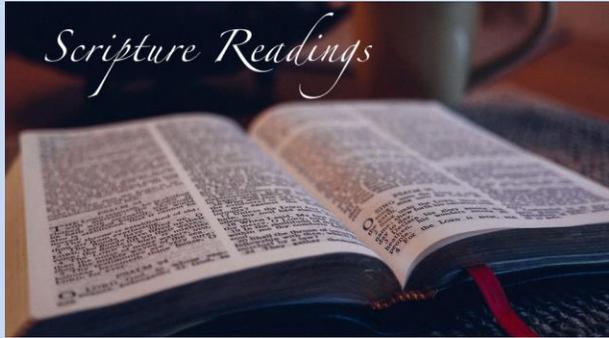


Crosstalk

January 2021



January 10

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28



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Happy New Year to you all! I hope this message finds you in good health and spirits. We can look back at 2020 in a lot of ways. 2020 certainly presented us with many challenges. For many of us 2020 was a very trying year. Things weren't normal. Our social lives were disrupted, our family lives were disrupted, and certainly our worship activities were disrupted. But, through it all we never

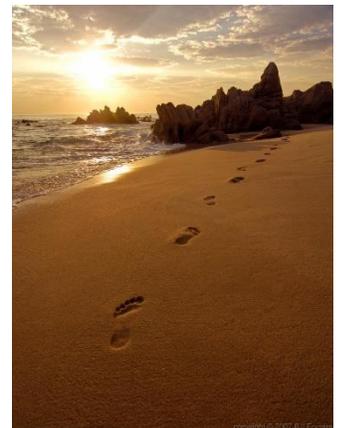
stopped being friends; we found ways to stay connected. We never stopped being family, we were creative in ways to celebrate and be together. We never stopped praising God and we found new ways to spread the word of Christ.

2020 marks the end of one difficult year, but it does not mark the end of the pandemic. (I certainly hoped it would) So, we will continue to be innovative in the ways we stay connected as we wait for vaccinations to become more available, as we wait for this recent surge in cases to slow down, and as we wait for a safe time to return to the building. Please know that your church staff has been and continues to work very hard to provide meaningful and purposeful worship opportunities.

As we look ahead, we realize that Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent are right around the corner. I continue to pray that we will be able to be back in the building before Ash Wednesday. If we are unable to meet in person know that we will provide a worship opportunity with ashes on that day. However, our midweek services this year will be recorded and premiered on our Facebook page. This will allow the building to "rest" between Sunday services if we are back to in person worship.

One reality that I have been reminded of over the last several months is that we never walk this journey alone. God is always with us. When we slow down to look around, we often realize that Christ is very present in the people who surround us. Even during a pandemic, this realization is uplifting and faith building.

I remember when I was younger, much younger; my parents received a clock as a Christmas gift one year from my mom's parents. The clock was set into a picture of a beach and it had a poem on it. The poem was "Footprints in the Sand." If you are not familiar with the poem you can read it here, [The Official Footprints In The Sand Page \(footprints-in-the-sand.com\)](http://The Official Footprints In The Sand Page (footprints-in-the-sand.com)) . As I look back on the last year in particular, I know there are times when God has carried me along my journey.



I pray that you find comfort in the poem. I pray that if there were times of trouble in your life that you are able to feel God's presence. I pray that you know the when you feel like you can't take one more step, God will carry you along on your journey for a while. Jesus reminds us of this when he says to his disciples, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). I pray that this New Year brings you joy and peace in Christ our Lord.

God's Peace!
Pastor Barry



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Hannah Dible
- 2 – Logan Dible
- 4 – Maddison Stansbery
- 5 – Lynn Stilwell
- 6 – Ashleigh MaGinn
- 6 – Erika Merrick
- 6 – Trey Miller
- 7 – Amber Roszman
- 8 – Trent Baum
- 13 – Beth Richman
- 14 – Janae Weaver
- 16 – Dan Berg
- 17 – Colby Koehler
- 17 – Pete Miller
- 17 – Christina Nelson
- 17 – Doug Stansbery
- 21 – Joel Leslie
- 21 – Alec MaGinn
- 21 – Tammy Stilwell
- 24 – Jane Bricely
- 24 – Sue Decker
- 24 – Dave Eippert
- 25 – Michelle Halter
- 27 – Bob Wachtman
- 28 – Larry Webster
- 29 – Clara Schertzer
- 30 – Steve Matteson
- 31 – Deb Grafmiller
- 31 – Jenn Ruhlen



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 – Bill & Pat Dickey
- 14 – Bruce & Sue Decker
- 22 – Matthew & Jane Smalley
- 27 – Tim & Shannon Ray



We are collecting PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY for the Christian Food Center this month. Place your donations on the table in the vestibule. Thanks for your help!



January's Mission Outreach dollars will go to the Synod's On the Way campaign.

Visit <http://nwos-elca.church/on-the-way/> to learn more about this.

Please mark your offering envelopes accordingly.

WELCA NEWS:

Ruth/Naomi Circle will not meet this month.

Martha Circle will not meet this month.



2020 Contribution Statements are ready to be picked up. If you would like a copy of yours, please let Beth know. We do not hand them out to everyone, only those who ask for them. I can email it to you or print you a hard copy. Just let me know!



Upon consideration of the COVID situation in the county as well as planning purposes for the worship team, we have extended the suspension of in-person worship through February 7th. This also means the building remains closed to any activities or meetings. Resuming in-person services on February 14th will be dependent upon the county level being upgraded from red to orange. A website for Wyandot County residents to preregister for the COVID-19 vaccine is available at www.wyandotgetvaccinated.com. Please stay healthy and safe so that we can get back to meeting in person as soon as possible! We miss you!!!