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 Stephen A. Eckert, Pastor

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Volume 61 – Number 1

January 2023

ELDER'S CORNER

Following the Star

This Christmas season you probably saw a nativity scene on a Christmas card, in a neighbor's yard, on a church lawn, or around a church altar. You saw a bunch of animals around a beat-up old stable with Mary and Joseph looking at a baby in a feed trough for cattle. And you saw a star.

What's with that star? We are all familiar with the story of the Magi. Men from the east who were looking for the Christmas child and how God used a particular star to be their travel guide. That star led them to the exact location of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus where they fell on their knees and worshipped Him. Without that star they would never have found the Christ child.



What stars have you had in your life that have led you to Christ? Who was the travel guide that God provided just for you? Was it your Mom or Dad, a neighbor, a friend, a teacher, a pastor, your spouse, a complete stranger? Maybe God sent more than one star.

Have you ever wondered what your life would be like if it had not been for God blessing you with travel guides leading you in the right direction? What would life be like without Christ, no peace, no love, no joy, no hope?

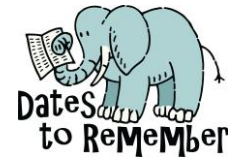
So, look at that nativity star in a different way now. Take the time to thank God for all the people He has put in your life that have led you to the baby in the manger. ✨

...Mark Hathaway

MOWING IN JANUARY

Jan 14 – Mark Hathaway, Lucas Mayes, Richard Scholar

Jan 28 - Corey Maddison & Harold Oliver



Jan 01	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 01	10:00 am	Comm. Svc.
Jan 05	7:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Jan 08	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 08	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Jan 09	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Men's Group
Jan 11	10:00 – 11:30 am	Small-Group Bible Study
Jan 15	9:00 am	Feb. Ministry Schedule Due
Jan 15	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 15	10:00 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Jan 15	2:00 pm	Fun & Fellowship
Jan 18	10:00 – 11:30 am	Small-Group Bible Study
Jan 20	9:00 am	Feb. Newsletter Deadline
Jan 22	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 22	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Jan 25	10:00 – 11:30 am	Small-Group Bible Study
Jan 29	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 29	10:00 am	Worship Svc.

JANUARY Birthdays

Jan 01	Greg Amaral
Jan 02	Jordan Hahn
Jan 09	Jay Hahn
Jan 11	Thomas Heuchert
Jan 14	Georgiann Willie
Jan 16	Donna Finlay
Jan 18	Arlin Weiting
Jan 21	Jocelyn Graham, Crystal Shaffer
Jan 22	Terry Murdock
Jan 24	Inez Bauman
Jan 25	Joretta Borchert
Jan 26	Kathy Lee, Sharon Weiting
Jan 30	Ernest Heuchert, Jr.

JANUARY Anniversaries

Jan 03	Terry & Jill Murdock
Jan 26	Richard & Debra Scholar

ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



January

Jan 01 – Communion Svc.

10:00 AM – Susan Wilcox - Set-Up
– Kelly Olney - Take-Down

Flowers:

Jan 08 – Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Connie Hathaway

Flowers:

Jan 15 – Praise/Communion Svc.

10:00 AM – Marjorie Hord – Set-Up
– Caydee Eckert - Take-Down

Flowers:

Jan 22 – Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Marianne Heuchert

Flowers:

Jan 29- Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Stephanie Clavin

Flowers:



Hey, we are back! If you thought the peanut butter Minute-To-Win-It challenge was fun, wait until you see what is in store for you this month! Come on out on **Sunday, January 15**, and bring some friends (if you have any! Ha!). Remember, we will meet early in the winter months at **2:00 PM**. So come out for great food, prizes, and awesome fellowship! ❄️

SMALL-GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Small-Group Bible Study begins on **Wednesday, January 11, 2023, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM and ends on March 8**. This nine-week study will cover the prophets Hosea, Joel, and Amos. For more information, please contact Rudy or Cheryl Stowell at (805) 937-3654. ❄️



