



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

181 Old Seven Mile Pike, Shelbyville, KY 40065

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Making peace by the blood of his cross – Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

For many, New Year's Day means new resolutions. Others don't bother. Either way, many of us share the experience of making a resolution to do better only to find the inertia of old habits too much to overcome. These resolutions can be like the old videos of rocket testing when humanity first aimed to reach the stars. Some of those rockets sputtered on the ground, only to self-destruct. Some of the rockets made it a few feet up in the air and then turned and whizzed directionless like an untied balloon let loose. It took a lot of testing and experimentation to get a rocket to overcome its own gravity, the bonds of earth, and reach outer space. Our own resolutions often misfire in similar patterns.

Martin Luther experienced repeated failure, trying to root out every sin from his life. As he dug more into Scripture, he realized only with death and resurrection does Christ's work finally free us from sin. "One who has died has been set free from sin" (Romans 6:7; see also 1 Corinthians 15:42). As long as we live in this life, our wills are in bondage to sin. "Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.'" (John 8:34).

For Luther, this realization freed him from unrealistic expectations. He would still find himself doing the very things he did not want to do (Romans 7:19). For others, like Luther's contemporary, Erasmus of Rotterdam, the idea of a will in bondage was monstrous. Erasmus and Luther sparred in a thunderous public debate, which led to Luther writing *The Bondage of the Will*.

For Luther, the freedom of realizing our sinfulness was only the beginning. As we continue to read through Romans 6 into Romans 7-8, Paul explains how the Spirit's work in Baptism, the grace of Christ, and the love of the Father, bring us a wondrous measure of freedom even in this life. None of that is open to us, nevertheless, if we do not first humble our own self-expectations.

In many ways, then, Luther's *The Bondage of the Will* is about the first steps of practicing Reformation Christianity. It is about trusting the word of God. It is about recognizing our own capacity for self-deception. It is about reinvesting our hopes entirely into the Lord. The title, *The Bondage of the Will*, invoked despair for Erasmus, while for Luther it was the acceptance of reality which opened the door for real hope.

If you want to know more about the Scriptures Luther and Erasmus debated, about questions of the will and how we can interpret God's Word, join us starting January 8 for a new Sunday morning Bible study. If you want to follow the full thread of Paul's epistle to the Romans, join in the hybrid zoom/in-person weeknight Bible study. You might even make a New Year's resolution to do so.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in January

Birthdays

- 9- Joe Jager
- 11- Dani McKinley
- 18- Ellie Themer
- 20- Dustin Shreve
- 21- Ann Penfold Amyx
- 22- Gabriel Guagenti
- 23- Alena Guagenti
- 25- Brenda Moody
- 25- Kim McKinley
- 28- Sean Feole

NEW BIBLE STUDY SUNDAY MORNINGS

Starting January 8, 2023 Pastor Guagenti will teach a Bible class on the debate between Martin Luther and Erasmus about free will. Our focus will be the Bible texts Erasmus and Luther cited, but we will also discuss the place this debate had in history. The back-and-forth of those two titans led to Martin Luther’s book *The Bondage of the Will*. You can find translations and audiobook versions of *The Bondage of the Will* if you want to read it. Of all he wrote, Luther prized his catechisms and *The Bondage of the Will* the most.

MATCHING FUNDS CAMPAIGN

In October, an anonymous source promised to match up to \$3000 of extra giving. The campaign ran from October to December. For the funds to be matched any fundraiser could count or monies given above members normal amount, would be matched. We are happy to announce that we have met the goal of \$3000. Thank you for your support. May the Lord continue to bless you and Holy Cross.

AWAKE MINISTRIES MEALS NEEDED

The Day-Timers group takes a meal once a month to the Awake Ministries Women’s residence on College Street. The ladies are so appreciative of “home-cooked” food. There are 8-10 women in residence. The meal includes an entrée, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. If anyone in the congregation would wish to provide a part of the meal, please see or call Brenda Moody at 747-0142 or text 502-321-5616. Thank you.

CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTED

The Voters’ Meeting elected:
 Vice President-Dave Pontius
 Council Secretary- Corrie Brian (re-elect)
 Treasurer-Charles Adams (re-elect)
 Chair of Stewardship-Suzanne Rutledge (re-elect)
 Chair of Evangelism- Jason VanEvera (finishing a 2022-23 term)
 Head Trustee- Jennifer Harrod (re-elect)

THANK YOU!

Huge thank you to all who contributed to the ALC in-gathering. They were so very appreciative when we dropped it all off. My car was filled. (I forgot to take pictures this year.) Your generosity is amazing!

