



/ JANUARY 2020

MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN



NEW YEAR, SAME HOPE

*There are new things to come,
but our salvation is already done*

The ancient Roman calendar had meaning behind each month. February was named after the Feast of Februa, the goddess of Winter. March was named after the Roman god of war, Mars. May was named after the goddess of rain, Maia. June is named after Juno, Roman goddess of marriage and the wife of the supreme deity Jupiter. July and August were named after the emperors Julius Caesar and Caesar Augustus.

Janua takes its name from Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and end-

ings, and in Latin, it means a door or window that allows a person to look forward or back. The Roman god Janus was supposedly able to look back and forth in all directions.

Is that why New Year's Eve is a time for us to look back at what has happened, and to the possibilities of what lies ahead? St. Luke writes:

"And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel

before he was conceived in the womb." — **Luke 2:21**

On the first day of Creation, God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. On the second day, God separated the waters from the earth. On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and stars. On the sixth day, He created mankind in His image. On the seventh day, God rested because everything was perfect and complete.

So what happened on the eighth day? On the eighth day after Christ's birth — bringing the advent of a new Creation in Him — He was circumcised. New Year's Day happens eight days after Christmas.

Usually when a new year begins, we see TV highlights of the past year. The war on terror, the death of some celebrities and the anxiety of the entire world over climate change and economics will no doubt be in the highlights that wrap up 2019 and let us move to the next.

At Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day, God closed the book on the old things — a whole generation of people since Adam — and unceremoniously made way for a new, perfect and complete Creation in Christ Jesus.

God promised a Savior through Abram's descendants. In the Abrahamic Covenant, every male child became a reminder of the coming of a Savior. In completing the Old Covenant of a Messianic promise, Jesus took the punishment for every actual sin and the sin into which we are born.

Continued on Page 2



**Rev. Dr.
Roger Paavola**
District President

MESSAGE

NEW YEAR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

That's why New Year's Day can remind us of the eighth day of Creation. Jesus paid for every sin from Adam until the day Christ returns in glory. Jesus fulfilled all righteousness when He gave us the new Covenant in the rite of Holy Baptism. Jesus put Himself under God's laws that apply to us.

He said:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." — **Matt. 5:17**

St Paul writes:

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." — **Gal. 4:4-5**

The Rite of the Abrahamic Covenant was accomplished in full. The Messiah had arrived — no more waiting for the Promised One, no more sacrifices needed when God's Son shed His blood and died for our sin. In Baptism, we're all made members of Christ.

New Year's Day fosters hope. The old year is over and the new year lets us start fresh — a spark of new hope. So also at Christ's circumcision, there is new hope. Instead of living in the promises of things to come, we live in the reality of what God daily does for us in Jesus Christ, a celebration of life in God's grace and mercy. Think about it this way: The name Jesus means "the Lord saves." Notice it doesn't mean the Lord will help people save themselves. Our salvation is all God's doing. It comes only through His work in us.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers ... For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

— **Jer. 31:31-32, 34**

God promised the forgiveness of sins.

St Paul wrote to the Ephesians:

"Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one

Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"

— **Eph. 4:3-6**

No matter what happened last year, it's behind us. We face a new year with confidence and hope because what Jesus Christ has already done for us: He fulfilled the entire Law for us perfectly, restored us to a new Creation in Him and promised life everlasting.

On the eighth day of a new Creation, Christ also rose victorious from the dead. Not just a divine spirit, but true God and true Man, raised above the boundaries of sin and death, and guaranteeing our resurrection on the Last Day.

In our Baptisms, God joined us together with Christ, giving us His name, His reputation, His perfection and His righteousness so we may stand before God confident in His promise. Would we dare stand before God with anything less?

Christ gives us hope and courage for whatever the new year brings. This is why we celebrate an Eighth Day—complete perfection of everything that fell apart by sin but restored when Jesus came to make it all new.

Kits help kids in crisis

Eighteen members of Concordia, Kingsport, Tenn., rallied after service on Oct. 27 to assemble 50 "kits for kids" that police officers can keep on hand for emergency calls involving children. Each kit contains an activity book and crayons, small stuffed animal, tissues, snacks, bottled water and a note from the congregation reminding the children that Jesus loves them!

At the same time, members donated soap, toothbrushes and nail clippers and, through a generous Thrivent grant to purchase bath towels, were able to assemble 53 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.





1. Take a 10- to 30-minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.
2. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day. Buy a lock if you have to.
3. When you wake up in the morning, complete the following statement, "My purpose is to _____ today."
4. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
5. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
6. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead, invest

your energy in the positive present moment.

7. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a college kid with a maxed-out charge card.
8. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
9. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
10. Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.
11. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
12. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

14. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
15. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
16. Forgive everyone for everything.
17. Don't worry about what other people think of you.
18. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
19. Remember that God heals everything.
20. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
21. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
22. Each night before you go to bed, count your blessings and thank God for them.

Epiphany

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' ... They went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

— Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11



Congregation mission commitment receipts

as of Oct. 31, 2019 (10 months)



Anticipated amount (75% of budget)	\$1,276,895
Actual receipts	\$1,270,955
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$5,940)

Use of mission commitment receipts

Allocated to Synod for world missions	\$360,453
Allocated to Tanzania	\$20,833
Retained for district ministry/mission support (70% of receipts)	\$889,669
Total receipts	\$1,270,955

Mission commitment receipts comparison

Actual receipts as of Oct. 31, 2019	\$1,270,955
Actual receipts as of Oct. 31, 2018	\$1,255,755
Over (under) prior year receipts	\$15,200

'BLESSED TO SHARE THE BLESSING'

Using our gifts wisely

Greetings in Christ and Happy New Year,

January is a great time to speak about stewardship. Here at St. Paul, Sevierville, Tenn., we will prayerfully review our time, talents and treasures as individuals and as a congregation so that we can, with God's help, make the most God-pleasing use of all His blessings.

"Blessed to share the blessing" is not just a slogan; it is a way of life acknowledging how God has blessed us while at the same time enabling and empowering us to serve others for Him. I encourage everyone who reads this to do the same.

Take time to consider and evaluate how God has blessed you. Examine your perspective and how it may be skewed by sin, looking for how He has called you to serve others with the gifts He has given you. I also thought you might like to consider some interesting comparisons. This is my adaptation of an email I once received:

Isn't it strange:

- ▶ How a 20-dollar bill seems like so much when we donate it, but such a small amount when we go shopping?
- ▶ How two hours seems so long when we are at church or serving others, but so short when we're watching a good movie?
- ▶ That we sometimes have a hard time finding words when we pray, but have no trouble thinking of what to talk about with a friend?
- ▶ How difficult and boring it seems to read one chapter of God's Word, but how easy it is to breeze through the pages of a popular novel?
- ▶ How everyone wants front-row tickets to concerts or games, but many do whatever possible to sit in the last row in church?
- ▶ How we need to know about church events well in advance to include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events at the last minute?
- ▶ How difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others, but how easy it is to learn, understand, expand upon and repeat gossip?

- ▶ How we believe everything that magazines, newspapers and scientists say, but we question the words of God and those who speak for Him?
- ▶ How everyone wants a place in heaven, but many don't want to believe what Christ did to get them there?
- ▶ How we love repeating jokes and other fun facts we have learned, but when we have an opportunity to talk about God, we think twice, or say nothing at all?

I share this with you, tongue in cheek. We all have skewed, sinful perspectives when it comes to giving of our time, talents or treasures to anything that does not benefit us directly. However, one of the greatest blessings in life is when we realize that we own nothing — not wealth, not health, not friendship. These are all gifts from God that we have been blessed with the opportunity to manage.

If we wisely use the material, physical and emotional gifts God gives us, then blessings are a common result of that activity. But if we give of ourselves with an ulterior motive of relieving our guilt or in some other way of serving ourselves, our pride or our vanity, then just as the Pharisee, we will receive our reward in its less valuable temporal form.

Don't give of yourself out of duty. Embrace the opportunities God gives you to acknowledge you are a steward of His gifts by cheerfully and generously giving of yourself, as a small reflection



Photos © LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

of your appreciation of what He did for you on the cross.

When we think of giving of our time, talents and treasures, we should look to God's Word for guidance. Here are some good examples:

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Cor 9:7

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." — Eccl. 3:1

Use wisely the gifts God gives you and prayerfully consider how you might make the most of what God has blessed you to be the steward of. It is my fervent prayer that everyone who reads this might be relieved of the worries of ownership and be blessed with the joys of managing that which God has given you to manage.

In Christ,
Rev. Robert Portier
St. Paul, Sevierville, Tenn.
January 2011



The Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Ordained ministers celebrating anniversaries in 2020



65 Years

Rev. Roy Jacob (em)
Hot Springs, Ark.

60 Years

Rev. Arthur Avery (em)
Harrogate, Tenn.

Rev. Albert Eichelberger (em)
Knoxville, Tenn.

Rev. Clarence Helmich (em)
Oviedo, Fla.

Rev. Frank Zirbel (em)
Harrison, Ark.

55 Years

Rev. David Callies (em)
Brentwood, Tenn.

Rev. Larry Marhenke (em)
Hot Springs Village, Ark.

Rev. Donald Neiswender (em)
Paducah, Ky.

Rev. Gilbert Pingel (em)
Chattanooga, Tenn.

