier access to giving and more engagement with young stewards, online offering has many benefits for the church. It allows us to more easily track contributions for budgeting. It saves us from manually tracking those contributions every week. It saves us from large fees on check processing and allows us to more accurately forecast expenditures and needs.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Signing up is as simple as going to our church website listed above and look for the green computer mouse icon. That button will take you to the myEoffering page for our church. Simply sign up and begin giving online today! Or scan the code to the right with your mobile device to get started now.



SCAN THIS
CODE WITH
YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE NOW





WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

O God, you are the hope of every generation. We give you thanks for the elderly, frail, or those in need of care in our midst, who point us to your faithfulness. With your healing presence touch the lives of all who are sick or sorrowful, that they may know the comfort and consolation of your Holy Spirit. Especially we pray for:

Bishop Goerge Bashore; Craig Elias; Deb Cecotti; Scott Halapin; Patty Pavlak; Kalie Radigan; Cheryl Poenisch; Rian Dankert; the family of Annabelle Santos; Aurora Schultz; Janice Seigle; Elena Getz; Nancy Ingles; Paul Young; Levi;

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the February issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **Sunday, January 15th**. Articles may be left in the church office or email:

The 2023 Altar Flower and Worship Bulletin Donation Charts



We still have open Sundays for those who wish to sign up for altar flowers or worship bulletins for the 2018 season. [Please, if the date wanted is taken, select another date!] Some dates have evening liturgies and some dates are for midweek liturgies. The cost of donation is \$30.00 per vase for flowers and \$25.00 per Sunday or Holy Day for bulletins. Please submit to the Church Office one week before any acknowledgement you would like printed. No reminders are sent for payment; we count on everybody to be good stewards.



Annual Stewardship... There is still time to review and return your Time and Talent sheets. Also, there are still some 2023 offering envelopes available for pick up in the Narthex.

A Note from the Treasurer:

For many members, the e-offering platform has been a useful tool and we thank you for using it. This is a reminder that if you use your bank account directly, the fee is 30 cents. If you use a credit card, the fee is 3.25%. Please use the bank account direct debit if at all possible.

You're Invited...To the Sunday Morning Fellowship

Each Sunday worshippers have the opportunity to greet one another and welcome visitors at our: **Sunday Morning Fellowship** in the Narthex. Join us in between the early and late Liturgies to share greetings and conversations with friends and visitors. Refreshments are available for all.

The Sunday Morning Fellowship also provides opportunities to volunteer:

*Sponsor the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief, helping small growers, their families and communities through the fair trade of coffee.

*Volunteer to set up and clean the Fellowship refreshments table. It's easy to do and a member of the Hospitality Committee will show you how. Also, written instructions are available.

*Provide sweet (or healthy) treats for all to enjoy. (Gluten free and nut free treats are also welcomed)

If you'd like to help you can sign up on the bulletin board in the main hallway, or contact the church office.

Epiphany The Celebration Continues!

Epiphany Devotion
Online Virtual Only
Friday, January 6
Live Facebook 7:30 PM
Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday January 8



HELP WANTED: We are in need of a Nursery Attendant for Sundays 9:45-11:15 am. This is a paid position. Please call the Church office if interested.

2023 Congregational Council Officers elected at October 21 Annual Meeting



Newly elected members at our Annual Meeting in October begin their service this month. They are: Julia Nelson (Youth); Rick Spickard (Finance); and Tom Ultsch (Property). They will join continuing council members: Cindy Brown (Worship), Jim Needles (Stewardship), James Brentzel (Evangelism) Sara Dougherty (Social Ministries), Don Snyder (Property), Jody Lutz (Vice President), Alan Trivilino (President), Vedette Keplar (Christian Education), Jeff McGraw (Congregational Life), and Amy Stabenow (Secretary)

Thank you to our outgoing council members for sharing their time and talents. We offer our heartfelt thanks for their leadership, commitment, and faithfulness.

The Congregational Council is constituted in order to provide a partnership with the pastor in the ministry of the Gospel. This Congregational Council will be installed in January. Council members who do not serve as officers will serve as liaisons for the Standing Committees of council.



A Prayer for New Days Ahead

Heavenly Father, thank You for making all things new! As another new year begins, help us live each day for You. May we continually have a new song in our hearts to sing to You, no matter what comes our way. We trust in You because we know Your mercies are new every morning, and your blessings are plentiful. Thank you for everything. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Meal with the Poor....



