

JANUARY 2023

TOWN & COUNTRY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

Divine Service in the sanctuary at 9:30 AM. Services are live streamed every Sunday morning.

Email matt@tclutheranchurch.org to be added to our weekly email list.

What's Happening in January???

Saturday, January 7th – 10:00 AM – LWML Meeting

Sunday, January 8th – 11:00 AM – Friendship Unlimited Annual Brunch (*more info on next page*)

Saturday, January 14th – 4:00 PM – Installation of Pastor Pevy at Peace Lutheran Church

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE COMING SOON!!



Please, pick up your 2023 offering envelopes in your church mailbox!
If you did not receive envelopes, please contact the office.

Bible Studies:

Sunday Mornings after church – led by Pastor Mankin

Joy in the Morning – Wednesdays, 10:00 AM - Friendship Center – *Continues January 11th*
Come hang out and study Lutheranism 101

Men's Bible Study – Thursdays, 7:00 AM – via "Zoom"
All men are welcome to join. Please contact Flint Pendergraft: 916-952-6146

Ladies' Bible Study – Thursdays, 9:30 AM – Friendship Center - *Continues January 12th*

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**THE INSTALLATION OF PEACE LUTHERAN'S NEW PASTOR, REV. JIM PEVY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH AT 4PM.**

You are invited to attend and participate in this joyous occasion. Following the installation, a reception will be served in Peace Lutheran's main building. An RSVP to suechevo@aol.com or 916-927-5934 by January 10th is appreciated to help with the seating set up. Thank you for welcoming Pastor Pevy and his family as well as attending and participating in the installation of our new pastor. Peace Lutheran is located at 924 San Juan Rd, Sacramento CA.

SCRIPTURE READERS for the year 2023

You should have received an email with the reader guidelines and schedule for 2023. Please, review and contact the office if you have any questions. Thank you!

FRIENDSHIP UNLIMITED ANNUAL SUNDAY BRUNCH!

January 8th at 11:00 am

Danielle's Creperie

3535 Fair Oaks Boulevard Sacramento

RSVP by January 1st

Rich Nelson: 916-296-1930 | Sharon Nelson: 916-296-4633

ONLINE GIVING

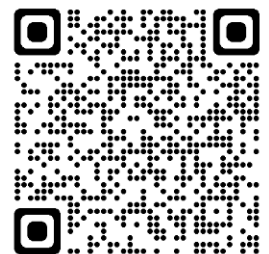
Download the Vanco Mobile App today to contribute Town and Country Lutheran Church and the many missions at work here:

Apple Store:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/vanco-mobile-faith-engagement/id1504961674>

Google Play Store:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vancopayments.vancomobile&hl=en_US&gl=US



Happy New Year!

Every New Year, I make a few New Year's Resolutions. Lately, they always seem to be the same ones. I'm going to exercise and watch what I eat. I will spend less time in front of screens and more time in nature.

They are all good goals, but I realized something recently. Rarely are my New Year's Resolutions religious in nature. Most of the time, they are about my physical health, not my spiritual health. So, it got me thinking about some spiritual resolutions for the New Year.

And the one I keep coming back to is forgiveness. Jesus is very clear about our need first to accept forgiveness but also to offer forgiveness to those who have wronged us.

Accepting forgiveness can be difficult, often because we don't think we need it. It can be tough to look at ourselves honestly and realize that we have done something that has hurt our neighbor. This is closely related to bearing the Good Fruit of repentance, which we know we need to do. We must acknowledge our sins before we can receive forgiveness.

But equally hard is to forgive others for their sins against you genuinely. Often, we say things like, "It's okay." Or even "I forgive you." But what we are really thinking is, *I'm going to keep my eye on you.* If I catch you doing that to me again, I will pounce on you with full force.

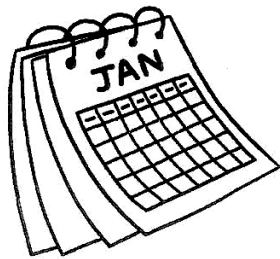
But this isn't Biblical forgiveness. Biblical forgiveness begins in the forgiveness won for us on the Cross. This is total forgiveness that we need to return to repeatedly. And when God forgives our sins, the Psalmist tells us, **As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.** (Ps. 103:12 ESV) And the writer of Hebrews tells us, **"For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."** (Heb. 8:12 ESV)

We should endeavor to extend this time of forgiveness to others. The type of forgiveness that doesn't wait to be sinned against again, so we can throw their past sins in their face. It is forgiveness that the world would call gullible. **Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.** (Mt. 18:21-22 ESV)

This might be the most challenging resolution I will make this year. Because of our sinful human nature, the Old Adam in us doesn't truly want to forgive others. So, we can have an emotional trump card when we need it. But if God loved us so much to die for us, shouldn't we be willing to extend that forgiveness to others as best we can?

May God keep you in the year to come,

Pastor Mankin



From the New



IT'S ABOUT TIME

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, what thoughts are passing through your mind? If you can spare a moment, let's talk about the New Year and about TIME.

Take a moment and ponder how often we use the word TIME. As we enter a new year, God offers us a gift of TIME. In His infinite wisdom, this gift may not be fully given to all or to any of us. If He sees fit, we will be given this personal, private gift — one for each of us. No ribbons, no gift wraps, nothing to see.

God willing, this is the gift of a New Year. A present of 365 days 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes. If there would be a gift enclosure, it might say "Just thought you would like to add this to your collection. Enjoy it thoroughly, use it wisely, rejoice in it and grow in it." Signed, "Your Loving Father."

With thankful hearts, we enter this New Year. 2018 brought crises, national elections, and deaths by violence, fires, hurricanes, and tornados, much that was newsworthy.

But it also brought conversions, Christian growth, spiritual upliftings, personal and collective joy, answered prayers, laughter, recreation, new found wisdom and insights that never made any newspaper headlines. And God in His abundant mercy has seen fit to bring us to the beginning of another year!

What are you going to do with this gift? Take TIME, with a prayer for guidance, to ponder a few ideas: worship, study, read, serve, listen, reach out, share, empathize, laugh, comfort, learn, commune, celebrate, give, grow in faith, guide, rejoice...

What a way to use God's gift of TIME. Take TIME to read Ecclesiastes 3. We prayerfully bring this to the throne of God, asking in our petitions as we use God's gift of TIME. Happy New Year!

IT'S ABOUT TIME