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Redeemer's Christian Connection



Pas/~~tor~~'s Page

According to the Almanac, some of the crazy things celebrated in January include: January 1: Z Day (On this day, those whose last name begins with "Z" get to go first instead of last.) January 3: National Chocolate-Covered Cherry Day; January 6: National Bean Day; January 10: National Houseplant Appreciation Day; January 14: National Dress Up Your Pet Day; January 20: National Penguin Day; January 22: National Answer Your Cat's Questions Day; January 29: National Puzzle Day.

Thank God for the Christ centered things we in the church celebrate during the month of January, including:

January 1 - Circumcision and Name of Jesus - Already on the eighth day of Jesus' life, His destiny of atonement is revealed in His name and in His circumcision. At that moment, His blood was first shed and Jesus received the name given to Him by the angel: *"You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21). In the circumcision of Jesus, all people are circumcised once and for all, because He took upon Himself all humanity. In the OT, for the believers who looked to God's promise to be fulfilled in the Messiah, the benefits of circumcision included the forgiveness of sins, justification, and incorporation into the people of God. In the New Testament, St. Paul speaks of its counterpart, Holy Baptism, as a *"circumcision made without hands"* and as *"the circumcision of Christ"* (Colossians 2:11). Augustine said of Circumcision: "Circumcision was the type of the removal of our fleshly [sinful] nature, which was fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ, and which the sacrament of baptism teaches us to look forward to in our own resurrection."

January 2 - J.K. Wilhelm Loehe, Pastor - Although he never left Germany, Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, born in Fuerth in 1808, had a profound impact on the development of Lutheranism in North America. Serving as pastor in the Bavarian village of Neuendettelsau, he recognized the need for workers in developing lands and assisted in training emergency helpers to be sent as missionary pastors to North America, Brazil, and Australia. A number of the men he sent to the United States became founders of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Through his financial support, a theological school in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and a teachers' institute in Saginaw, Michigan, were established. Loehe was known for his confessional integrity and his interest in liturgy and catechetics. His devotion to works of Christian charity led to the establishment of a deaconess training house and homes for the aged.

January 6 - The Epiphany of Our Lord - The feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord commemorates no event but presents an idea that assumes concrete form only through the facts of our Lord's life. The idea of Epiphany is that the Christ who was born in Bethlehem is recognized by the world as God. At Christmas, God appears as a man, and at Epiphany, this man appears before the world as God. That Christ became man needed no proof. But that this man, this helpless child, is God needed proof. The manifestations of the Trinity (Matthew 3:13-17), the signs and wonders performed by this man, and all His miracles have the purpose of proving to men that Jesus is God. Lately, especially in the Western Church, the story of the Magi has been associated with this feast day. As Gentiles who were brought to faith in Jesus Christ, the Magi represent all believers from the Gentile world.

January 10 - Basil the Great of Caesarea, Gregory of Nizianzus, and Gregory of Nyssa, Pastors and Confessors - Basil and the two Gregorys, collectively known as the Cappadocian Fathers, were leaders of Christian orthodoxy in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) in the later fourth century. Basil and Gregory of Nyssa were brothers; Gregory of Nizianzus was their friend. All three were influential in shaping the theology ratified by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381, which is expressed in the Nicene Creed. Their defense of the doctrines of the Holy Spirit and Holy Trinity, together with their contributions to the liturgy of the Eastern Church, make them among the most influential Christian teachers and theologians of their time.

January 18 - The Confession of Peter - The confession of St. Peter about Jesus, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (Matthew 16:16), did not arise in the imagination of Peter's heart but was revealed to him by the Father. The reason this confession is important is seen in Jesus' response: "*You are Peter [Greek 'Petros'] and on this rock [Greek 'petra'] I will build My church*" (Matthew 16:18). As the people of God in the Old Testament began with the person of Abraham, the rock from which God's people were hewn (Isaiah 51:1-2), so the people of God in the New Testament would begin with the person of Peter, whose confession is the rock on which Christ would build His Church. But Peter was not alone (the "*keys*" given to him in Matthew 16:19 were given to all the disciples in Matthew 18:18 and John 20:21-23). As St. Paul tells us, Peter and the other apostles take their place with the prophets as the foundation of the Church, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). The confession of Peter, therefore, is the witness of the entire apostolic band and is foundational in the building of Christ's Church. Thus the Church gives thanks to God for St. Peter and the other apostles who have instructed Christ's Holy Church in His divine and saving truth.