Our next meal at the Daily Bread Ministries is Sunday, January 15, 2022. We will be serving approximately 150 individuals Turkey Tetrazzini, vegetable, fruit, roll and a dessert.

Sign up sheets for food donations will be in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for your support of this mission of our congregation. The individuals who receive these meals truly appreciate this care.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- 1 You shall have no other gods.
- 2 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
- 3 Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- 4 Honor your father and your mother.
- 5 You shall not murder.
- 6 You shall not commit adultery.
- 7 You shall not steal..
- 8 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9 You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- 10 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or don key, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



Advent Pageant Thanks

Congrats to the cast and crew of our wonderful Advent Pageant! The children did a great job as they shared the Nativity story in “*Just a Little Christmas.*” Congrats to our talented cast of narrators, actors and singers: Madalena Provins; Kendall, Colton & Brynlee Zielinski; Annabelle & Grant Kegel; Liliana & Samantha Croom; Calvin & Edith Koval; Austin & Cole Porter; Leo Bucher, Lily Harlacher, Madelyn Nichols, Taylor Larson, Ewan Keplar, Soldier/Backstage Assistant Gabriel Provins, and Lector/Backstage Assistant Milo Bucher.

Many thanks to our Director/Producer Eric Keplar, Musical Leaders Barb Heagy & Hannah Morrison, Piano Accompanists Chris Keenan & Rick Shaw, Teen Assistants Henry Keplar & Mackenna Cercone; and to our Educational Ministries Chairperson Vedette Keplar, who also coordinated our costumes.

Thanks also to our Sunday School Teachers Lizzy Koval and Jessica Porter, and to all the parents who helped with costumes & rehearsals.

Thanks to Deb Hazlett for new angel halos, Jim Needles for microphones, Kris Malia for office support, Azmuddin Baraki, Tom Ultsch & Don Snyder for custodial support; Pastor Heagy for spiritual leadership; Jeff McGraw, Debbie Lutz, Pete Shocker, & the Congregational Life volunteers for a delicious Advent Luncheon; and to all the Education volunteers for their continued dedication throughout the year!

Sunday School Resumes January 8

Join us for Sunday School each week at 10:00 resuming January 8. On that day we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus ~ the kids will start with their Sunday School lesson at the usual time, but they will also attend part of the Late Liturgy for this festive Worship Liturgy!

We look forward to having your kids in Sunday School each week. The younger students follow the Whirl Lectionary-based curriculum with Bible lessons corresponding with those in heard in Worship. Middle level students (5th grade and older) use “Connect” - a curriculum which connects Bible readings from both the Old and New Testament in an engaging way that appeals to pre-teens.

Teachers include Lizzy Koval, Jessica Porter, Hayden Sinar, Claire Bruno, Emma Gelston, and Mary Beth Trivilino.

THANK YOU...

The Congregational Life Committee was pleased to prepare and serve the luncheon during the Advent Pageant coordinated by Educational Ministries.

The Luncheon was overseen by dedicated volunteers from our congregation. Thank you to the following who graciously provided their time to cook, serve, clean-up, and everything in-between:

- Pete Schocker
- Amy Stabenow
- * Debbie & Dave Hazlett
- * Debbie Lutz
- * Jen Cercone
- * Melodie, Matt, and Luke Frankovitch
- *Cindy Brown
- *Tom Ultsch

Welcome to the Lord's Family!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered during the 8:30 liturgy On December 18. We rejoice with the family of Madeline Cosby. Madeline is the third child of Eric and Gretchen Cosby, and was born November 18, 2021.

Sealed by the Holy spirit and marked
with the Cross of Christ forever,
may Lillian know God's love,
sense the Father's purpose for her
and mature into a disciple of our Lord Jesus.



Welcome to the Lord's Family!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered during the 10:00 liturgy on December 18. We rejoice with the family of Tillie Sigrid Petursson. Tillie is the second child of Joanne Petursson, and was born August 2, 2022.

Sealed by the Holy spirit and marked
with the Cross of Christ forever,
may Lillian know God's love,
sense the Father's purpose for her
and mature into a disciple of our Lord Jesus.



Christmas flowers, wreaths and trees will be removed from the Sanctuary on Saturday, 1/7, starting at 10 am. Help is appreciated! If you would to take home your ordered poinsettias or any of the extras, please pick up January 1 through January 8 from the table in the corridor.

2023 Flower Chart & Worship Bulletins

Sign ups are located in the Narthex. Prices are as follows:

Flowers:	\$ 30 per vase
Worship Bulletin:	\$ 25

While shopping....