Planning to visit Fikisha in Kenya in April 2023! Approximate dates are **April 8-22**. The trip will include flight, food, donation to Fikisha, time with Fikisha scholars and street boys, staying at the Shalom House, 3-day safari in Masai Mara, and other variables. Total trip costs would be around \$4-5000. All who are interested, please call, text, or talk with Paul and Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443. ❄️



Saturday – January 28
10 AM to 1 PM

We have offered a "FREE" SNOW DAY event for more than ten years. It's surprising how many children come to play. For many, it is their first time seeing snow. The families of our community look forward to this event. However, the snow / ice that we purchase has gotten increasingly expensive.

Would you be willing to make a (tax-deductible) donation of \$375.00 to buy a TON of snow? Two families can go together to make a ton @ \$188 each. **AN ANONYMOUS DONOR HAS OFFERED TO MATCH ANYTHING WE RAISE UP TO \$3,000. That means your donation will be doubled!!** Any donation is helpful in defraying costs. We hope for at least twelve tons this year. In exchange for the donation of a TON of snow, companies are welcome to hang a banner (10' maximum) at the Snow Day event. The banners will be displayed directly behind the sledding hills, making them highly visible to those attending. You can donate online at:

www.lcos.net/donate-now/

and select the "Snow Day Fundraiser" on the "Select Fund*" dropdown menu. Or pay by check to: **LCOS** and write "Snow Day" on the memo line.

Thank you for your support. If you can or know of someone who would like to donate, please have them get in touch with Deborah Maddison at upwardbound.lcos@gmail.com or (805) 938-5121. **DEADLINE: 1/25/23** ❄️

MEN'S GROUP IN JANUARY

The **LCOS Men's Group** will gather on **Monday, January 9, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM** in Stahnke Hall. Bill Williamson has offered to serve as chef extraordinaire and Michael Southern will lead the devotion. Come and enjoy Christian camaraderie with your church family! ✨

UPDATE from the CALL COMMITTEE

We are continuing to follow the steps laid out by the LCMS to find our new Pastor that the Holy Spirit has already chosen for us.

The process started back in September 2022 with the Elders informing the District of our need, the Call Committee being formed, the reading of the bylaws and constitution of our church, the congregation completing surveys, and the Self-Study being compiled.

Most recently, nominations for the new Pastor were collected from the congregation and submitted to our District. Seven nominations were sent. These nominations will be evaluated by the District and the District will add candidates.

Currently, the Call Committee has spoken with the Church Council to discuss a moving allowance and cost for interviews. While we as the congregation are waiting to receive a list of candidates from the District (which could take on average 6 weeks), we continue to pray the 31-Day Devotion and listen to the Holy Spirit. Thank you for opening your hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit's work. ✨



Flower Chart

Honor our Lord with Altar Flowers! There are many openings for sign-ups on the **2023 Altar Guild Flower Chart** located in the narthex on the bulletin board adjacent to the women's restroom. This is an ideal way to remember birthdays, anniversaries, births, departed loved ones, etc. **Cost: \$35.00 (Thanksgiving/Christmas - \$45.00)** Checks are payable to: **LCOS Altar Guild.**

BAPTISM IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!

Baptizing people into God's family has always been a ministry highlight for Pastor Stan Purdum. One Sunday, he had the privilege of welcoming three infants and two young boys to the baptismal font, along with all their parents. After baptizing the babies, Purdum turned toward the families with older children, who'd been instructed to have their boys step forward one at a time.

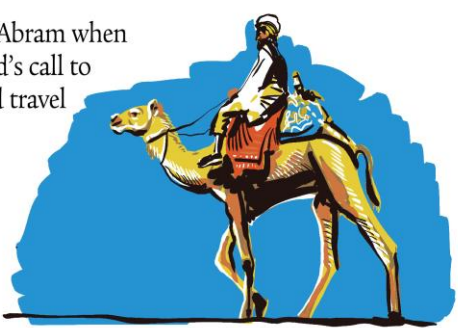
Immediately, the 3-year-old shouted, "Not me!" and bolted for the exit. His father caught the youngster and carried him back as the congregation chuckled. This time, Purdum wasted no time completing the sacrament.

