

The Messenger

January 2018

OUR FUTURE IN CHRIST

Many of us make New Year's resolutions, setting our hopes and plans for what might be different from and better than the past. Yet the past stays with us and, if we pay attention, we may find that our history has insights that still matter for our lives.

Our well-meaning New Year's resolutions to lose weight, save more money or try to make the world a better place are not unhealthy choices. Why do we make resolutions? Are we the problem we are trying to resolve? Resolutions focused on making ourselves better often arise from the deep fear that we aren't good enough. This fear is reinforced by a culture that profits from our feelings of inadequacy, promising that freedom lies in the right diet, the right look, the right product.

God renews, refreshes and liberates us. We are freed in Christ to serve our neighbors, and we, as the church, can do more together than we could ever do alone—stand with the suffering, speak out against evil, help those in need and be continually reformed.

Turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future as He allows the memory of our past to turn into a ministry of spiritual growth for our future.

Let the past rest, but let it rest in the sweet embrace of Christ. Leave the broken, irreversible past in His hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING ACADEMY UPDATE

Demolition of the existing building was started in mid-December and the layout of required concrete cutting for new plumbing and new walls is underway.

Depending on the weather, clearing of trees and exterior demolition will begin in January in preparation for grading work. Completion is still planned by July 1.

More details will be forthcoming about the meeting with Misty and Shelta on January 21st -- don't miss it!!!!



REALITY AND TRUTH MINISTRY
Many thanks to all who donated
gifts from our St. Paul family to
Reality and Truth families!



CHRISTMAS AT BO PEEP

The story of *The First Christmas* and *Happy Birthday Jesus!* were read to the children. They surprised us by singing to us also. All enjoyed Mrs. Sue's cupcakes, ice cream and juice boxes. Thanks to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League for their financial support.

Each child received a special gift from the ladies of St Paul.



CHURCH CHICS

Even on a snowy day our ladies enjoyed a hot breakfast at Chappy's. There's a chair for you on Saturday, January 13th at 8:30 a.m. at Chappy's on Vaughn Road.

LWML

Christmas was celebrated early with friends and plenty of good food. Gifts of money were decoratively wrapped for Pastor's Benevolence Fund which received \$215! A money tree created by Dee Wilson and Santa's balloon-filled bag by Ashley Semple won top honors.

LWML continues to collect paper products and hand wipes for Bo Peep Day Care. Donated items can be put on our table in Fellowship Hall.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League will meet the THIRD Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

See you on Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m.



PAIRS AND SPARES

In December, the Pairs and Spares group put together a dinner for the December 13th Advent service. We made all the fixins for a delicious nacho bar and also had some scrumptious desserts!

In January we will be heading to Uptown Art in Montgomery to see just how crafty we can be. Contact Kristi Dunham at kristidotdunham@gmail.com for more details.



PAIRS AND SPARES

Pairs and Spares will be starting a new small group Bible study on January 10th where we will be studying the book *The Grave Robber* by Mark Batterson.

Contact Kristi Dunham or Drew Wilson (drewwilson1208@gmail.com) if you'd like to join!

The **WOMEN'S NEXT BIBLE STUDY** will be Thursday, January 11th, from 11:00 to 12:30.

At our last meeting we began a discussion about knowing how and when to introduce Christianity as well as bringing our relationship with Jesus into a conversation with our Buddhist neighbors and acquaintances. (Did you know that about 85.5 % of Vietnamese people are Buddhists? China has the largest population of Buddhists, app. 244 million. There are about 488 million Buddhists in the world.) As a Christian "*You are the light of the world.*" - Mt. 5:14-16. We agreed that doing so with our words and deeds is a matter of obedience for us "*Go ye into all the world...*" - Mt. 28:19-20 and Mk.16:15-16, and eternal significance, life and death, for our neighbors. "*For God so loved the WORLD that He (freely) gave His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, (JESUS) that WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM (JESUS) shall NOT perish but have Eternal Life.*" - John 3:16. So, in order to be prepared and confident we will study and identify the core of "Why we worship Jehovah God of the Bible" and then compare Buddha and Buddhist "worship."

