

President's Note for January 2022

Welcome to 2022. We look forward to the new year with much hope, tempered by just a smidge of trepidation, given events, such as the pandemic, of the last couple of years. Whatever 2022 holds in store, we know our Lord will be with us and watch over us. Our role as we move ahead is to stay positive and follow the great commandments; understanding that while the world may be fickle, our Lord is faithful and steadfast. Our sanctuary has been beautiful over the seasons of Advent and Christmas. As we approach Epiphany our challenge will be to keep the faith, maintain our reverence, and continue to reach out to our neighbors and the community around us sharing in the hope and joy we gain through gathering as a community of faith.

After a hiatus of a few months Pastor Townsend is set to return to preach and lead. We pray his time away has helped to charge his batteries, fostered reflection and spiritual renewal and given him insight into how other small Lutheran congregations are faring and reaching out in these odd and challenging times. Pastor Townsend is scheduled to return to preside on every Sunday in January, except on the second Sunday when Pastor Dee Emmert will preach and preside.

We do have a few special events and rites planned for January. On the third Sunday we will hold a communal confirmation rite for those not yet confirmed. We will also use this time to receive into membership those who have yet to be formally received and desire to join. For questions, details, concerns, please speak with Pastor Townsend. Our parish records have become a bit murky in spots over the past dozen or so years and we want to bring them up to date both because that is right, proper and follows what is outlined in our church

constitution and because we will need accurate records for when we hold our annual congregational meeting on January 30th. In order to vote one must be a confirmed member, given a donation of record and communed within the past year. If you have ideas for our church or would like to serve in a new capacity, let us know, so we can bring those matters forward at the meeting.

We give thanks for being able to gather and we give thanks for the rain and snow we have been receiving, which we pray will help to ease us out of this period of drought and extreme fire conditions. We continue to pray and offer assistance to those displaced here in the west by fire and those in the Midwest displaced by tornadoes. We have the address for Lutheran Disaster Response posted in our church office if you'd like to assist.

We have a number of our own struggling with illness and hardship. Please continue to pray for them and all on our prayer list. The holidays can be a particularly difficult time for those who struggle. As I write this note, noted humanitarian Archbishop Desmond Tutu has just passed on, so I'll close with a quote from him that relates to struggle and darkness.

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." Desmond Tutu

Hope, peace and light,

Chuck Prewett

Council President