January 20 - Sarah - Sarah was the wife (and half sister) of the Hebrew patriarch Abraham (Genesis 11:29; 20:12). In obedience to divine command (Genesis 12:1), she made the long and arduous journey west, along with her husband and his relatives, from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran and then finally to the land of Canaan. She remained childless until old age. Then, in keeping with God's longstanding promise, she gave birth to a son and heir of the covenant (Genesis 21:1-3). She

is remembered and honored as the wife of Abraham and the mother of Isaac, the second of the three patriarchs. She is also favorably noted for her hospitality to strangers (Genesis 18:1-8). Following her death at the age of 127, she was laid to rest in the Cave of Machpelah (Genesis 23:1-20), where her husband was later buried (Genesis 25:10).

January 24 - St Timothy, Pastor and Confessor - St. Timothy had Christian believers in his family. His mother, Eunice, was a Christian woman and was the daughter of a Christian woman named Lois (2 Timothy 1:5). Acts records that St. Paul met Timothy on his second missionary journey and wanted Timothy (*“the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek”*), to continue on with him (16:1-3). Over time, Timothy became a dear friend and close associate of Paul to whom Paul entrusted mission work in Greece and Asia Minor. Timothy was also with Paul in Rome. According to tradition, after Paul’s death, Timothy went to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and was martyred around AD 97. Timothy is best remembered as a faithful companion of Paul, and one who rendered great service among the Gentile churches.

January 25 - The Conversion of St. Paul - St. Paul’s life-changing experience on the road to Damascus is related three times in the Book of Acts (9:1-19; 22:6-16; 26:12-18). As an archenemy of Christians, Saul of Tarsus set out for Damascus to arrest and bring believers to Jerusalem for trial. While on the way, he saw a blinding light and heard the words: *“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”* Saul asked, *“Who are You, Lord?”* The reply came, *“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”* In Damascus, where Saul was brought after being blinded, a disciple named Ananias was directed by the Lord in a vision to go to Saul to restore his sight: *“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel”* (Acts 9:1-15). After receiving his sight, Saul was baptized and went on to become known as Paul, the great apostle.



January 26 - St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor - St. Titus, like Timothy with whom he is often associated, was a friend and co-worker of St. Paul. Titus was a Gentile, perhaps a native of Antioch, who accompanied Paul and Barabbas to Jerusalem when they brought assistance to the Christians in Judea during a famine (Acts 11:29-30, Galatians 2:1). It is not known if he accompanied Paul on his first or second missionary journeys, but Titus was with him on the third one, when he helped reconcile the Corinthians to Paul (2 Corinthians 7:6-7) and assisted with the collection for the Church in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:3-6). It was probably on the return to Jerusalem that Paul left Titus in Crete (Titus 1:4-5). Afterward he is found working in Dalmatia (2 Timothy 4:10). According to tradition, Titus returned to Crete, where he served as bishop until he died about AD96.

January 27 - John Chrysostom, Preacher - Given the added name Chrysostom, which means “golden-mouthed” in Greek, St. John Chrysostom was a dominant force in the fourth-century Christian Church. Born in Antioch around AD 347, John was instructed in the Christian faith by his pious mother, Anthusa. After serving in a number of Christian offices, including acolyte and lector, John was ordained a presbyter and given preaching responsibilities. His simple but direct messages found an audience well beyond his hometown. In AD 398, John Chrysostom was made patriarch of Constantinople. His determination to reform the church, court, and city brought him into conflict with established authorities. Although removed from his parishes and people, he continued writing and preaching until the time of his death in AD 407. It is reported that his final words were “Glory be to God for all things! Amen.”



“Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered”

404 LSB

An Epiphany Hymn by Stephen P. Starke

This beautiful hymn ends with this memorable verse which refers to the saving waters of Holy Baptism:

“Jesus, once with sinners numbered, full obedience was Your path;
You, by death, have consecrated water in this saving bath:
Dying to the sin of Adam, rising to the life of grace;
We are counted with the righteous,
Over us the cross You trace.”



Lutherans
For Life

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

January 1 – Christmas I/Circumcision and Name of Jesus – Our Lord became incarnate to give all humankind the privileges of His name (Numbers 6:27). He means to make the littlest of us into His sons and daughters (Galatians 3:26). The designation of baby Jesus as divine Child demonstrates the Father’s delight in declaring infants (Psalm 8:2), eight-day-olds, and even unborn ones (Luke 2:21) as infinitely precious. Receiving them as gifts celebrates Him as God!

January 8 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord – No conception—human or otherwise—comes about without God’s express will and Word (Psalm 29:9). He intentionally breathes life (Isaiah 42:5) and gives strength (Psalm 29:11) to every member of our race, including those whom others despise (Isaiah 42:3, 7). How could we involve our bodies in death when Jesus has removed us from its dominion (Romans 6:9-11)?

