

Time Flies

It is the nearing the end of January, and we are just getting the newsletter out. It seems like it was just a couple of weeks ago that we celebrated Christmas and sent Evelyn to the hospital and Carl too. We are thankful for the Savior coming to earth and thankful that Carl and Evelyn came home fairly quickly. However, with distractions such as that the newsletter was rather out of mind, and so as a result this newsletter will be for January and February.

The events of this season of the church year are also flying by in this condensed Epiphany season. With Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent on February 18, some stories didn't get told this year. We passed over the presentation of Jesus at the Temple as an infant and Jesus going to the Temple when he was twelve and getting left behind. Perhaps that latter story deserves a look.



When Jesus was twelve, he went with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem for Passover as they did every year. They traveled in a group with extended family and friends. They stayed for the days required to observe Passover and then headed home. Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was somewhere in the traveling party and didn't worry until night came. When he wasn't there they headed back to Jerusalem to look for him. It wasn't until the third day that they found him in the Temple. Mary expresses her anxiety by saying they have searched all over for him to which Jesus asked why they were searching.



"Didn't you know I must be in my Father's house?"

Jesus was saying that it should have been the obvious and only place to find him for there was no other place he wanted to be.

What a great, perfect even, attitude towards church and being in the presence of God and His word. Jesus wanted to be there which raises the question about the attitude we bring to church. Do we come because we want to come or because we better come? Do we still look forward to hearing the word spoken to us and desire to learn more in order to be drawn even closer to our Lord and Savior?

For those who haven't been coming have you realized how much time has flown by and not given much thought to what you have been missing. Absolution for your sins doesn't get spoken to you when you are away and the sacrament of Holy Communion is not partaken for the forgiveness of your sins and the strengthening of your faith. Perhaps it is time to step off the express train of life and remember the Sabbath Day.

It is easy to lose the exuberance that Jesus had for God's house, and we shouldn't use the excuse that we are not Jesus. King David said that he rejoiced when people said, "Let us go unto the house of the Lord." David's statement reflects the heart of the faithful, or it should. Time may seem to be flying by, but this is the time to refill on the joy that only Christ can give. Earthly pleasures are only for a moment, **but the joy of heaven is forever.**

Holy Spirit, fill us with the joy of our salvation. May we dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Pastor Latzke

LCMS Convention Nominations


Nominations for Synodical President, the First Vice-President, and the Regional Presidents are to be made by the congregations by February 18th.

Living Christ Voters will be held on Sunday, February 1st to complete nominations as well as to hear the 2025 Financial Reports for LCLC and LCK. Plan to attend this quick and informative meeting after worship on the 1st.

Upcoming Lenten Schedule & Events

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 18 :5:00 **Worship** – Holy Communion
 Sundays, February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 10:30 **Worship**
 Midweek Wednesday, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 5:00 pm
 Holy Week: Palm Sunday,, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday,,
 Easter SonRise 8:00 a.m



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Bible Class 9 AM "Job" Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion VOTERS BD – Loretta Ferree	2 Elders Mtg	3	4 Adult Study 5:00 Lutheranism 101	5	6	7
8 Bible Class 9 AM "Job" Worship 10:30 AM	9	10 Pastors Winkel- Matins 9:00 am	11	12	13	14
15 Bible Class 9 AM "Job" Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion	16	17 Outreach Planning 10:00 AM	18 No Adult Study Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion 5 PM	19	20 Annv-Bob & Loretta Ferree (1957)	21 LIFT –10:00 AM 
21 Bible Class 9 AM "Job" Worship 10:30 AM Outreach Fellowship Pitchin & Games	22	23	24 No Adult Study Midweek Lent Worship I – 5PM	25	26	27
28 Bible Class 9 AM "Job" Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion						



- Birthdays**
- 1-1 Carl Benning
 - 1-8 Kathie Latzke
 - 1-11 Bob Ferree
 - 1-15 Alice Stanifer
 - 1--20 Doris Jewell
 - 1 26 Richard Veirs
 - 1-27 Nancy Saltsgiver



Chronological Reading Plan for Scriptures for the February 2026. Be in the Word

2/1	Matthew 13, Luke 8	2/8	Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9: 28-62	2/15	Luke 16: -17:10
2/2	Matthew 8: 14-34, Mark 4-5	2/9	Matthew 18	2/16	John 11
2/3	Matthew 9-10	2/10	John 7-8	2/17	Luke 17:11-18 14
2/4	Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9: 1-17	2/11	John 9: 1-10:21	2/18	Luke 18: 15- 19:48
2/5	John 6	2/12	Luke 10-11, Luke 2 10: 22-42	2/19	Mark 11, John 12
2/6	Matthew 15, Mark 7	2/13	Luke 12-13	2/20	Matthew 22, Mark 12
2/7	Matthew 16, Mark 8, Luke 9:18-27	2/14	Luke 14-15	2/21	Mark 13

2/22	Matthew 24
2/23	Matthew 25
2/24	Matthew 26, Mark 14
2/25	Luke 22, John 13
2/26	John 14-17
2/27 2/28	Matthew 27, Mark 15 Luke 23, John 18-19

Chronological Reading Plan for Scriptures for the January 2026. Be in the Word

		1/4	Daniel 4-6	1/11	Zechariah 8-14
		1/5	Daniel 7-9	1/12	Esther 1-5
		1/6	Daniel 10-12	1/13	Esther 6-10
		1/7	Ezra 1-3	1/14	Ezra 7-10
1/1	Ezekiel 46-48	1/8	Ezra 4-6, Psalm 137	1/15	Nehemiah 1-5
1/2	Joel 1-3	1/9	Haggai 1-2	1/16	Nehemiah 6-7
1/3	Daniel 1-3	1/10	Zechariah 1-7	1/17	Nehemiah 8-10

1/18	Nehemiah 11-13, Psalm 126	1/25	Mark 2
1/19	Malachi 1-4	1/26	John 5
1/20	Matthew 1, Luke 2: 1-38	1/27	Matthew 12: 1-21, Mark 3, Luke 6
1/21	Matthew 2, Luke 2: 39-52	1/28	Matthew 5-7
1/22	Matthew 3: Mark 1, Luke 3,	1/29	Matthew 8: 1-13, Luke 7
1/23 1/24	Matthew 4, Luke 4-5, John 1: 15-51 John 2-4	1/30 1/31	Matthew 11 Matthew 12: 22-50, Luke 11

LCMS Health Ministry

January is usually the month when people devote themselves to forming new habits or revisiting old ones that have gone by the wayside during the busyness of the holiday season. But New Year's resolutions, if we're being honest with ourselves, rarely get "resolved" with the start of a new year.

By February, it's easy to lose our zeal. That's because we are prone to have a "sprint" mentality when the reality is that the Christian life is more akin to a long-distance race. Paul says this in Philippians 3:14: "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

- Godliness is waking up every day remembering your baptism and walking throughout the day in baptismal grace.
- Godliness is self-control of body and discipline of spirit for the sake of God's name and for the good of neighbor.
- Godliness is having hope in the life to come while living faithfully and joyfully in the life we live now.

Follow the ways and rhythms that Christ has set for His people in worship, in prayer, in community, in feasting and celebrating, and your year will be filled with the richness of Christ's good gifts. *Visit lcms.org/health.*

LCMS Stewardship Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ.

The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for “various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities.” Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a “how-to” tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. **1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor.** Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. **Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!**

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These **steward duties are in the home too!** 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a “me and Jesus thing!” In fact, it ends with these words: “Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare.” This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

