



"Sharing the Bread of Life"

Table Talk

January 2020

Something to Chew On:

New Year, New Start

"Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." – Luke 2:10-11

The start of a new year affects everyone differently. Some welcome it as a new beginning full of new opportunities. Some dread it as a reminder that time marches relentlessly forward into the unknown. Some receive it pensively grieving for that which now belongs to times past. The start of a new year has affected me in all these ways before, and I wonder what last year's Christmas climax might mean for us in the coming year.

TV ads, radio stations, and department stores treat Christmas as if it's one day a year, but it's actually a twelve-day season (with a partridge in a pear tree?). New Year's Day always falls on the eighth day of Christmas. Eight is a significant number for Christians. The eighth day is the day of resurrection. It's the day of new creation. It's the day which points to the fulfillment of God's kingdom. In other words, it's a day that symbolizes the realization of salvation in its fullness.

This might sound crazy, especially when our experience of reality crushes us underfoot. However, the good news proclaimed by the Christmas angels assures us that the day of salvation does not just belong to the future. The day of salvation is today. In Greek the angels' message reads like this: "Born to you (all) today is a savior who is Christ the Lord in the city of David." This birth is for you. It is happening today. Salvation is now.

According to Luke, Jesus does not need to become the Savior. He already is the Savior. Salvation does not begin on the cross. It begins in the manger. The birth of the Savior in our midst means something here and now. Salvation is born among us this day, and we find the new year with the Christ child in his cradle. Do not be afraid whoever you are, whatever you suffered in 2019, and however you feel about 2020. Born to you today is a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Works Cited: Powell, Mark Allan. 2009. "Luke." In *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*, 147-167. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 01/01

News Year's Day

Sunday 01/05

10:30 AM Brunch with Jesus

Tuesday 01/14

4:30 PM Confirmation/ Annual Reports are Due

Sunday 01/19

10:30 AM Birthday Sunday

Tuesday 01/21

6:30 PM Church Council Meeting

Friday 01/24

9:45 AM Sack Lunch Ministry

Sunday 01/26

10:30 AM Annual Report ready to pick-up and review

Tuesday 01/28

4:30 PM Confirmation

Brunch with Jesus

Sanctuary

Sunday, January 5, 10:30am

Come satisfy your hunger at Jesus' invitation in this informal worship gathering. Jesus will meet us in our neighbor gathered around food and drink. He will meet us in the meal he gifted to his disciples. He will meet us in conversation around the ancient stories of our faith. Jesus is not dead but alive! So come, you who are hungry, and receive the bread of life.



Sack Lunch Friday

Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 24th, 9:45am

Join us as we serve our North Shore Community. Lunch packing begins at 9:45am and we go to the community house at First Congregational Church in Evanston at 11:00am. Come out and see the work God is doing in our own community.



IMPORTANT Dates To remember
involving the

Annual Report

01/14/2020- Individual reports are Due

01/26/2020- Annual report will be ready to be picked-up for review

02/09/2020- Annual Meeting

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever - the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

From sundavsandseasons.com.



Ordination

Of

Elise Anderson

In SC

Elise is a 2019 graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and has been called to serve as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hixson (Chattanooga), TN. She is a member of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta, was baptized at Saint Mark, Prosperity, SC and confirmed at Saint Paul, Evanston, IL. Elise also served on Senior Staff at Lutherock Camp and spent a year in South Africa with Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM).

