

January Calendar 2023

<u>Events</u>		<u>Anniversary & Birthdays</u>	
Sunday	1-Jan (E) 10am Worship Service		
Mon.	2-Jan (E) 7pm Ladies Aid		
Tues.	3-Jan	3-Jan	(A) Carla & Judd Newcomb 2004
Wed.	4-Jan	4-Jan	(B) Madeline Gladson
Fri.	6-Jan	6-Jan	(B) Alex Gladson
Sat.	7-Jan	7-Jan	(B) Caryl Hickerson
Sunday	8-Jan (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Wed.	11-Jan (E) 7pm Council Meeting		
Sunday	15-Jan (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service (E) 11am Voters Meeting	15-Jan	(B) Keith Torbeck
Mon.	16-Jan	16-Jan	(B) Molly Hickerson (B) Ryan Schaal
Wed.	18-Jan	18-Jan	(B) Shawn Cripe
Thurs.	19-Jan	19-Jan	(B) Diana Bauer
Friday	20-Jan	20-Jan	(B) Brandi Cripe (B) Susan Williams
Sunday	22-Jan (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Wed.	25-Jan	25-Jan	(B) David Wasmuth
Sunday	29-Jan (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Tues.	31-Jan	31-Jan	(B) Jacob Smith

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January, 2023

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

John 1 says that “the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.” There’s something about that idea of God being with us in the flesh, of His dwelling with us, that is very comforting. In Matthew’s gospel, the magi, or wise men, are described as coming to the house where Jesus was living. Jesus lived in a house and He and Mary and Joseph received visitors. That is so very human. Perhaps in these last few weeks you either received visitors into your home or were visitors at someone else’s home. You had the chance to visit, to rest, to eat, and simply to be together.

Many times, we speak about going to the house of the Lord when we gather for church services. Psalm 122 prays, “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” We start thinking of the house of the Lord as a place that we go, but we don’t consider that God has come to dwell with us. God does come to dwell with us indeed, and Scripture is clear that He comes, not just to visit, but to stay with us. The story of Zacchaeus certainly sounds that way, as Jesus calls up to Zacchaeus in the tree and says that He will go to Zacchaeus’s house that day. Jesus invited Himself over. But we also consider the words of Deuteronomy 4:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

God commands that His Word should be written on the doors of His people, and that His Word is to be heard in their houses when they lie down and when they wake up, and when they sit in their homes. Not only do we go to the house of the Lord, but the Lord comes to your house.

During this season of Epiphany and the beginning of a new calendar year, there are two ways in particular to focus on your Lord who is with you in your home. The first is by the use of family devotions. There are a number of resources that you can use to hear God’s Word together as a family. We have Portals of Prayer devotionals in the narthex that are there for the taking that focus your reading of God’s Word and prayers. There are also devotion pages in the Lutheran Service Book with suggestions for orders, prayers, and reading on pages 294-304. There are other resources available, such as My First Hymnal for use with families with smaller children, the Treasury of Daily Prayer, and a variety of apps (including the Treasury of Daily Prayer) so

that you can have devotions available on your favorite technological device. Lutheran Service Book is now available as an eBook as well, if that helps you do devotions better as you travel.

The other way to think more of your Lord coming to your home is to consider having a house blessing. Sometimes, when people move into a new home, they think about having a house blessing, but this blessing can be repeated and could even be a yearly tradition for your family. During this season of Epiphany, as we see Jesus being visited and blessed by the magi, it is easy to think of our homes being blessed by Jesus. This house blessing is a short time of hearing God's Word and praying in your home so that, as God is continually present in your life, that you would recognize that He comes to you in your home and in all you do.

As always, I am available to visit with you about how you might use these resources in your home. Christ has indeed promised, "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." He is indeed with you, bringing you life, forgiveness, and salvation!

God bless you always.

Pastor Landskroener

Ladies Aid will meet at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall on Jan 2nd.

Council Meeting is Jan. 11th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall

Voters Meeting is Jan. 15th at 11:00 am in Sanctuary

Church Closings Update – Church closings will be announced on the Augsburg Facebook page. Closings will also be announced on local radio stations. Scott will send Church closing via text, if you would like that also. If you would like a phone call, please contact Pastor or an Elder with the number they can contact you with.

STUDY GOD’S WORD IN 2023... The **Word of the Lord Endures Forever** is a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is currently leading a study on the Book of Luke. You can listen at thewordendures.org or your favorite podcast provider.

The Church will be sending some of their unused materials to the Butler mission. There will be a table in the Parish Hall to view the materials that will be sent. If you would like to take any materials for home use, feel free to do so.