50 Years

Rev. Linsey Dettmer (em)
Sevierville, Tenn.

Rev. John Freitag (em)
Rogersville, Tenn.

Rev. Roger Reckling (em)
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Rev. Kenneth Taglauer (em)
Grace, Mountain View, Ark.

45 Years

Rev. Darrell Kobs (em)
Russellville, Ark.

40 Years

Rev. Dean Clausing (em)
Benton, Ark.

Rev. Larry Peters
Grace, Clarksville, Tenn.

35 Years

Rev. Robert Benke
Faith, Hot Springs Village, Ark.

Rev. Jonathan Beyer
First, Hot Springs, Ark.

Rev. John Treude
Our Redeemer, Fort Smith, Ark.

30 Years

Rev. James Burns (em)
First, Benton, Ark.

15 Years

Rev. Greg Bearss
LakePointe, Hot Springs, AR

Rev. Joel Krogen
Hope, Batesville, Ark., and
Zion Evangelical, Waldenburg, Ark.

Rev. David Schmidt
Faith, Bentonville, Ark.

10 Years

Rev. Michael Croom
Trinity, Memphis, Tenn.

Rev. David Witte
Grace, Little Rock, Ark.



5 Years

Rev. Eric Longman
Holy Trinity, Rogers, Ark.

Rev. Mark Tooley
Peace, Conway, Ark.

Rev. Daniel Ulrich
Grace, Clarksville, Tenn.



*Well done,
good and
faithful
servants!*

CAMP TRINITY

Time to register for summer!

Registration is now open for summer camp 2020 at Camp Trinity, the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain.

The camp is adding two new sessions for the season: A second session of Family Camp and a brand new session, Pioneers, for youth entering grades 5-8. The second Family Camp was added because the 2019 Family Camp session was filled to capacity.

Pioneers Camp is similar to the high school Adventure Camp. During the session, campers will stay in teepee tents near the waterfront and cook many of their meals over an open fire. They will canoe, fish, ride horses and learn some basic survival skills. Staff of Petit Jean State Park will lead several sessions on wild-life and outdoor lore. Pioneers campers will also get to try their hand at throwing tomahawks at wooden targets.

Pioneers Camp — which will be limited to 10 male and 10 female campers — runs concurrently with Overcomers Camp, the camp for children and youth with disabilities. The two groups will join together for some campfires and a few meals in the dining hall.

The camp season also features the fourth year of Arts Camp, a joint project of Camp Trinity and the Little Rock School of the Arts for campers entering grades 5 and above. Campers will explore literary, performing and visual arts.

In addition to Pioneers, Family, Adventure, Overcomers and Arts Camp, the summer will include four traditional camp sessions for students entering grades 2-12, with activities like hiking, swimming, horseback riding, canoeing, archery and games.

Every day of every session begins with First Word, a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. Bible study is every morning after breakfast. And every day of camp ends with a campfire or church service with a message about the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Parents can learn more about the sessions — descriptions, dates and prices — at lutherancamp.org.

Thanks to the generosity of the Mid-South District LWML, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Paducah, Ky., the Kathryn Elise Henson Memorial Endowment and other donors, financial aid is available for families who need assistance.



Counselors teach campers archery and other new skills during summer camp at Camp Trinity, the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean.

2020 Summer Camp Schedule

- June 7-12: Trailblazers (entering grades 5-8)
- June 14-19: Adventure (high school)
- June 21-26: Explorers (entering grades 4-6)
- June 28-July 1: Pathfinders (entering grades 2-4)
- July 5-10: Voyagers (entering grades 7 and up)
- July 12-17: Arts (entering grades 5 and up)
- July 19-23: Pioneers (entering grades 5-8)
- July 19-23: Overcomers (entering grades 3 and up)
- July 24-26: Family 1
- July 27-29: Family 2



Register at
lutherancamp.org

Wanted: summer staff

Camp Trinity is searching for mature, college-age leaders who love Jesus and want to serve children and youth.

The hours are long and the work is sometimes strenuous, but the rewards are great — watching youth make new friends and discoveries and grow closer

to Jesus. Staff members draw close to one another during the summer and remain close for years after serving on camp staff.

The ideal candidate for **cabin counselor** is age 19-25, in good health and has some experience serving their church on a mission trip, or as a Sunday school teacher or VBS or youth leader. The camp is seeking three male and three female cabin counselors. Preference is given to candidates who have attended at least

one year of college.

The camp is also looking for **general staff** to help in the kitchen and elsewhere. The ideal candidates have graduated from high school, get along well with others and have a strong work ethic.

Interested candidates can fill out a personal profile at the National Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Association website — nloma.org.