"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Lift Up in Prayer Those Who Have Lost a Loved One

Peggy Chestnut and family at the passing of her mother, Helen Alber at 101 years of age.

General Health Concerns

Carl Carlson, Audrey Cordes, Christine Duggan, Susan Elam, Joyce Gravitt, Albert Hurgo, Jay Iwema, Crowell Lisenby, Sadie Owens, Nick & Sandi Sebastian, Eunice Twiss, Tom Wood

Undergoing Treatment or Medical Care

Ozzie Abel, Tessa Antoon, Arline Brown, Margaret Carlson, Jesse Cone, Sophia Hartsfield, Debbie Kennedy, Ann Lenz, Ted Mather Jr., John Mikulka, Joyce Niehoff, Steve Richardson, Varna Rushton, Bill Schuchman, Jack Smyly, Meriam Van Eron, Dick & Judy Vaughn, George Willson Jr., Jim & Berna Wittkop

Long-term illness

Becky Culver, Nancy O'Shields, Gracie Pennington



Bob Cordes	1/7	Ruthie Orsborn	1/21
Alex Ahrendt	1/8	Steve Richardson	1/21
Carl Carlson	1/11	Ethan Smith	1/23
Jim Wittkop	1/11	Matthew Antoon	1/26
Serenity Hill	1/13	Ella Warnke	1/27
Joan Nightengale	1/13	Marcus Webb	1/29
Melissa Warnke	1/13	Mindy Buckley	1/30
Neil Foulger	1/14		
Jeff Pierce	1/14		

What's Happening

January 6	Undecorate the Church, 10:00 a.m.
January 9	TLC (<i>The Love of Christ</i>), 10:30 a.m.
January 11	Women of the Word Bible Study, 11:00 – 12:30
January 13	Mexican Train Dominoes, 6:30 p.m.
January 13	Church Chicks at Chappy's, 8:30 a.m.
January 15	Church Office Closed
January 16	LWML, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
January 21	Early Childhood Center Meeting



Ron & Paula Mitchell 1/8/1983
Milton & Debbie Kennedy 1/20/1978
Wyman & Lori Cabaniss 1/23/1982
Dave & Laura Anderson 1/24/1981

Sunday Servants

(Please call the church office for changes)

	Readers	Ushers	Audio/Visual	Acolyte/Crucifer	Nursery	Greeters	Counters
Jan. 7 8:15 a.m.		Ron & Paula Mitchell	Scott Arnold			Ron & Paula Mitchell	
10:30 a.m.	Rudy Ohme	Kurt & Cindy Hetler Need Volunteers	Dick Vaughn	Jackson Smith Jack Dradzynski	Need Volunteer	Neil Foulger Need Volunteer	Terry Elam Dick Vaughn
Jan. 14 8:15 a.m.		Mike Nisbet Need Volunteer	Scott Arnold			Jerry & Sandy Huffstickler	
10:30 a.m.	Charlie King	Matt Buckley John Olsen Don Schulz Adam Warnke	Bill Schuchman	Hailey Andrews Stanford Garnto	Terry Elam	Janet & Harlan Rosin	Bill Schuchman Ashley Semple
Jan. 21 8:15 a.m.		Jerry & Sandy Huffstickler	Scott Arnold			Florence Smith Ethan Smith	
10:30 a.m.	Laura Salmons	Harlan & Janet Rosin Steve Nightengale Ashley Semple	Bill Schuchman	Pace Crew Michael Landers	Sue Gill	Ashley Semple Need Volunteer	Debbie Olsen Bill Schuchman
Jan. 28 8:15 a.m.		Ron & Paula Mitchell	Scott Arnold			Mike & Janet Nisbet	
10:30 a.m.	Debbie Mikulka	Dan Andrews Bob Cordes Dan Devaughn Need Volunteer	Milton Kennedy	Ava Dradzynski Matthew Landers	Volunteer Needed	Jon & Kristi Dunham	Terry Elam Dick Vaughn