ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, HOLLAND, MN Feb. 2022–NEWSLETTER 2

Hurrah! Thanks be to God, we’ve gotten through another year of Covid. We look forward to a new year. Out with the old and in with the new. The sorrows of this last year are behind us. (I know it seems a bit late for this kind of talk, since it’s already late January, but I put this together in December. People often think I’m always a little behind the times anyway.) We have the hope of a fresh start. The transition from one year to the next is typically a time of anticipation to what a new year can bring. Since we so far seem to have survived the disappointments/horrors of the past, we cling to the hope a good future will come our way. This year will be different.

We face an uncertain future filled with good possibilities. We convince ourselves that we will overcome our old bad habits and sinful ways that have made our lives unpleasant or difficult. We count on this being true and live confidently. But as the days and weeks go by, we often realize, we tried that a year ago perhaps even as long as five years ago, and nothing much has changed.

To move forward into a new year, even a new day in hope, we first need to realize that doing so is possible only because we are moved forward in the love of God. His love pushes us forward. God does love ***even me***. Because He loves us, there is always hope in the future. His greatest act of love to convince us we are important takes center place in our lives. This lies not only in being born for us, but to sacrifice Himself on a cross for our destructive sin. God became man to destroy the power of sin, by dying and rising again to assure us, He loves and forgives.

He cares for each and every one of us. He even promises the great gift of eternal life with Him. There will be a time and place when all the effects of sin and death will be gone forever and we will live with Him in eternal joy, peace and hope. As St. Paul declares in Romans 8:32 **“He who did not spare His own Son and gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”**

Remember this promise and take comfort in knowing how much He cares for you, and since He cares, He will be there to push us through giving us what we need until that Day.

In His Service, Pastor Petrich

**Upcoming HYMNS And LESSONS *(Guitar)***

**Jan. 23rd**: Ps. 102:13,18-22; Neh. 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; I Cor. 12:12-31a; **Luke 4:16-30**

Morning Prayer; **HYMNS:** #398 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”, #333 “Once He Came in Blessing”, ***AGPS#247 “Thy Word”,*** #706 “Love in Christ”, #349 “Hark the Glad Sound”, #834 “O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth”, #584 “Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing”, #839 “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”,

**Jan. 30th**: Ps.10:12,16-18; Jer. 1:4-10 I Cor. 12:31b-13:13; **Luke 4:31-44**

AGPS Liturgy of Praise; **HYMNS**: ***AGPS#147 “Joyful, Joyful”,*** #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior”, AGPS#265 “When Christ’s Appearing Was Made Known”, ***AGPS#171 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”,*** ***#749 “There Is a Balm in Gilead”***, #541 “‘Away from Us’ the Demon Cried”, #726 “Evening and Morning”, AGPS#102 “Go, My Children”.

**Feb. 6th**: Ps.71:12,15-18; Isa. 6:1-8; I Cor. 14:12b-20; **Luke 5:1-11**

DS#3; **HYMNS**: #856” “O Christ Who Called the Twelve”, #688 “‘Come Follow Me.’ The Savior Spake”, #795 “Voices Raised to You We Offer” DISTR: #609 “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”, #826 “Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying”, #940 “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”.

**Feb. 13th:**  Ps. 119:7,1-2,4-5; **Jeremiah 17:5-8**; I Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Matins; **HYMNS**: #904 “Blessed Jesus At Your Word”, ***AGPS#269 “Yes”,*** #964 “Lift Every Voice”, #557 “Seek Where You May”, #705 “The Man Is Ever Blessed”, ***#704 “Renew Me O Eternal Light”***, #729 “I Am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus”.

**Feb. 20th**: Ps. 37:7a,b,1-5; **Genesis 15:3-15**; I Corinthians 15:21-26,30-42; Luke 6:27-38

DS#1: **HYMNS**: #834 “O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth”, #845 “Where Charity and Love Prevail”, #643 “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive” DISTRI: #395 “O Morning Star…”, #697 “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”, #790 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”