LCMS Central Illinois District - A Dollar for Missions For more information on DFM, contact: Dr. Ken Schurb, Stewardship Executive LCMS Central Illinois District 1850 N. Grand Avenue West Springfield, IL 62702-1626 (217) 793-1802 www.cidlcms.org

Trimming Stamps for Mites -- Trim each stamp leaving paper measuring 1/8 of an inch or less around the stamp. Be careful not to trim too close to the stamp. No corners or edges should be cut. The stamps must be 100% complete. If there is a group of stamps trim around the whole group.

Please Sign attendance books in the pew, so Pastor is better able to serve you.

Parish Hall reservations – If you would like to plan an event or meeting to use our Parish Hall for any reason, this also includes Church activities, you will need to contact Scott or Karen Torbeck. If not asked, we don’t know. Use of the Parish Hall will be determined by the first reservation made.

Do you have a cell phone? Do you text? Do you have a home phone? Some do some don’t. How do you want to be contacted by the Church? The Church would like to contact you via text with any info, updates or closings. To receive a text message, you will need to give us your cell number. Normal text fees will apply. Please provide info to Scott with a note or email storbeck@augzburgchurch.com or text 618-367-3355

Church office is looking for help in maintaining accurate records for Augsburg. Have you moved since our last directory or had a change in marital status or phone number changes? Have you noticed a birthday or anniversary that is incorrect or missing? Please notify Scott Torbeck to get our Church records updated.

For a Pastorial visit, please contact Pastor Landskroener 330-204-4180

Want to learn more about the Augsburg Church and area history? 100th anniversary books are still available for sale. They are only \$15.00.

4. My Citizenship Is In Heaven

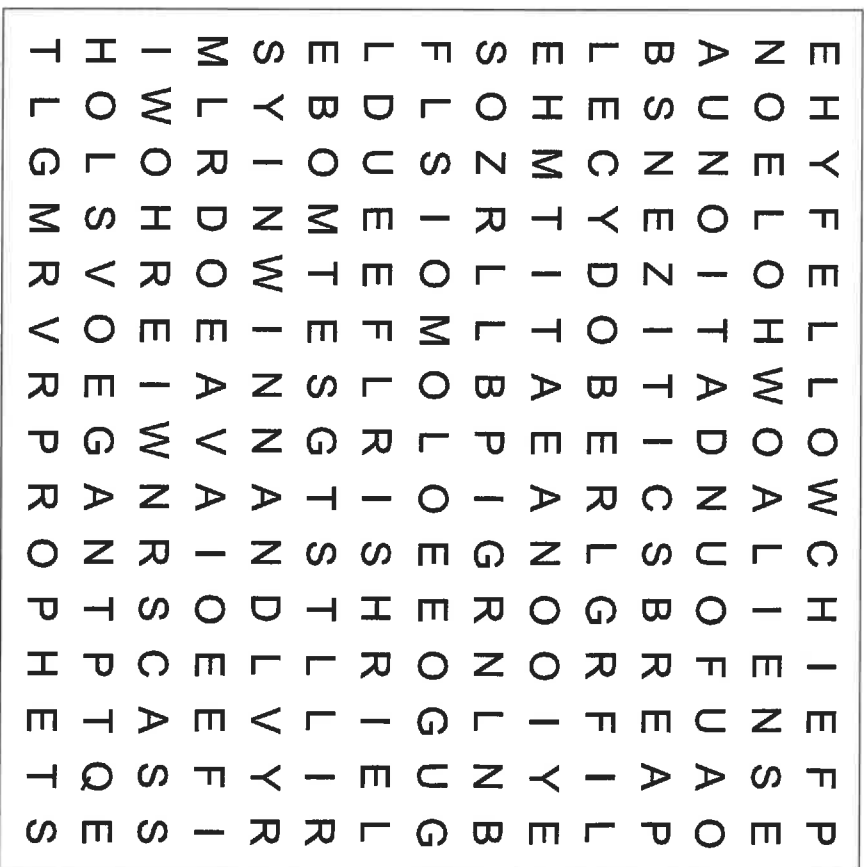
Ephesians 2:19-222 NIV

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Philippians 3:20-21 NIV

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.



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4. My Citizenship Is In Heaven

ALIENS	DWELLING	LIVES
APOSTLES	EAGERLY	LONGER
AWAIT	ENABLES	LOWLY
BODY	FELLOW	MEMBERS
BRING	FOREIGNERS	PEOPLE
BUILDING	FOUNDATION	PROPHETS
BUILT	GLORIOUS	RISES
CHIEF	HIMSELF	SAVIOR
CITIZENS	HOLY	TRANSFORM
CONTROL	HOUSEHOLD	WHOLE