HOLY CROSS FOOD BOX

The food box in our driveway is the result of an idea from the Day-Timers group. This is an outreach to the community that all the members of Holy Cross can share and participate in. Several have been very generous in stocking the box but we continue to need help. There is a list of items on the kitchen door that are suggestions for donations. However, the food box is getting low. We need canned tuna and chicken, beef stew, ravioli, spaghetti o’s, soups, fruit cups, jello, pudding cups, mac & cheese, spaghetti, tomato sauce, vegetables, peanut butter and jelly. Money donations, or if those of you who have the Thrivent card would like to share, that too would be appreciated. Thanks to all who are helping and we look forward to future donations. Day-Timers Group





CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 11, 2022

Back row: Nathaniel Semeniuk, Gabriel Guagenti, Max Semeniuk, Zoe Shreve, Isaac Guagenti, Eden Guagenti, Zachary Semeniuk Front Row: Nathaniel Guagenti, Ellie Themer, Eliza Pierce Manger scene: Michael Rutledge Hannah Guagenti Director: Marilyn Murray



GETTING READY FOR SNOW

Thanks to Dave Themer and John Feole for preparing the mower for the winter season.



LIGHTING MAINTENANCE

Thanks to Greg Rutledge, Jeremy Botkins and Isaac Guagenti for replacing the lights.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flower chart has been updated for 2023. Please pencil in the date in which you will be providing flowers for the altar and fill out a form, located below the chart, with the information you would like to have printed in the bulletin. Please leave the form in the pocket provided, also located, beneath the chart.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nation—and the Nations to Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs Sundays at 9am on 102.7FM. For information, visit www.lhm.org (<http://www.lhm.org>)

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS
TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN
DOING LAST YEAR

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A LUTHERAN WHEN...

- You have more than five flavors of Jell-O in your pantry.
- You know what a "dead spread" is.
- You talk to someone else and look at their shoes first.

Don't put a question mark
where God put a period.

Christmas Poinsettias

Our beautiful Christmas Poinsettias given to the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birthday we celebrate, were provided by the following...

Rutledge family– 3 poinsettias in memory of our dearly departed, in honor of our family and in celebration of our church.

Dave & Anita Themer– 2 poinsettias in honor of our parents and children and in celebration of our granddaughters.

Guagenti family– 2 poinsettias in honor of Nathaniel's and Hannah's baptismal birthdays.

Kathy Adams– 2 poinsettias in memory of loved ones and in honor of my children.

Charlie & Brenda Moody– 1 poinsettia in honor of our son and church family.

John & Merrie Feole– 2 poinsettias in memory of departed loved ones and in honor of our parents and children.

Zoe Shreve– 1 poinsettia in memory of Shelah Shreve.

David & Lori Franke– 1 poinsettia in memory of loved ones.

Lindsey Pierce– 1 poinsettia

Barbara Eaton– 1 poinsettia in honor of my children.

Shelley Hermann– 1 poinsettia in memory of Bart Helmus.

Restored

And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

-Isaiah 58:12

Kentuckiana Circuit Jr./Sr. High Youth Lock-In

Join area LCMS youth for a **FREE** lock-in!

- Bible Studies and Devotions
- Group Games
- Campfire Songs
- Indoor Swimming, Racquetball and Basketball
- Deeper Christian friendships

**Friday, January 13th - Saturday, January 14th
9PM-7AM**

Shelby County Family Activity Center

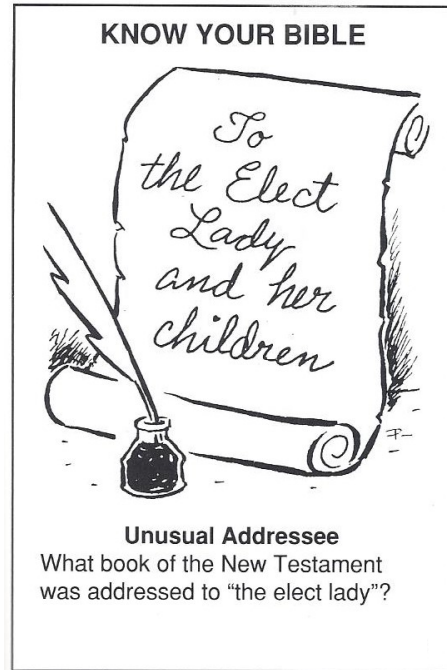
**717 Burks Branch Road
Shelbyville, KY 40065**

Visit kluthyouth.com for more details



LIFE QUOTE

“The Lord called all things into being, from the greatest to the least, with His mighty mere Word. But He formed the human bodies with His own fingers and His very breath. He lovingly, intimately, and meticulously knits us together in our mothers’ wombs.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutherans-forlife.org*



Look for the answer in the February’s Newsletter
December’s Answer: Mt. Sinai (See EX. 19:20)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
January 1	Zach Semeniuk	Dave Themer	Corrie Brian Zoe Shreve	Don Saltzman	Anita Themer	Brenda Moody Cindy Alvano
January 8	Nate Guagenti	Nancy Kovach	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Charlie Adams	Suzanne Rutledge	No communion
January 15	Masyn Botkins	David Franke	Don Saltzman Greg Rutledge	Franke family	Merrie Feole	Jennifer Harrod Cindy Alvano
January 22	Nate Semeniuk	Charlie Moody	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Sandy Runner	Danielle Themer	No communion
January 29	Eden Guagenti	David Themer	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	Anita Themer	Rita Whitehouse Cindy Alvano
February 5	Brenyn Botkins	Nancy Kovach	Corrie Brian Zoe Shreve	Roxana Pontius Guagenti family	Suzanne Rutledge	Brenda Moody Karen Hite

If you cannot serve on the appointed day, please call someone to serve in your place. Thank you!



