

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. *Galatians 5:25*

CROSSWALK

The official monthly newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church

January / February 2016 Edition



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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know
Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.



Christ Lutheran Church
LCMS Wausau, Wisconsin

From The Pastor's Desk

I've heard it many times. Maybe you've even said it yourself. "I hope this year is going to be better than last year was!"

Living in a world that's rapidly falling apart in terms of morals, security, freedom, sanity (among numerous other things) isn't pleasant. It's easy to become cynical, even bitter, over the way that everything is going in our lives, our nation, and across the planet.

With things seemingly spiraling out of control, we search for a place to put the blame. Faulting politicians for our problems doesn't ease our minds quite the way that it used to. So where should we be putting the blame for all our troubles and misery?

Some put the blame squarely on whites. Others blame blacks. Still others will say that it's the fault of all the "foreigners". Some blame religion. Others blame guns, or "climate change", or fracking, or young people, or old people, or capitalism. But ultimately (whether they come right out and say it or not) the blame always works its way down to one particular point – to God.

Why *shouldn't* God be blamed for our troubles, especially if He is all-powerful? Can't He stop the madness and make everything great? Isn't He supposed to be good?

Even though God lets some not-so-good things happen, (for whatever positive, all-knowing reason He may have – see Romans 8:28), He is not *responsible* for the lousy things that came our way in 2015. Nor is He responsible for the terrible things that will occur in 2016.

So if God isn't to blame, who is? We can point our fingers at the devil – after all, Satan is the one who stands behind all that is bad, and nasty, and painful. But, in all honesty, we can't blame Satan alone for "a bad year". He had some help.

Some of the blame for the lousy things that have happened during the previous year (and every year before that) has to fall on us. We may not be directly at fault, but we can't stand around trying to innocently point the finger in every other direction other than our own.

Did we speak up to correct a wrong? Did we do enough to care for someone in need? Did we live the way that God wants us to live – holy, blameless? Did we submit our will and wants to God's good and perfect will, or did we live like we are the unaccountable masters of our own destiny?

No, there isn't anyone who is righteous in this world – not a single one of us. But God knows that, and that's why He's given us something to make 2016 better.

God has given us a second chance. He has given us forgiveness. He has given us His Son.

2016 not only promises to be a new year, but it also promises to be a time of new creation. The apostle Paul writes: **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.** (2 Corinthians 5:17) God, in Christ has made you new. He's made you His forgiven child.

That's good news for every one of us. That's God's promise that 2016 will be a wonderful year (in spite of everything terrible that's bound to happen.) You are forgiven. You are, by the grace of God, **in Christ**. So I want to wish you, from the bottom of my heart, Happy New Creation! And, Happy New Year!

Pastor Wetmore



Announcements

New Member Celebration

The Evangelism committee is hosting a celebration to welcome the newest members of CLC on January 17th after the Bible Study/Sunday School hour. The event will take place downstairs in the lower level.

A potluck meal is on the menu, and cake will be served. Please use the following chart to aid you in deciding what to bring. Members whose last names begin with...

A – F Pasta Dishes, Salads, Jello Molds

G – L Vegetable Dishes, Relish Trays, Cold Meats, Salsa/Dips, Chips

M – S Hot Dishes, Casseroles, Soup

T – Z Fruit, Muffins, Pastries, Breads

We hope you join us for a morning of worship, Bible study, food and fellowship.

Dear Christ Lutheran members:

All of us associated with the Open Door of Marathon County thank you for your faithful thoughts and giving throughout the year.

The newly re-leased ex-offenders make good use of your donations!

Sincerely,

The Open Door Board



CLC Quilters

I have some questions for you.

- Can you tie a knot?
- Can you cut a straight line?
- Can you sew a straight seam?
- Can you shop?
- But most important can you give?
- Can you give of your time?

If you said YES to any of these questions, then the CLC quilters needs YOU. Our quilts will not win an award at the "Quilt Show", but they do win with the people that we help through LWR. The quilts go to people who are in need as they have very little compared to us. We have warm homes and beds to sleep in, often the people who receive a quilt it is used by them for many needs we can never think of. They become very special to them.

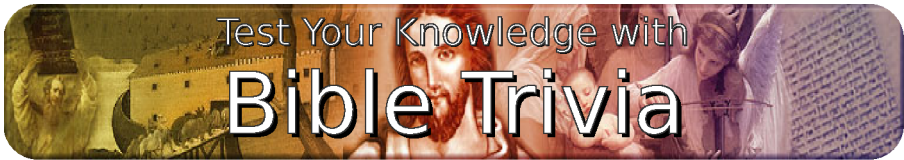
We give of our time and talent to give that special quilt, remember I did not say fancy quilt. It needs to be 60x80 and that may be small to you but a treasure to them.

So how about giving of your time and talent. We will continue to meet on the 3rd Wed of the month from 9:30 to 3:00 or so with lunch break and devotion time to keep us going. An hour will make a difference. We can and will show you what we need to have done. Some of the work is done at home and if that is what works all the better. We always need material large pieces to be made into blocks for tops. We also use sheets often for the backs.

So can we count on you this new year to start a project to help others around the and no passport and travel plans needed.

In Christ for Christ

J. Richards



The answers will be printed in the following Crosswalk Newsletter. There will be references printed on the last page of the newsletter in case you get stuck.

January / February Questions

1. *What is the first purchase of land in the Bible?*
2. *What did God send to destroy the vine that shaded the sulking prophet Jonah?*
3. *What tree's spice was used in making oil for anointing?*
4. *In what city did Paul escape a plot by going through a window in the city wall?*

November / December Answers

1. What did Jesus eat after his resurrection to prove he was not a mere phantom?
Fish (*Luke 24:38-43*)
2. Who is the first individual who is killed by God for being wicked?
Er (*Genesis 38:7*)
3. The only female judge of Israel, she judged the tribes from under a palm tree. Her victory song is famous. Who was she?
Deborah (*Judges 4-5*)
4. In the New Testament, a new covenant is instituted by Jesus. What does he use to symbolize this new covenant?
Wine, which symbolizes the blood of sacrifice (*Mark 14:24*)

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER MYSTERY MEMBER



Carol Gavitt

Carol was told that when she was born, they came home from the hospital in a blizzard and her dad's car was stuck on Grand Avenue (no cell phones in those "olden days"). She was one of the first Sunday School Superintendents at CLC. Carol also rode in a raft on the Pacific Ocean.

If anyone would like to be a mystery member just email us at news@clc-wausau.org with at least 3 facts about yourself.

To avoid scheduling conflicts, please check with the church office when planning any type of gathering or event at Christ Lutheran Church

Bible Trivia References:

- 1. (Genesis 23:3-20) 2. (Jonah 4:7) 3. (Exodus 30:24)
4. (2 Corinthians 11:33)***

Email all Crosswalk articles to news@clc-wausau.org.



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Crosswalk reserves the right to edit information submitted.