

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

It is the time of year that people consider how to make improvements in their life and that typically involves a New Year Resolution. I wouldn't want to discourage you from making one, but how well do they usually work out? Normally people do pretty well for a week or maybe even a couple months. Staying on the diet works for a little bit and then seeing some pounds drop off is some extra incentive. Exercising is good but you miss a couple sessions and it's hard to get back into it.

The normal New Year resolutions are practically doomed to fail because our goals are too big and we aren't realistic about what we plan to do.

I would offer you a challenge this coming year. Instead of making a resolution that has to do about your physical health or your mental health, make one that has to do with your spiritual health. But don't make it so big that it will be unrealistic.

Here are some things you might consider for resolutions that will help your spiritual health. If you don't currently read the bible daily, then take just 5 minutes a day and begin reading the Gospel of Matthew and continue on with the rest



of the New Testament. If you already read Scripture often, perhaps try to read the entire Bible in a year or maybe two years. If you miss a day, don't worry. Just pick up where you left off and then take a bit longer to finish.

If you are regular in your devotion reading with Portals of Prayer, consider using a book with a little bit more depth to it. There are lots of options; go ahead and ask me and I can point you in a helpful direction.

If you attend church only a couple times month or maybe just once a month, consider trying to attend more often to hear God's Word and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. You could also make a concerted effort to attend a Bible class or make more of an effort to attend Mid-week services when they are offered.

As with any resolution you have to consider why you want to make this change. For these spiritual resolutions it is important to recognize their eternal benefit. Soaking in more and



more of God's Word will strengthen your faith and give you comfort and hope in times of trouble. In addition, reading more of God's Word will give you insight into how you are to interact with people around you and how to live a holy and Christ-filled life. Your God knows you need this so he tells us to pray and he tells us to hear his Word.

In that same vein, it is also good to recognize obstacles. Satan will try hard to pull you away from Christ and keep you from Scripture and a deepening prayer life. He will work on you and tell you that you don't have the time, that you are just fine without it, that you can make it through this life on your own. The answer to Satan's temptations is always Jesus Christ. Christ has bought and paid for you with His very own blood. You have nothing to fear. Jesus and his Holy Spirit will strengthen you. If you do fail, you have a forgiving God who will pick you up and set you right back down onto the path of holiness.

Remember, don't bite off more than you can chew and the most effective spiritual resolutions will start off small so that you can achieve them and then set new goals. Don't try to do everything at once but just trust that God will continue to strengthen your faith each and every time you hear his Word.



If you want more suggestions or have questions about what might be a good spiritual resolution, don't hesitate to talk to me.

In Christ's love,

-Pastor Kleinschmidt

ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2016

President: *Steve Gueths*

Vice President: Tom Anderson

Financial Secretary: *Joan Stoehr*

Treasurer: Donna Ward

Secretary: Joanne Bublitz

Board of Elders: Brian Sperberg, Don Bublitz, Tom Tuma, *Jon Wesenberg*

Board of Trustees: Greg Samson, Darwin Drake, *Rob McDowell*

Board of Christian Ed: Mark Buettner, Jenny Murdock, *Lori Wendorff*

Board of Stewardship: Vicki Waldvogel, Nancy Marcell, *Dennis Fonger*

**Italicized names are newly elected*

The installation for the new church officers will take place on January 10th during church.

NEW YEAR EVE SERVICE

There will be a worship Service on New Year Eve at 6:30pm. Ring in the New Year by worshipping your Savior here at church.

VOTER MEETING

The regular January Voter Meeting will be held on January 31st after Church. Watch the bulletin for an announcement of the agenda.

THANK YOU

There are numerous Thank You cards on the bulletin board from schools that received donations of hats and mittens. Take a minute to read them.