11/7/2022

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181 Old Seven Mile Pike
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your commitment to sharing the Gospel with those who need it most, both close to home and across the world.

When you give to Concordia Gospel Outreach, books that are sent to missionaries and mission teams working to share the message of Jesus Christ with children, youth, and adults all over the world.

Your recent gift of \$276.00 to the Mission Papua New Guinea project will help us put the Gospel in the hands of more people who have not yet heard the Good News.

Sharing the Gospel is urgent work, and your gifts aid people who share the Gospel with those who desperately need to hear it. Please visit our website, concordiagospeloutreach.org, to read stories of your gift in action and discover more ways to partner with us in our mission. And please, tell others to do the same. The world needs Jesus! Let's proclaim Him!

Blessings,

Ms. Elizabeth Pittman

Elizabeth Pittman
Manager
Concordia Gospel Outreach

In accordance with IRS regulations, this letter verifies that you received no goods or services in exchange for this gift.
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Concordia Gospel Outreach
3558 South Jefferson Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63118
Email: cgo@cph.org
www.concordiagospeloutreach.org

2022 Christmas and Year End Thanks go to...

- All who faithfully serve as church officers, board members, committee members, trustees and representatives to various organizations.
- Marilyn and Mark Murray for running the Sunday School and directing the Children's Christmas program.
- All who purchased a poinsettia for Christmas and lilies at Easter to decorate our sanctuary.
- All the faithful people who cleaned the church this year.
- All who planted flowers, mowed the grass, trimmed trees and shrubs, mulched, weeded and took care of the brush pile.
- Lori Franke for all the wonderful music she has provided us during our worship services including recording for services while she was away.
- Isaac, Eden, and Gabriel Guagenti for playing the preludes and postludes during our Christmas Eve service.
- All who purchased flowers to beautify our sanctuary this year.
- Kathy Adams and Merrie Feole for organizing the Trunk or Treat and for those who volunteered to help.
- Greg Rutledge for organizing the Chili Cook-Off.
- Don and Donna Saltzman for organizing the Easter Egg hunt and for all who volunteered.
- Those who talked to visitors and made them feel welcome.
- Alena Guagenti for handling our prayer chain and those who prayed for people who are sick and in need.
- Our acolytes, readers, ushers, soloists, worship assistants, technical assistants, altar guild, we thank you.
- Rita Whitehouse and Corrie Brian for organizing the Ladies Lunch Out.
- Everyone who helped the church this year with special offerings.
- Jim Weed for the beautiful stain glass artwork he has made and donated to the church.
- Pastor Guagenti for leading the Adult Bible Studies, Jr. Confirmation, Adult Information classes and the church hikes.
- Pastor Andy Guagenti for assisting Pastor Guagenti on the YouTube videos and for preaching on Sundays.
- All those who provided transportation for our shut-ins to and from the church for services, functions and shopping especially, Pastor Guagenti, Merrie Feole, Bob Myers, Jennie Shreve, Shelley Hermann, and Greg and Suzanne Rutledge.
- Greg Rutledge for organizing the Men's lunch.
- Dave Themer and the church council for faithfully leading our congregation.
- Charlie Moody for organizing the Day-Timers.
- Nancy Kovach for her work with the food box and Brenda Moody for setting up meals to Awake Ministries.
- Shelah Shreve for organizing the monthly Book Club.
- All who volunteer in the nursery.
- Corrie Brian organizing the blood drive.
- John Feole who volunteers to do maintenance on the furnaces each year with his brother, Chris.
- John Feole, Anthony Ewers and Dave Themer for the maintenance on the lawn mowers.
- Kathy Adams for organizing the ALC ingathering at Christmas.
- All of those who did maintenance in and around the church.
- Bob Myers, our jack of all trades, who took care of the recycling within the church.
- John Feole for plowing and salting the church parking lot.
- Charlie Schufer for making the house number pedestals.
- All of you for the many things you do without being asked. We have accomplished so much by pitching in and working together especially during this difficult year.

We hope that we have not forgotten to thank anyone. If we have please forgive us, but the Lord knows who you are and the work that you do. We appreciate all your willingness to help in whatever service you perform.

Thank you and may the Lord continue to bless you as you use your gifts to serve HIM.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
January 2023

YOUR PAST DOES NOT DEFINE YOUR FUTURE

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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Every Sunday
Bible Study and Sunday School-9:45am
Divine Service-11:00am

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2023



The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6, 2023