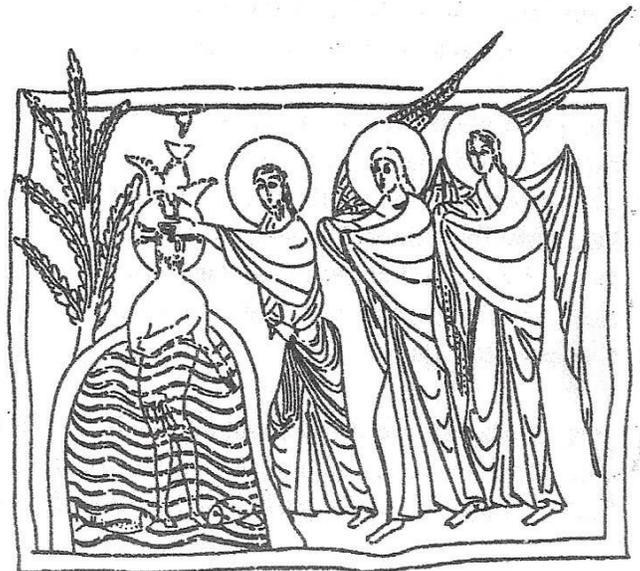
Please continue to remember the ministry of the Food Bank at St. Michael and All Angels' with your contributions of non-perishable food, cleaning and laundry products and monetary donations. When making monetary donations, please make your check payable to *Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church* and designate your donation for St. Michael's Food Pantry [Your donation will be recorded and then forwarded.] or to the ELCA World Hunger ministries using a *designated gift envelope* in your pew. Thank you.

The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 8th

The teachers of the early church emphasized Jesus' baptism, seeing it as a revelation of Jesus' divine sonship, the anointing and appointment of Jesus to his messianic office at the beginning of his public ministry, a declaration of Jesus' solidarity with the sinful human race in undergoing baptism by John, and a baptism of the water to give the element power to cleanse from sin. [Philip Pfatteicher; *Commentary on the Lutheran Book of Worship*, Augsburg Fortress, p. 217.]

The Baptism of our Lord, always celebrated the First Sunday after the Epiphany, is an expression of the joy of the Epiphany of our Lord. In fact it serves as a further "manifestation" of the identity of Jesus.

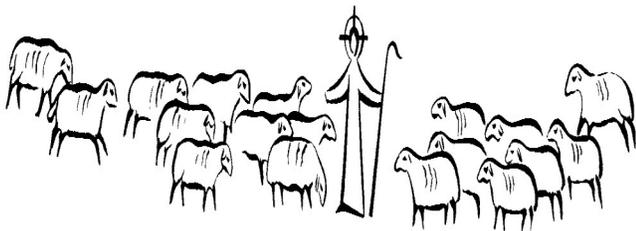
Along with the Easter Vigil and Pentecost, this festival day is one of the traditional times of the church for baptism, because of its symbolic nature.



Looking ahead

Ash Wednesday - February 22
Easter - April 9
Pentecost - May 28

Christmas flowers, wreaths and trees will be removed from the Sanctuary on Saturday, 1/7, starting at 10 am. Help is appreciated! If you would to take home your ordered poinsettias or any of the extras, please pick up January 1 through January 8 from the table in the corridor.



Our new Columbarium is located on the South Chancel Wall. Interment in the columbarium is currently opened to church members and their extended families. If interested, please email the church office and we will forward to you the paperwork needed. The cost of each niche is \$1,000 for interment of a single individual and \$1,500 for the interment of two.



Daily Bread Outreach Meal 2023

January 15 2023
March 12, 2023
May 21, 2023
July 16, 2023
September 17, 2023
November 19, 2023

GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Volunteering at Global Links has resumed!! Our first session was October 19 and was great fun! Thank you to Diane and Larry Datillo, Andrea Croom, Pastor Heagy and Sara Dougherty for volunteering. We have 6 sessions scheduled for 2023. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the narthex or if you are interested in volunteering for any of the dates, please contact Sara Dougherty at 412-523-1499 or tjdsjd@verizon.net