THANK YOU

We received many gifts, cards, and trays of Christmas cookies and we would like to thank everyone for your kindness to us this Christmas season. -Pastor, Noël, Joseph, Nolan, & Adam

ALTAR FLOWERS

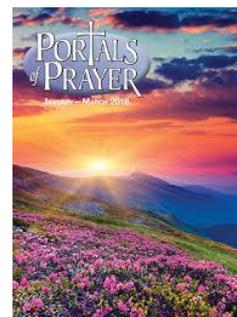
If you would like to sign up to provide flowers for the Altar, you can do so on the bulletin board in the hallway at church. The flowers should be here before church on Saturday evening. You can provide them in memory of someone, in honor of someone or some event, or just because. Thanks for beautifying church in this way!

COMMUNION FREQUENCY

The Board of Elders has been considering how often we offer Holy Communion. After several newsletter articles, Bible Studies on the topic and seeking input at the Voter Meetings, the Elders have decided to begin offering Communion at each Saturday and Sunday service beginning November 1st. This means you can receive Communion each weekend you come to church and if you desire not to receive Communion you may continue to sing the hymns and pray during the distribution.

PORTALS OF PRAYER

The Church purchases 100 Portals of Prayer and 5 copies that are in Large Print. They are free for you to take. This little daily devotional book has a Bible reading and Psalm with a devotion that ties to the reading. There are also prayers in the back that are tied to the Church Year and for each day of the week. You can pick up your copy by the Guest Book or on the Bulletin table. Your old Portals of Prayer can be placed in the basket and they will be donated to Christians who need devotional material.



FELLOWSHIP

On January 8th Fellowship will be held at Studio Lounge. We will meet at 6:00 for drinks and will eat at 6:30. We'd love to have you join us!

VOICES OF PRAISE - CHOIR

Many thanks to the members of the Voices of Praise for all of the beautiful music they provided over the Christmas Season. We thank you for the time you spend in practice and all of the beautiful sounds and words which lead us to the wonderful celebration of our Savior's birth. We appreciate and thank all of you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming lessons at Sunday School:

- 1/3 The Ten Commandments
- 1/10 Worship in the Tabernacle
- 1/17 The Bronze Serpent
- 1/24 Jesus Preaches on the Mount
- 1/31 Jesus teaches us to Trust



BAPTISMS

Jonathan Donald Riesenbergr will be baptized on December 27th. He is the son of Grant and Amy Riesenbergr. He was born November 19, 2015 and his baptismal sponsors are Amanda Riesenbergr and Christopher Christianson.

Morgan Elena Riesenbergr will be baptized on December 27th. She is the daughter of Grant and Amy Riesenbergr. She was born November 19, 2015 and her baptismal sponsors are Kami Christianson and Sean Riesenbergr.

UPCOMING READINGS AT CHURCH

- January 3rd:** 1 Kings 3:4-15
Philippians 1:3-14
Luke 2:40-52
- January 10th:** Isaiah 43:1-7
Romans 6:1-11
Luke 3:15-22
- January 17th:** Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:11-11
John 2:1-11
- January 24th:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:16-30
- January 31st:** Jeremiah 1:4-10
1 Corinthians 12-31b-13
Luke 4:31-44

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild Looking for New Members: If you would like to get more involved in the church, think about joining the Altar Guild. What does the Altar Guild do? We prepare the Altar for every church service...changing paraments when needed, set up communion, display flowers and plants. We also set up and serve the Easter Breakfast and set up the Harvest Display for Thanksgiving Day and the Mitten tree before Christmas. Join us on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for our monthly meetings and join in on all the fun! "Serve the Lord with Gladness!" Psalm 100:2



CONSIDERING A LUTHERAN SCHOOL?

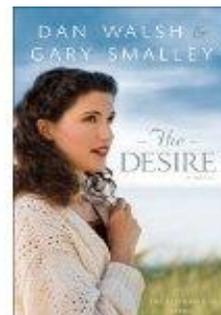
St. Jakobi has funds available to help pay or tuition at [St. James Elementary School](#), [Wolf River Lutheran High School](#), or at Concordia University if your student is majoring in a church-work field. Don't let tuition be a stumbling block to a Lutheran school education. Talk to Pastor if you need assistance or have questions.