SCRAPBOOKING retreat is Jan. 17-20

Ideal for beginners

Ladies who desire to learn the art of scrapbooking but don't know how to get started are invited to attend the next Crop & Craft weekend at Camp Trinity Jan. 17-20.

Scrapbookers from Mid-South District congregations have been gathering at Camp Trinity up to three times a year for nearly two decades for weekends of fellowship and creative projects — scrapbooks, calendars, greeting cards and even books. And now these experienced crafters are ready to share their knowledge and skill with newcomers, leading how-to sessions on their craft.

The All About Scrapbooking weekend starts on Friday and goes through Monday, although some ladies stay only through Sunday. For women only, the weekend will be a time for creating, relaxing and fellowship with other Christian women.

Newcomers can learn the basics of scrapbooking, including what tools are available (both traditional and high-tech) and how to use them. They will also have their imaginations fired up with all kinds of creative ideas.

Upon request, attendees can also learn how to use Snapfish and Shutterfly to create high-quality books online. And they can pick up tips on design and photo editing.

The camp staff prepares all the meals, but scrapbookers bring snacks and drinks to share.

With a relaxed schedule, ladies can come and go on the mountain as they please, hiking the state park trails or just sitting beside the lake to take in the natural beauty of Petit Jean Mountain. Retreat attendees will gather for a casual worship service Sunday morning.

The cost for the retreat is \$75 for those who stay through Sunday and \$100 for those who stay through Monday. Ladies can register at lutherancamp.org, or by email at director@lutherancamp.org.

New pastor in Horseshoe Bend



Rev. Bradley Heinecke was installed as pastor of **Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, Ark.**, on Nov. 3. Shown are, from left (front row): Revs. Russell Shewmaker, Brian Pummill, David Tews, David Gadbar; (back row) Michael Diener, Bradley Heinecke and Joel Krogen.



Perseverance

By Frances Bacic
Media/Marketing,
LWML Mid-South District

Happy new year! As we look to the new year, we always look to the past year. We spend time reflecting on what has been and move forward to what will be.

We may like what we reflect on or we may not. I pray that we see that we have served the Lord with perseverance, humble service, spiritual growth and motivation.

Perseverance is an active reverence and a singleness of purpose in response to God's grace. Heb. 12:1-3 says:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance



ance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

This goes for whatever our race may be: It could be a health concern for yourself, a loved one or a good friend needing a healing hand. It could be a stressful job situation that needs prayer and reconciliation. It could be a relationship which needs God's loving touch. It could be a troubled youth in your life who needs a guiding hand.

These are all races or paths that God has put us on in our lives to strengthen our faith. God helps us to persevere in our faith. God helps us to run the race He has sent forth for us.

We in the LWML set our goals high. We rely on our sisters in Christ in the good times and bad times of our lives. God leads our way and our path is set forth by him. Trust in Him. Rely on Him and seek His way in all of 2020.

See you in Paragould for the district convention this June!

CELEBRATIONS

BLESSINGS IN AVILLA

Zion dedicates new building

By Rev. Mike Schleider
Senior Pastor, Zion, Avilla

Ministry continues!

Christ has built His Church on the good confession and neither the gates of hell nor the fires of an arsonist shall prevail against it!

Zion Lutheran Church, Avilla, Ark., has dedicated its new building with prayers for God's continued blessings along with prayers of thanksgiving for His gracious care throughout this challenging time that the congregation experienced.

In May 2017, Zion lost her century-old chapel, along with the connected building which housed the church offices and our ministries that serve the poor and homeless in our area — Food Pantry, Clothes Closet and Needful Quilt.

In spite of the fire, the congregation has continued to serve its community and reach out to its neighbors with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since the fire, God has enabled Zion to actually step up its outreach efforts. In 2018, Zion added a Bible study, in which the



Top, Zion, Avilla, members volunteer their time at the Clothes Closet, a ministry to help the poor and homeless. Below, Zion's new building.

volunteers and food-pantry recipients study God's Word side-by-side. In 2019, Zion added a substance abuse class in connection with the food pantry ministry. I lead a 12-step program in which I teach a Lutheran view of sanctification — of how God cleanses us from sins of addiction.

Now that we are moved into our new facilities, we are making plans to serve our community by starting GED classes at the church.

As we serve our neighbors and build their trust, we have more opportunities to speak the Gospel to them — and invite them to church.



March issue deadline is Jan. 15

Digital files, sent via e-mail, are preferred. Our submission deadline is the 15th of each month, two months before publication.

Send email submissions to:
LW@mid-southlcms.com

or send by postal mail to:
Judy Otto
150 N. Maury St.
Holly Springs, MS 38635



SHOW UP. CONFESS CHRIST.
BE LUTHERAN.
JOIN US IN D.C. TO MARCH FOR LIFE
lcms.org/march-for-life