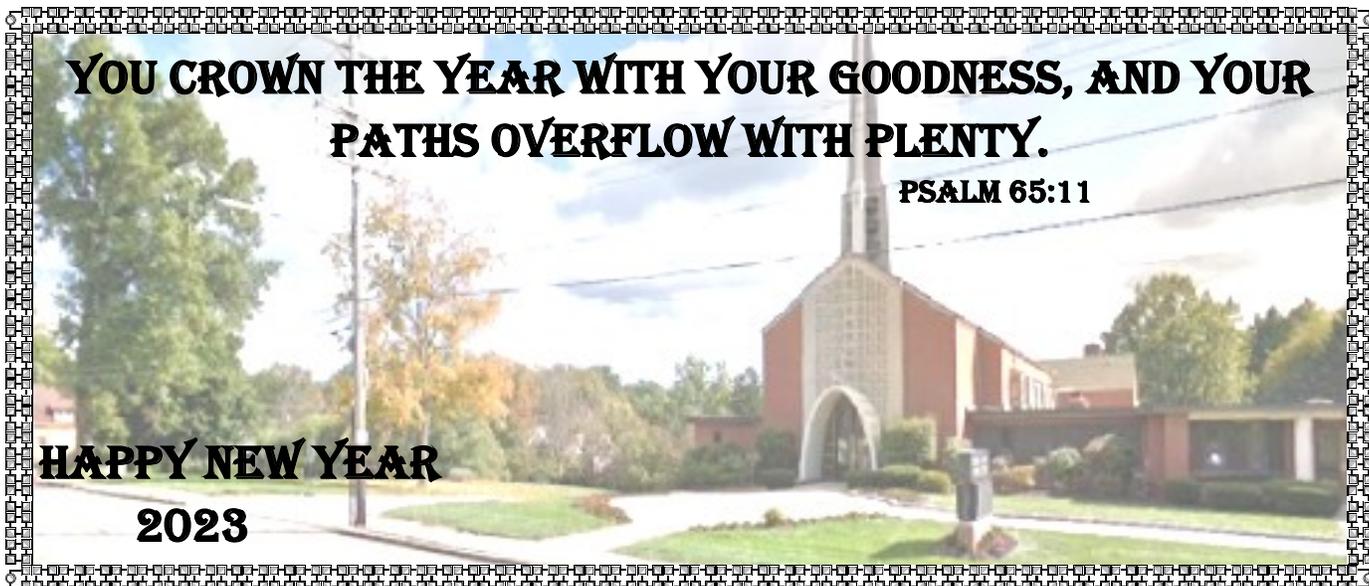
2023

Saturday, February 11- 1-3 pm
Wednesday, April 12 - 10 am to Noon
Saturday, June 10 - 1-3 pm
Wednesday, August 16- 10 am to Noon
Saturday, October 14 - 1-3 pm
Wednesday, December 6- 1-3 pm

**YOU CROWN THE YEAR WITH YOUR GOODNESS, AND YOUR
PATHS OVERFLOW WITH PLENTY.**

PSALM 65:11

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023**



THE CALENDAR OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

January is the first month of the secular calendar. The rhythm of life for most is attuned to this calendar. For Christians, the church calendar is our beat. Our new year begins before January (typically in late November). What follows is a summary of the Christian calendar, the rhythm of our faith.

The Christian calendar is made up of six seasons: **Advent, Christmas, the Season after Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and the Season after Pentecost.** The seasons after Epiphany and Pentecost are known as 'Ordinary Time'. The number of Sundays in Advent, Lent, and Easter remain the same every year; the number of Sundays after Christmas (December 25), Epiphany (January 6), and Pentecost varies. The last Sunday of the Christian calendar year is called *Christ the King*, followed by *Advent*, always the first season of our new year. The Sunday called *Transfiguration of the Lord* ends the season after Epiphany and is followed by *Ash Wednesday*, the beginning of Lent. *Ascension* falls 40 days after Easter; *Pentecost*, 50. Learning the beat of Christian life comes in part by recognizing the special Sundays that mark the ending of one season, preparing us for the new.

A few dates on the church calendar deserve mention, though they're mainly known to worshippers who fully follow the sacred rhythm. *Baptism of the Lord* falls on the first Sunday after Epiphany, which means it takes place before mid-January. On this Sunday, we remember Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Our congregation now has a custom of receiving sea shells on this day for which to remember our baptism into Jesus Christ. *Palm/Passion Sunday* occurs a week before Easter and marks our entrance into Holy Week. On this Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem riding a donkey; then we hear the story of his brutal passion. In one liturgy, therefore, praise of Jesus turns into a call for his execution. We face up to our sin, which made necessary Jesus' atoning death. The *Easter Vigil*, the oldest liturgy of Christian faith, takes place on the Saturday night before Easter and, when properly celebrated, continues after midnight, serving as the first Easter worship.