January 15 – Epiphany II – Abortion and assisted suicide lead many astray after lies (Psalm 40:4). They promise deliverance but only provide destruction. How much more blessed to trust the Lord to sustain us unto the end (1 Corinthians 1:8)? Can He secure us the life we seek even in surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis? Come and see (John 1:38-39)—and then courageously proclaim His faithful salvation (Psalm 40:10)!

January 22 – Epiphany III – In the day of trouble the people of Christ seek not the finger of death but the face of the Lord (Psalm 27:5, 8). Though carrying surprise pregnancy may appear foolish, though enduring unto natural death may seem senseless, though advocating the sanctity of life may earn us ridicule, the word of the cross preserves us—and our neighbors—in the very power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).

January 29 – Epiphany IV – The coming of Jesus as Christ shows the way of the Lord: He exalts the lowly instead of abandoning or executing them (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). We ought neither encourage nor invite expectant mothers and fathers to sacrifice the fruit of their bodies for righting their wrongs (Micah 6:7). Christ Jesus has already become that redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30), and such compassion to the neighbor lifts us up to stand alongside God Himself (Micah 6:8).

Why Lutheran Schools?

STRENGTHENING CONGREGATIONS:

Lutheran schools equip children to become Christian leaders in the congregation. The school also involves young parents in congregation activities more than in congregations without schools. These young parents frequently become new leaders of the congregation. Students are encouraged to become future pastors and teachers, ensuring an ongoing supply of church workers.

NURTURING FAITH:

Faith is nurtured by daily proclamation of the Gospel, teaching children the Word of God and how to read and understand that Word on their own, and by modeling and challenging students to live the Christian faith.

A SAFE PLACE:

Unfortunately, in many communities children are not safe. Lutheran schools provide places where children don't have to worry about being attacked verbally or physically. Loving teachers and other staff members daily demonstrate Christ's love for them and their love for children.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES:

Every community needs students who are academically qualified and have learned to practice appropriate morality and respect. Since Lutheran schools accept students from all parts of the community, they can have a strong effect on the community itself.

CHILDREN IN GOD'S WORLD:

As the Christian faith is integrated into their lives, Christian decision-making and problem solving are facilitated.

VALUE BY CONGREGATIONS:

Lutheran schools require a considerable investment of prayers, energy, money and staff. Such an investment by a congregation clearly demonstrates to the community that it places a high value on children, God's beloved little ones.

SEEKING THE LOST:

Lutheran schools, which enroll children from all parts of the community, provide new and varied opportunities for evangelism by the congregation and its staff. These opportunities are not available in any other way. That's why Lutheran schools are considered the most effective agencies in congregational evangelism and why pastors of growing congregations with schools in nearly every case, identify the school as the congregation's most effective outreach agency. Eighty-five percent of the fastest growing congregations in the Synod operate schools.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

When the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was formed, it became a requirement of Synodical membership that congregations would provide Christian education for their children. This was before public schools were available and before Sunday schools were popular. Thus a congregation was expected to operate a Lutheran School if it was to become a member of the Synod. The Great Commission was not given only to parents, but to all members of the church. A current proverb, "It takes a village," reminds congregations that it is their corporate responsibility to provide a Christian education for the children of the congregation.



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR
CHURCH AND SCHOOL!**



Birthdays

Janice Main—January 5
 Nick Orros—January 10
 Marion Wilson—January 15
 Nathan Jordan—January 15
 Tom Bieth—January 18
 Dale Rustebakke—January 23
 LeeAnn Sinner—January 29

Baptismal Birthdays

Aaron Clubb—January 5
 Renee Orros—January 5
 Kathy Kadlec—January 7
 Michael Althaus—January 8
 Herb Kruger—January 10
 Michelle Clubb—January 12
 Marie Buchholz—January 18
 Sheri and Joey Gates—January 19
 Austin Althaus—January 19
 Tom Wingfield—January 20
 Nathan & Natalie Jordan—January 23

Wedding Anniversary

Lloyd & Marilyn Liebetrau—January 7



THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Redeemer Lutherans attendance figures and financial blessings that were given for the month of December to further maintain the Lord's ministry.

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
12-4-2022	94	73	\$5,034.75/\$167.00	\$4,455.06
12-7-2022	24		\$255.00	
12-11-2022		68	\$2,040.00/2,478.87	\$4,455.06
12-14-2022	20		\$8,205.00/\$3,000.00	
12-24-2022	106			
12-25-2022	42	39		