

PASTOR'S CORNER -

Happy New Year! I trust that this message finds you well. Thinking about this newsletter I got inspired by the gospel of Luke, chapter 2: 41-52. It is the story of Jesus accompanying his parents to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover according to the custom. Scripture reports that after the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. After three days, they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. They questioned his choice to stay behind in the temple while they searched for him, to which he responded, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

While Jesus' parents search for him, he too is searching; Jesus is on a search for a different thing. He is discovering his mission as the Son of God. He is sitting at the feet of the rabbis asking all the questions that have been lingering in his mind, then going silent and pondering what he heard, and then asking more questions. At 12 years, Jesus is conscious of his divine mission. His place as God's son and his calling to participate in God's work. He wants to know his full purpose on earth. He wants to know why he is here and what the father wants of him, because he is so eager to please his father.

We are headed to a new year. Hopefully, we want to be better I the coming year. We want to make 2019 a successful year, so we have new year resolutions. We want to be better parents, better sons or daughters, be better employees or employers, better at our finances, and just be better human beings. But maybe our new year resolutions need to extend further to our spiritual welfare. Maybe we can resolve to find out the purpose for which we were made, the purpose for which God wants us here in 2019. We could discover the reason why God has given us the privilege to see a new year.

And remember, whatever your resolve for the coming year, put into account the words in Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" Thus we can not trust our own abilities. We need God's strength to succeed. It does not matter whether it is a major resolution or just a simple change. We will not lean on our knowledge, experience, past successes, or social status. We seek to recognize God's sovereignty in our lives.

(Cont'd→)

Do You Know Your Hymns?

- Dentist's Hymn*Crown Him with Many Crowns*
- Weatherman's Hymn.....*There Shall be Showers of Blessings*
- Contractor's Hymn.....*The Church's One Foundation*
- Tailor's Hymn.....*Holy, Holy, Holy*
- Golfer's Hymn.....*There's a Green Hill Far Away*
- Politician's Hymn.....*Standing on the Promises!*
- Optometrist's Hymn.....*Open My Eyes That I Might See*
- IRS Agent's Hymn.....*I Surrender All*
- Gossip's Hymn.....*Pass It On*
- Electrician's Hymn.....*Send The Light*
- Shopper's Hymn.....*Sweet Bye and Bye*
- Realtor's Hymn.....*I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop*
- Massage Therapist's Hymn.....*He Touched Me*

AND for those who speed on the highway, a few hymns:

- 55 mph.....*God Will Take Care of You*
- 75 mph.....*Nearer My God to Thee*
- 85 mph.....*This World is Not My Home*
- 95 mph.....*Lord, I'm Coming Home*
- 100 mph.....*Precious Memories*

Christmas Greetings!

Participants in this year's Christmas Greetings raised over \$400 to help defray medical-related costs for a local boy Joaquin. Truly a Christmas blessing!

MENTOR UMC

INFORMER

Mentor United Methodist Church

616 E. Mentor Rd.

Mentor, KS 67416

785-667-4081

Pastor Susan Murithi

859-553-6718

Our mission: to be faithful disciples
who share Christ's love with their
neighbors and the world.



Mentor United Methodist Church
616 E. Mentor Rd.
Mentor, Kansas 67416

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jan 9 – Louanne Short (B)

Jan 11 – Shirley Wampler (B)

Jan 14 – District Super Dee Williamston (B)

Jan 15 – Kathy Tinkler (B)

Jan 19 – (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Jan 24 – Logan Holtz (B)

Are we neglecting someone? It's time to update our birthday and anniversary list! Let us know.

Puzzle!

The 10 words below are spelled correctly but are missing the letter O. Use them to complete the Bible verse below, where you'll find all the missing O's.

S, NE, JHN, ANTHER, GD,
LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since ___o___ ___o___
___o___ ___o___ us, we ___o___ ___o___
o___ ___o___ ___o___
o___ ___o___ ___o___
1 ___o___ ___o___ 4:11, NIV

Answer: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11, NIV

January 6 = Epiphany = according to tradition, the date the Wise Men arrived to find the Baby Jesus

Lessons in wise faith

"The Magi teach us true faith," said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether! First, the travelers were "off the mark," coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a "royal palace." Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight "so utterly out of keeping with a king" — a poor young woman and child, in a "poor hut" — that one might expect them to head straight home. "But," declares Luther, "with a great, strong and full faith, they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart," bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

—Based on Luther's sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), Luther's Works

December Attendance and Giving

	Attendance Sunday Sch	Attendance worship	Offering Rec'd	Offering Needed
Dec 2	18	53	2460	1346.15
Dec 9	12	62	1403	1346.15
Dec 16	12	68	282	1346.15
Dec-23	12	61	657	1346.15
Dec 30	7	31	1,720	1,346.15
Total for Month			6,522.00	6,730.75
2018 Yr to Date			64,238.81	72,175
2017 Yr to Date			71,757	78,200
2016 Yr to Date			71,565	78,200
2015 Yr to Date			74,092.23	77,000

Mentor Ladies ~

Mentor Ladies met Dec. 18, 2018 at McCall Manor at 1:30 PM. "Twas the Night Before Jesus Came" was brought by Dorothy Delker and read by Susan Mueller. Refreshments were furnished by Rita Tinkler. Pastor Susan told about a Pastor in Kenya who had lost his job and needed help with support. Barbara Hofmeier moved we send a \$100 money order to help with his support. Seconded by Virginia Lilly. Motion carried. Rita Tinkler moved we purchase Christmas tablecloths for the Church. Motion seconded by Susan Mueller. Motion carried. Those present were: Dorothy Delker, Virginia Lilly, Helen Nichols, Susan Mueller, Renae Morrow, Kathy Tinkler, Rita Tinkler, DeEtta Larsen, Diane Russell, Pastor Susan, Barbara Hofmeier, and Barbara Archer. Renae Morrow will furnish refreshments January 15, 2019. Barbara Hofmeier brought "Christmas Pageant", and it was read by DeEtta Larsen. Pastor Susan offered Communion. Pastor Susan closed the meeting with prayer.

Barbara Archer, Secretary

Reminder – No church service at Mentor on January 6 – Instead, we are meeting at Gypsum UM Church at 10:00 for a special Covenant service with a meal to follow.

Another calendar item – Saturday, January 12 We will meet to take down and pack away the Christmas décor and the nativity at the church. Come and help, if you are available!



Pastor's Corner, cont'd ~

Therefore, may the Lord guide all our resolutions and plans in the year 2019. Also, may we find our purpose for next year, let's not go into the new year blindly. Sit down with the Lord's word, sit down with Jesus, seek his counsel, have a time of prayer, quiet, and reflection. Search for your purpose.

Happy 2019! Amen.

–Pastor Susan

Come back to Christmas

When January comes along, we can continue that sense of comfort and warmth that comes at Christmas by returning to the Christmas story, which gives us two great promises: God understands you, and God can redeem you. I encourage people to make it a point to reread the Christmas story every month, and allow Christmas to be Christmas every month. We need to keep coming back to it.

—Max Lucado, Publishers Weekly interview

Three questions-

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, "Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?"

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand-new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? "I'm a child of God!"
- Where are you going? "I'm going out into the world!"
- Why are you going there? "I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!"

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing "whose" you are and what your purpose is.