Most are unaware that *Easter Vigil* and *Easter* itself are primarily about Holy Baptism, the time when newly professing Christians are baptized into the faith. Rounding out this summary, mention should be made of *All Saints*, celebrated on November 1 or the first Sunday of November. Departed loved ones in the faith are remembered on this day. Finally, there are other festival days, which are listed on pages 54-63 in our hymnals, including the option for *Name of Jesus* on January 1. Keeping these solemnities adds more rhythm to our life of faith.

The Christian calendar is the foundation of worship. The *Lectionary*, the appointed Bible readings heard in church, are often called the first floor. The *Lectionary* unites Christians throughout the world. More about it next month.... Thanks for reading this article to the very end! --Pastor Heagy

Tax Reform Act May Make QCD's More Appealing

Several years ago, Qualified Charitable Distributions became an option for IRA holders, who are at least 70 ½, to donate directly to qualified charities. This has several possible good tax outcomes for the IRA holder. In cases where the taxpayer is taking the standard deduction, direct contribution will keep the IRA distribution out of taxable income, lowering taxes if you do not itemize. This also reduces Adjusted Gross Income that may reduce taxes on Social Security benefits and reduce the taxpayer's Medicare premiums.

While nothing changed in 2018 as far as these rules, the near doubling of the standard deduction makes it more likely that taxpayer's will be taking the standard deduction. Taking an IRA distribution that goes into taxable income may not be offset by an itemized deduction for charitable contributions, increasing taxes. In short, contributions to MLULC (or other charities) may be more tax effective if donated directly from an IRA to the charity rather than being distributed to the taxpayer and then contributed to the charity.

If this is of possible interest to you, please contact me. I can explain further and give you account information for our brokerage account that can accept QCD's.

Dave Lendt, Treasurer



JANUARY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1 Christmas 1 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	2 	3 4:00 Catechetics 2	4 7:00 Choir	5 4:00 Catechetics 1	6 Epiphany of Our Lord 7:30 Devotion Live-stream on Facebook	 7 10:00 Sanctuary Clean-up
8 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 	9 7:00 pm Bible Studies	10 4:00 Catechetics 2	11 7:00 Choir	12 10:00 Bible Studies 4:00 Catechetics 1	13 	14
15 Epiphany 1 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting 2:00 Daily Bread Meal <i>Voice Articles Due</i>	16 7:00 pm Bible Studies	17 4:00 Catechetics 2	18 7:00 Choir	19 10:00 Bible Studies 4:00 Catechetics 1	20 	21
22 Epiphany 2 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	23 7:00 pm Bible Studies	24 4:00 Catechetics 2	25 7:00 Choir	26 10:00 Bible Studies 4:00 Catechetics 1	27 	28
29 Epiphany 3 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	30 7:00 pm Bible Studies	31 4:00 Catechetics 2				





1 *New Year's Day* Praise God for the grace and eternal life we receive through faith in Jesus Christ — gifts that free us from the dread of death so that we can fearlessly bear the gospel of love and hope into the world.

2 Pray for an end to the war in Ukraine and for peace wherever there is conflict and violence in the world. Pray that the Spirit will sustain the faith, resilience and endurance of people impacted by war and conflict, and that we will persistently advocate for peace and provide relief and support to those suffering.

3 Pray for young adults called to serve in the 2023-2024 ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program with our companion churches and organizations in nine countries. Give thanks for the yearlong opportunities YAGM provides them for service, learning and sharing the good news around the world.

4 “O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8:1). Thank and acknowledge God, creator of all that exists and source of the grace, forgiveness, hope and new life we experience in Jesus Christ.

5 Pray for those planning the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), the new Young Adult Gathering, and the tAble event for youth living with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities.

6 *Epiphany* Give thanks that, through Jesus Christ's ministry, teaching and sacrifice, God reveals the vision, wisdom and values that help us live together as neighbors and children of God.

7 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global companions in Asia and the Pacific: the Rev. Chandran Paul Martin (India); Hailey Brenden (Nepal); the Rev. Suk Yeon Lee (South Korea); Samuel and McCall Dubbelman (Hong Kong); and the Rev. Jessica Derise (Thailand).

8 Ask the Spirit to give us the courage and determination to end gun violence in our nation, care for those who suffer its trauma and grief, and comfort and protect the children and youth who live with it in fear and anxiety.

