**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**January 2019**

**“The Old Year Has Now Passed Away”**

With those words begins a hymn by a German Lutheran named Johann Steurlein, who lived from 1546 to 1613. The year of his birth coincided with the death of Martin Luther himself. Hence, he represents what could be called the “second generation” of Lutherans in Germany. Steurlein was himself the son of a Lutheran pastor and also the mayor of the city of Meiningen. He is best known for his hymn for the occasion of the New Year, which unfortunately wasn’t included in the hymnal currently in our pews:

The old year now has passed away;

We thank you, O our God, today

That you have kept us through the year

When danger and distress were near.

In our wider society, most people think of the New Year holiday as a time to celebrate and party. There is certainly nothing wrong with good-natured fun and laughter. But we observe from Steurlein’s hymn that the turn of the year contained spiritual significance for Lutherans like him, and at a time when many non-Christians and even fellow Christians view Lutherans as lacking spiritual seriousness, his words are important for us to hear. The turn of the year provides us with an opportunity to look back on the old year. When we do, we take note of our personal triumphs, but also our sins and failures. We see the many blessings in our lives, but also our struggles. Most importantly, Steurlein’s hymn points us to remember God’s faithfulness to us, which inspires our own faithfulness. Even when “danger and distress were near,” God has continued to speak to us with His Word and promises, which have sustained us in faith. Even when we have experienced struggles of various kinds, we remember that our lives are themselves gracious gifts from God.

We often hear of New Year resolutions. Resolutions for personal betterment are fine, but Steurlein encourages all Christians to have the same resolution: to be renewed in God’s promise given to us when we were baptized, for our faith to be strengthened, and to show forth God’s love more perfectly in our lives:

Oh, help us to forsake all sin,

A new and holier life begin!

Forgive the old year's sins, and bless

The new year with true happiness,

Wherein as Christians we may live

Or die in peace that you can give,

To rise again when you will come

And enter your eternal home.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not pray to special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Eivind_Berggrav.jpg)

This month, we look at the life of **Eivind Josef Berggrav**. He is commemorated on January 14.

Berggrav was born in Stavanger, Norway in 1884. In 1903, he began studying theology at the University of Kristiania in Oslo. He taught school for a time and also served as a journalist during World War I. He was then called to serve as a Lutheran parish pastor and was elected as a regional bishop in 1928. In 1937, he was selected as the bishop of Oslo, which is considered the highest office in the Lutheran Church of Norway, and continued in that role until 1951.

Berggrav’s service as the leader of the Church of Norway coincided with the Nazi German occupation of Norway, and his role in the Norwegian resistance contributed to his fame. When Germany invaded Norway on April 9, 1940, Berggrav initially advised pastors and church members to comply with the new government, assuming that the invaders would not interfere with the life of the church. However, it soon became clear that the Nazis would not respect the independence of the Church of Norway. In a way similar to the German churches, Nazis began ordering the Church of Norway to alter its practices and liturgy to reflect Nazi perspectives. Berggrav refused to comply with these demands, and other bishops and most pastors followed his example, resigning in protest of Nazi policies. Berggrav himself was arrested and imprisoned. Even under his house arrest, he frequently met with members of the Norwegian resistance while wearing disguises. His high profile in Norway combined with his resistance to the Nazis helped embolden the Norwegian population in their continued struggle for freedom. For this, Berggrav was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1944.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Featured Hymn for January 2019**

***There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 186*

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,

Like the wideness of the sea;

There’s a kindness in his justice

Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth’s sorrows

Are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth’s failings

Have such kindly judgment given.

There is welcome for the sinner,

And a promised grace made good;

There is mercy with the Savior;

There is healing in his blood.

There is grace enough for thousands

Of new worlds as great as this;

There is room for fresh creations

In that upper room of bliss.

For the love of God is broader

Than the measures of our mind;

And the heart of the eternal

Is most wonderfully kind.

There is plentiful redemption

In the blood that has been shed.

There is joy for all the members

In the sorrows of the head.

* Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

*Note: Faber, brought up in a strict Calvinist home, went to Oxford where he excelled. Influenced by Cardinal Newman, he joined the Roman Catholic Church in 1849.*

**Monthly Watchword for January 2019**

God speaks: “I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

* Genesis 9:13 ESV

**Ushers for January:**

* Head Ushers:
  + Ed and Tina Sage
* Ushers:
  + Loren and Jane Yule
  + Ralph and Theresa Jessen
  + Jim Sage
  + Mike and Danielle Sage
  + Jerome and Venita Sage
  + Mariah Sage

**For Further Information on LCMC and the NALC:** You can download and read the newsletters of both organizations at the following addresses:

* **http://www.lcmc.net/newsletters**
* **http://thenalc.org/newsletter/**

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Lord’s Prayer: The Third Petition**

*Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*What does this mean?*

*The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it will also be done among us.*

*How is this done?*

*God’s will is done when he hinders and destroys every evil design and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature that would keep us from hallowing his name and prevent the coming of his kingdom. And God’s will is done when he strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his Word in faith to the end of our earthly lives. This is his good and gracious will.*

**Birthdays for January**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* January 2: Pastor Tom Jacobson
* January 5: Jamie Guenther
* January 6: Jerry Ziegler
* January 10: Jeff Hanson
* January 13: Reed Eckmann
* January 19: Michael Beckmann
* January 21: Cassandra Barger
* January 29: Carsten Barger

**Baptismal Anniversaries for January**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* January 4: Margo Poppe
* January 14: Ernest Eckmann
* January 18: Vicky Jensen
* January 23: Jamie Guenther
* January 25: Ed Sage

**Worship Schedule**

January 6: Day of Epiphany with Holy Communion, altar rail (White)

January 13: Baptism of Our Lord (White)

January 20: Second Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion, continuous (Youth assist) (Green)

January 27: Third Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

**Important Announcements**

* The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on January 20 after worship.
* Please get any annual report information to Beth or Lacey Barger by January 6.
* We will continue, once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month, having a time of adult education during the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:30 AM.
* Confirmation class will resume on Wednesday, January 9 at the usual time of 5:15 PM.
* The Church council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 PM.
* The WOW/WNALC women’s meeting will be held on January 16 at 10:00 AM.
* The youth meeting will be held on January 16 at 7:00 PM
* The installation of council members will take place during worship on January 20.
* The Eastern South Dakota Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church (Good Shepherd is a member) will be held in Minneapolis January 14 and 15, a joint event with the Minkota Mission District.

**January 2019**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  | 1 | 2  Pr. Tom in Lindy | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail)  Day of Epiphany  White | 7 | 8 | 9  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45  Church council meeting, 7:00 | 10 | 11 | 12  Nelson and Mueller wedding at church, 6:00 |
| 13  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  Baptism of Our Lord  White | 14 | 15 | 16  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Women’s meeting, 10:00  Confirmation  class, 5:15-6:45  Youth meeting, 7:00 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30; Holy Communion (continuous)  Annual meeting after worship  Green | 21 | 22 | 23  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27  Sunday School, 9:30 ?  Adult education, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  Green | 28 | 29 | 30 31  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation  Class, 5:15-6:45 | | | |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

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