

The *Celebration!* Connection

Celebration Lutheran Church

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2023



Celebration is a part of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FROM THE PASTOR

Are you setting any goals for 2023?

For me, one of my goals is to get better organized so that I can find things better.

...Another one of my goals is to find last year's goals.

For Christmas one year, Heather got me a Calvin and Hobbes comic strip omnibus. In one of the strips, Calvin and Hobbes are talking about New Years. Calvin says, "I'm getting disillusioned with these New Years. They don't seem very new at all. Each New Year is just like the old year. Here another year has gone by and everything's still the same. There's still pollution and war and stupidity and greed. Things haven't changed. I say what kind of future is this? I thought things were supposed to improve. I thought the future was supposed to be better."

Hobbes replies (with his usual keen insight), "The problem with the future is that it keeps turning into the present."

The New Year is traditionally a time for reflection. We look back over the year and assess our successes and failures. We gain some satisfaction over our successes, and we experience some grief and guilt over our failures. Every time we face a new beginning, we hope that things will be different and hopefully better. But as Hobbes says, the future just keeps turning into more of the present.

Maybe, that's why some of us come to church! In the hope that the Holy Spirit may newly come upon us and because of that our futures will be filled with exciting new possibilities, exciting new and positive changes; exciting and new growth. No more of the "same old, same old."

Congregation

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29th

Immediately

After Worship!

Agenda Items include:

- **Approving the annual Plan for Mission**
- **Electing Council Representative(s)**
- **Electing Voting Members to the Annual Synod**

Assembly

(this year in Port Huron. We will be voting for Bishop at this meeting)

Two men were talking about one of their colleagues. One said, "Did you know he has 30 years of experience in his field?"

But his friend's response was, "Actually, he has not had thirty years of experience. He has had one year of experience thirty times."

My family in the faith, God doesn't want our lives to be filled with humdrum, meaningless, depressing routines. God wants something better for us than that. After all, in Revelation 21:5 it reads: "See I am making everything new." Practically the same thing was said in Isaiah 43: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing"

That is an exciting thing about knowing God. God loves doing a new thing. You and I are often afraid of change. We long to be able to cling to the status quo (the last words of the church: "We've always done it that way..."). Someone has said that *status quo* is Latin for "the mess we're in."

For example, in 1906 something that dramatically changed the game of football occurred. Before that year, guys in leather helmets plodded down the field methodically seeking to overpower the other team. They called it "three yards and a cloud of dust."

And then in 1906, something revolutionary happened. The forward pass was legalized, making it possible to gain forty yards with one throw. During that first season, however, most teams stayed with the tried-and-true way of playing the game three yards and a cloud of dust.

One team, however, took another approach. Coaches at St. Louis University decided to switch to an offense that used the forward pass. That first season they outscored their opponents 402 to 11!

My family in the faith, pray that God will do a **new thing** within us. And believe that that can happen! Yes, this New Year's, don't make a resolution, but a revolution!

Oh yes, we often talk about believing in God, and then forget that God also believes in us!

In John 15:15, Jesus says: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends". That means that while we are calling ourselves failures, he is calling us his friends. While we are calling ourselves losers, he is calling us "my beloved." While we are calling ourselves sinners, he is calling us saints. God is giving us a new chance, a new lease on life ... even a new name!

Don't forget that those the world called tax collectors, Jesus called disciples. Those called sinners, Jesus called companions. Those scorned as immoral, he called forgiven. Those called common fishermen, he called fishers of men. A crucified thief he called an heir of paradise.

What names have you been called? What names have you called yourself? Jesus Christ offers you a new lease on life. A new chance in this New Year. A new name.

God wants something better for us in this New Year than we have experienced in the past. Listen as God gives you a new name for this New Year, and then go out and live as blessed, chosen, holy, blameless, adopted sons and daughters of God!

See you in church every Sunday this 2023!

Pastor Fogle

My family in the faith,

Heather and I would like to thank you so much for your generous gift this Christmas Eve. And not only on that day, but also for your ongoing generosity of spirit as you support me and this wonderful congregation as we go forward in faith, making disciples for Jesus Christ. This is truly the best congregation in Southeast Michigan!

Have a wonderful New Year!

The best is yet to come for Celebration!

Pastor and Heather Fogle



Women's News

The WELCA group at celebration met for a general meeting on Monday, December 19, to review 2022 and plan for 2023. Reports were received from the secretary, treasurer and missions. After our successful attempts at fund raising this year, we have over \$3,000 which we will donate to CampMichi-Lu-Ca, World Relief, Good Hope and others, to be determined at future planning meetings.



After the business was conducted, the 13 women present assembled tins (made

of plastic : -) of cookies to be distributed to folks who are unable to come to worship for health and other reasons. Various members have taken them to the designated recipients. Our Pleasure!

The Women's Bible Study is having a 4 session study on the Ten Commandments at their Wednesday meetings.

Heather Fogle, Kathy Groff and Esther Bowers are assembling the recipes we all have submitted for our Tenth Anniversary Cook Book. This anniversary will be celebrated around the first of August. Keep watching for more plan news about this.

We are looking forward to making "Fidgit" blankets to give to nursing homes in Detroit. These particular homes have been identified by an EMS person who sees the need first hand. More information to come on this.



What Goes Up, Must Come Down

The Christmas season concludes with the feast of Epiphany on January 6th

As the Christmas season ends, we need help taking down the Christmas decorations after worship on Sunday, January 8th.

AND, SPEAKING OF WHICH....

Please Take Us Home!