"Maybe this young boy was not greatly wrong to try to duck baptism," he later pondered. "Far from being a harmless little ceremony, baptism begins a lifetime commitment to God, which over the long haul is no easy thing. It lays upon us the responsibility to live up to the vows we have made." How seriously do you take your baptismal vows? ✨

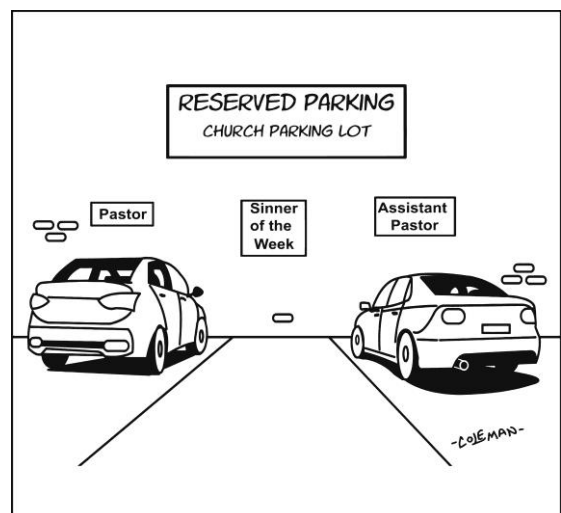
Bible Quiz

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100



Answer: C (See Genesis 12:4.)



January 2023

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																				
1 10:00 AM Comm Svc.	2	3 7:00 PM CC Chordmen-SH	4	5 7:00 PM Elders' Mtg.	6	7																																																																																																				
8 9:00AM SS/Bble Study 10:00 AM Worship Svc.	9 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Men's Group	10 7:00 PM CC Chordmen-SH	11 10:00 AM -11:30AM Bible Study - Fireside	12	13	14																																																																																																				
15 9:00AMSS/Bible Study 10:00AM Praise/Comm Svc. 2:00 PM Singles' Event Ministry Schedule Deadline	16	17 4:00 PM P/S Board Mtg. 7:00 PM CC Chordmen-SH	18 10:00 AM -11:30AM Bible Study - Fireside	19 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	20 9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline	21																																																																																																				
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JANUARY 2023
CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	LESSON READER	MUSIC... CHOIRS	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
1 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Emma Olney	Tom Heuchert Mark Hathaway	Jill Murdock		Terry Murdock	Altar: Set-Up – Susan Wilcox Take-Down – Kelly Olney Flowers:
8 Sunday	10:00 am		Todd Martin	Brent Clavin		Diana Brown	Altar: Connie Hathaway Flowers: Terry & Jill Murdock's 53 rd wedding anniversary on January 3
15 Praise Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Riley Olney	Dennis Payne Rudy Stowell	Floyd Olson	Praise Team	Ed Buchholz	Altar: Set-Up – Marjorie Hord Take-Down – Caydee Eckert Flowers:
22 Sunday	10:00 am		Art Atrops	Diana Brown		Chad Thorstenson	Altar: Marianne Heuchert Flowers:
29 Sunday	10:00 am	Ali Mayes	Tom Heuchert	Lisa DiModica		Karl DiModica	Altar: Stephanie Clavin Flowers: Sarah Ganschow
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	ELDERS *Dennis Payne 934-1101	CHOIRS <u>Sanctuary Choir</u> *Diana Brown 448-1990 <u>Praise Team</u> Jane Riddiough 937-5241	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Randy & Crystal Shaffer 808-772-3170

**PLEASE ARRANGE FOR NECESSARY CHANGES WITH PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT;
INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116**