LIBRARY NEWS

PLANTING SEEDS

For two years, Allan and Michele have been trying to have a baby. The emotional ride has been taking a toll on their hearts--and their relationship. Michele is obsessed with researching fertility treatments while Allan seems content to spend his time--and their money--on supporting displaced children in Africa. Something's got to give. But they both hope it's not their marriage. Still, God has a plan for Allan and Michele that they could never have imagined. And all it takes to set it in motion is a change of heart ... (Book 3 of the Restoration Series)



CHRISTMAS SCRAMBLE

Note: There were two mistakes in the clues. The missing letters are bolded in the answers.

1. mamonet - ornament
2. rete - tree
3. trsa - star
4. slinet - tinsel
5. dralgan - garland
6. keioseo - cookies
7. gogeng - eggnog
8. artwhe - wreath
9. lacndse - candles
10. megran - manger
11. eblast - stable
12. glane - angel
13. dreseshph - shepherd
14. scarlo - carols
15. samhise - messiah
16. gleihs - sleigh
17. tofrys - frosty
18. elthemehb - bethlehem
19. usblb - bulbs

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1 - Jordan Opperman
4 - Tony Szucs
4 - Marjorie McGahan
4 - Arvin Bahr
5 - Riley Tuma
5 - Elmer Ackermann
5 - Samantha Tonn
6 - Colton Peters
6 - Tony Bisterfeldt
6 - Khloe Giese
7 - Stephanie Hoffman
8 - Lori (Steve) Buettner
8 - Doug Gast
9 - William Grab
9 - Kaci Wendorff
11 - Heidi Teetzen
11 - Geraldine Gueths
13 - Randy Opperman
15 - Adam Kleinschmidt
16 - Jayden West
16 - Phyllis Habaeck
17 - Isaiah McDowell
17 - Emma Ladwig
18 - Layla Sperberg
18 - Joyce Hogan
21 - Gage Skalitzky
22 - Shawn Stueck
22 - Debbie Schroeder
24 - Kelsie Buettner
24 - Jamie Popp
26 - Bill Teetzen
26 - Khloe Wendorff
27 - Marsha Opperman
27 - Benjamin Sperberg
30 - Donna Ward
31 - Miranda Montoure
31 - Kaitlin Phillips-Grassl

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

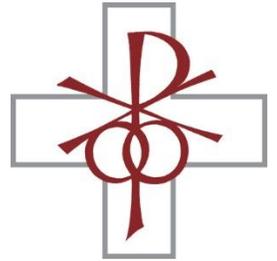
JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

10, 1954 - Charles & Shirley Glock
24, 2004 - Jeremy & Melanie Buenning
28, 2006 - Chad & Lori Wendorff
29, 1984 - Carl & Martha Gebert

AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.



January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elders: Sat: Don Bublitz Sun: Brian Sperberg Special: Tom Tuma	Altar Guild: Laura Prodell Roxy Martzke Betty Szucs Mary Theis				1	2 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Hunter Hawkinson
3 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Taylor Johnson	4 6:15 Choir Practice 7:00 Altar Guild	5 6:30 Constitution Meeting	6 Epiphany 1:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Bible Study	7 1:00 Bible Study	8 6:30 Fellowship @ Studio Lounge	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Alex Owen
10 Installation of Church Officers 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Alec Raddant	11 6:15 Choir Practice	12 6:30 Elders	13 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	14 1:00 Bible Study	15	16 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Tristan Szucs
17 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Payten Thompson	18 6:15 Choir Practice	19 7:00 Council	20 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	21 1:00 Bible Study	22	23 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Gabriella Wendorff
24 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Kloie Boyles	25 6:15 Choir Practice	26	27 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	28 1:00 Bible Study 7:00 District Leadership	29	30 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Isaiah Gueths
31 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Voter Mtg after service Acolyte: Kaden Marcell						

Listen to WTCH 960AM or check www.stjakobi.org or www.facebook.com/lcmsjakobi for weather cancellations

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

W 8089 County Rd. A
Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-4347
www.stjakobi.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:

Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30am