9 Pray for ELCA outdoor ministries as they recruit young adults to serve in outdoor and urban summer camp ministries across the country. Ask the Spirit to stir these young adults to share their faith, energy and diverse gifts with children, youth and adults.

10 Give thanks that God calls us to light the world and bear the good news of Christ's justice and compassion to our neighbors in need.

11 Pray that pastors, deacons, leaders of youth and family ministries, and others who serve the church and our communities will be restored and find new inspiration through sabbath and the care and encouragement of their congregations.

12 Pray for the wisdom to understand that all living things echo the voice of God, a voice of glory, power and love that blesses humankind.

13 Give thanks for the staff, volunteers and bishops of our 65 synods, who unite congregations, guide the work of rostered ministers and lay leaders, and lift up the mission of the church in a diverse and ever-changing world.

14 Remember in prayer people who are without shelter; pray that they will find safe, dependable housing and that faith communities will respond to neighbors in need through temporary shelters, long-term housing, feeding ministries, and partnerships with social service agencies.

15 Pray for a faith grounded in Jesus Christ, our source of hope, direction and sustenance amid turmoil, uncertainty and suffering.

16 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* Remember in prayer the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others who have gone before us in proclaiming all people to be children of God, deserving of freedom, equality, opportunity and respect. Pray that we will draw inspiration and courage from their lives, the word of God and our siblings in Christ as we work to right the injustices that continue in our nation and throughout the world.

17 Give thanks and praise to God for listening to our cries and for leaning into our complicated lives with empathy, comfort, love and the support of our siblings in Christ.

18 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* Throughout this week, we join our siblings in Christ from diverse cultures, traditions, faith communities, and confessions around the world in praying for the unity of the church, so that, together, we can share the good news of Jesus Christ as we “seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17).

19 Give thanks for the generosity and planned gifts of individuals and families and for the work of the ELCA Foundation to ensure that our gifts continue God's work in the world, today and well into the future.

20 Pray that, when we experience disagreement in our communities of faith, we will turn to the word of God and be reminded of what unites us as siblings in Christ and of the values and behaviors that bring healing and reconciliation.

21 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global companions in the Middle East: the Revs. Gabi and Meghan Aelabouni, the Rev. Jordan and Rev. Adam Miller-Stubbendick, and the seven young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Israel/Palestine.

22 Ask the Spirit to help us respond when we are called to follow Christ into unfamiliar places and situations, attending to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our neighbor.

23 Pray that we might press forward with the ELCA Future Church priorities to be a welcoming church that engages new, young and diverse people; a thriving church rooted in tradition but radically relevant; and a connected, sustainable church that shares in a common purpose and direction.

24 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

25 *Conversion of Paul* All things are possible through God, even the transformation of our heart, spirit and identity. Ask God to shape us for participating in God's work in the world and to make us faith-filled agents of change, healing and renewal for the sake of humanity.

26 Ask God to bless directors for evangelical mission, who coordinate the partnerships between ELCA synods and churchwide ministries to guide “new start” ministries, congregational renewal, Mission Support and stewardship, and missional vision and planning.

27 Pray that the Spirit and our siblings in Christ will embolden us to proclaim, “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1). Pray that, through our words and actions, we will invite people to trust in the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ.

28 Ask the Spirit to help us plant seeds of faith, hope and grace in our communities and the world; pray that we will tend those seeds with care and patience and, as the French theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote, “trust the slow work of God.”

29 *Reconciling in Christ Sunday* Give thanks for the ongoing work of welcoming, including, celebrating and advocating for LGBTQIA+ people in the life of the church, and pray for ministries and organizations that walk with us as we strive to love and affirm all people.

30 Draw a deep breath and thank God for specific things that give you joy and hope — loving relationships, acts of kindness and generosity, natural beauty, signs of progress and healing in the world, and communion with others to pray, worship and encourage one another's faith.

31 “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). Pray that we will take to heart the prophet's explanation of what God calls us to do in the world.

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Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA

Director of Music and Organist

Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary

Mr. Azmuddin Baraki

Sexton

**YOU CROWN THE YEAR WITH YOUR GOODNESS,
AND YOUR PATHS OVERFLOW WITH PLENTY.**

PSALM 65:11

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Baptism of our Lord

to be observed and celebrated

Sunday, January 8, 2023

All who attend church on this day will receive a seashell for which
to remember their baptism into Jesus Christ.

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM



*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and
was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in
bodily form like a dove. — Luke 3:21-22*