Thanks to everyone who purchased poinsettias. While they were lovely in December, they don't do so well in January because no one is here every day to water them. So, if you haven't taken your plants home already, please do so now!



Live-Stream Broadcasts

Please consider sponsoring a week or more live-streaming for \$15 per Sunday. The live-stream broadcast may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. Sign-up; on the Communication Board, call or email the office (officelc@celebrationlc.com),

Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, mailed directly to the church.

This month's live streaming has been sponsored by:

January 1, 8, 15: Marion Jones

January 22: Jim and Susan Hardy

January 29: Hewitt Hammer

Altar Flowers

Please consider sponsoring a vase of flowers for \$23 each. Flowers may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. Sign-up on the Communication Board, or, call the office (734) 582-4112 or email the office (officelc@celebrationlc.com).

Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, mailed directly to the church.

This month

January 1, 8, 15, and 29 need sponsors. January 22, Rick and Jodi Reed in memory of Bob Reed

Crafty Connections

Our small, friendly crafting group continues to meet the **second Monday (7pm), January 9th** and the **last Wednesday (10am), January 25th**, of the month. We would love to see whatever you are working on. You just might give us some ideas!



Remember in Prayer...

Each week we pray for members of the congregation on a rotating basis. This month we pray for:

January 1

Terry and Glenda Tarr
Janice, Mike, and Natalie Taylor
Charlene Tennant
Eric, Joan, and Margaret Thompson

January 8

Chuck and Tina Truskowski
Bernie Vaughan

January 15

Mike and Pat Villemure
Loretta Wallace -Verda
Shirley Ward
Ray Wickman

January 22

Charlene and Bill Williams
Karissa Williams
Fred, Cheryl, and Erika Williamson
Christopher, Christina, Arne, Bruno

January 29

Diane Yagerlener
Emily, Jeff, and Maxwell Yandura
Lois Zilka
Estelle and Ken Zoller

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, emails, texts, or called after my surgery. I am so blessed to have so many people who care about me. It was very difficult being away from the church during my recovery. I still have many more weeks to go, but I am healing nicely. Jodi Reed



PLEASE SUPPORT CELEBRATION IN 2023 SO THAT OUR MINISTRIES CONTINUE TO THRIVE!

There are multiple opportunities for you to financially support this wonderful congregation. If you wish to support God's work in the traditional manner, your Offering envelopes are now available in your mailboxes. If you wish to give electronically, you can either fill out a form available for you on the shelf under the welcome area monitor and we can do the work for you, or, you can text at 844-332-4928, put in the amount you wish to contribute and then hit send. You can also download the VANCO app from your favorite app store, OR, you can scan this QR code and it will take you directly to the contribution page.



Thank you for your continuing generosity!

January Birthdays

- 5 Bill Williamson
- 6 Shirley Ward
Steve Hartsell
- 9 Ashley Evancho
Justin Lair
- 12 Sandy Reidenbaugh
Charlene Tennant
- 13 Emily Yandura
- 16 Eric Thompson
- 19 Marge Flores
- 21 Vi Hakala
- 24 Sandy Albert
- 25 Susan Hardy
- 28 Laura Szczembara

and

January Anniversaries

- 18 Judy and Gary Naumoff
- 25 Nathan and Emily (Jung) Hoste
- 26 Ed and Ruth Klosterhaus



January Devotions

Sunday, January 1
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7 or
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

Monday, January 2
Psalm 72
Genesis 12:1-7
Hebrews 11:1-12

Tuesday, January 3
Psalm 72
Genesis 28:10-22
Hebrews 11:13-22

Wednesday, January 4
Psalm 72
Exodus 3:1-5
Hebrews 11:23-31

Thursday, January 5
Psalm 72
Joshua 1:1-9
Hebrews 11:32—12:2

Friday, January 6
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Saturday, January 7
Psalm 72
1 Kings 10:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21

Sunday, January 8
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Monday, January 9
Psalm 89:5-37
Genesis 35:1-15
Acts 10:44-48

Tuesday, January 10
Psalm 89:5-37
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Acts 8:4-13

Wednesday, January 11
Psalm 89:5-37
Isaiah 51:1-16
Matthew 12:15-21

Thursday, January 12
Psalm 40:1-11
Isaiah 22:15-25
Galatians 1:6-12

Friday, January 13
Psalm 40:1-11
Genesis 27:30-38
Acts 1:1-5

Saturday, January 14
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Kings 19:19-21
Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, January 15
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Monday, January 16
Psalm 40:6-17
Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28
Acts 8:26-40

Tuesday, January 17
Psalm 40:6-17
Isaiah 53:1-12
Hebrews 10:1-4

Wednesday, January 18
Psalm 40:6-17
Isaiah 48:12-21
Matthew 9:14-17

Thursday, January 19
Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 1:1-20
Galatians 1:11-24

Friday, January 20
Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
Galatians 2:1-10

Saturday, January 21
Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 15:34—16:13
Luke 5:27-32

Sunday, January 22
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Monday, January 23
Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 6:11-24
Ephesians 5:6-14

Tuesday, January 24
Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 7:12-22
Philippians 2:12-18

Wednesday, January 25
Psalm 27:7-14
Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26
Luke 1:67-79

Thursday, January 26
Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 16:18-20
1 Peter 3:8-12

Friday, January 27
Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 24:17—25:4
1 Timothy 5:17-24

Saturday, January 28
Psalm 15
Micah 3:1-4
John 13:31-35

Sunday, January 29
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Monday, January 30
Psalm 37:1-17
Ruth 1:1-18
Philemon 1-25

Tuesday, January 31
Psalm 37:1-17
Ruth 2:1-16
James 5:1-6