

The King's

Business



Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

www.gracelutheranhi.org



January 2021

We at Grace Lutheran Church are called to reach, teach and be the people of God, as stewards of the Word and gifts of God.

The Secret of Being Content

This past year was a very challenging year emotionally and financially for many people. The Pandemic disrupted the way we live and the way many of us work. Wearing masks, using hand sanitizers, and keeping a reasonable distance from other people is the new norm.

Experiencing the isolation from others, the fear of getting sick, being restricted in the way we can worship (if we can even worship it at all), not being able to attend events and activities, and, for some, the loss of income has caused many to be angry and discontent. During this difficult and life-changing time, it has become pretty easy to become discontent, but, with God's help, we can stop

allowing these circumstances to deflate us. Through faith, we know that God is in control, and He will help to get us through this challenging time. Just as the Apostle Paul learned to be content in all his adversity, we also can be content. **"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me"** (Philippians 4:13).

Our personal circumstances are different from Paul's and our society is different from the one in which Paul lived and worked. It seems we all, at one time or another, fall victim to discontentment. If our joy and happiness come from living comfortably and de-

pend on things rather than on a devotion to Christ, we will be discontent. We can learn to be content in the circumstances the Lord gives us. Paul learned contentment through realizing and reminding himself that contentment comes from relying on God, trusting that His strength enables us to do "everything."

Regardless what 2021 brings, I hope and pray that we, too, will learn "the secret of being content" in the Lord and thank Him for all He gives us, especially His most indescribable gift, the gift of His Son, Jesus (2 Corinthians 9:15). If tribulation continues in this new year, we can take comfort in the words of Jesus, **"be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"** (John 16:33).

Pastor Herring

Going Above and Beyond

We know of or have heard about people who were able to accomplish remarkable goals and accomplishments through sheer determination and effort. They were driven through hardships, sacrifice, and exhaustion toward the end they were striving to achieve. Some people are blessed with a never-quit attitude. This attitude was captured in a movie titled *Rudy* that was made back in 1993. This movie is based on a true story of a young man who loved Notre Dame football and wanted nothing more than to play for the team. He was a walk-on, undersized, too slow and too small. He was so determined to make the team and play in a game that he practiced harder and worked harder than anyone else on the team. At one point in the film, the coach said, "I wish

God would put your heart in some of my players' bodies." To play for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Rudy went above and beyond.

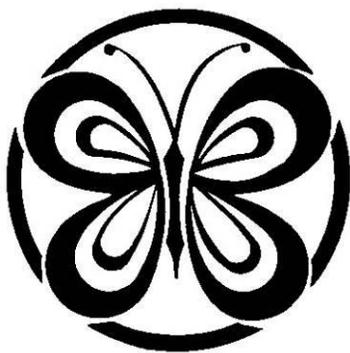
Most of us are not going to excel on the football field, but, as God's people, we are called to work diligently in our service to others and to extend God's kingdom. The Apostle Paul wrote, **"Be steadfast...always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain"** (1 Corinthians 15:58b). God wants us to **"walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"** (Colossians 1:10). God wants us to be productive people in His kingdom.

As Christians, we are called into ministry. Through faith we become more than just spectators. Just as Jesus ministered to the people of His time, we are to do the same today. **"For I have given**

you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). Our ministries take place in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our churches, and in our places of work. Jesus said, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"** (Matthew 28:19-20). Reaching out to the lost is at the very heart of our ministry. We have in Christ the saving truth of the Gospel that all people need to hear.

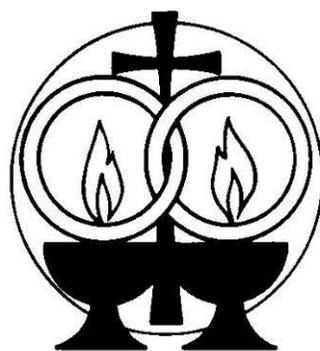
With God's help, we can go above and beyond in our efforts to please God and give Him the glory He deserves. When we commit our lives and resources to His service, we will hear Him say, **"Well done, good and faithful servant!"** (Matthew 25:23).

Pastor Herring



January Birthdays

Paula Sell	11
Dianna Mancuso	29
Tony Willmuth	31



January Anniversaries

Lyle and Charlotte Bonner	9
Sheldon & Lee Knuth	11
Robert & Barbara Herring	25



Dean & Lisa Bennett
Bruce & Jane Bleser
Ken & Bernie Haydon
Lavern & Terri Herman
Pastor & Barb Herring
Tom & Dianna Mancuso
Myles & Sharon Schultz
Joe & Sherry Steichen
Tony & Janice Willmuth

LADIES GUILD MEETING

December 15, 2020

The meeting was opened at 11:30, with a prayer by Pastor Herring.

Seven ladies attended the meeting: President Sharon Schultz, Jane Bleser, Terri Herman, Bernie Haydon, Janice Willmuth, Barbara Herring and Lisa Bennett.

Barbara opened with a devotion "Blessing of Faith", which included a song "Come all ye Faithful, which was sung by all. She also read a reading called "Jesus Birthday Cake"

Sharon read the notes from the previous meeting. She also read a letter from our Seminary student, Jeremy McDonald. Jeremy wrote to us to thank us for the Christmas card and the check we sent to their family. He stated how grateful they were to receive the card as well as the check.

Lisa reported on the angel tree. She

was very appreciative of all who participated and was able to get them delivered to the High School.

We also talked about in honor and appreciations of Tom Mancuso outstanding dedication and service at Grace Lutheran Church that the Council has agreed to donate \$2,000.00 to the Pat Kasner Angel Fund. This is a fund that helps low income people pay their utilities, etc. It is open to the congregation to contribute as well.

President Sharon Schultz mentioned many organization to support as a mission.

Bernie Haydon mentioned her granddaughter, MacKenzie Haydon, who is studying to be a church worker, at Concordia College in St. Paul, MN. She is responsible for all of her room and board, books, etc. After discussion, Lisa made a motion to send Mackenzie \$1,000.00 toward her needs. Terri Herman 2nd motion, motion passed. Bernie explained that it will not be given to her directly, it will be put in a fund that

her mother will control and give her the money as Mackenzie needs the funds.

New business: It was discussed that the Ladies Guild would like to go to Hilda Krutz's to sing Christmas carols. Time will be decided at a later date.

Keeping in our prayers includes: Norma Achord, Joan Schardl, and Tom and Dianna Mancuso. As Tom has health issues and is not able to see a Dr. at this time.

Next meeting will be on January 19th. Terri Herman will provide the devotion,

Bernie Haydon will provide fellowship.

President Sharon Schultz closed with prayer.

Between Bible study and our meeting we enjoyed food provided by everyone in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Bennett

Thank You!

All of you are so generous and loving toward Barbara and me! We thank you for all your prayers, cards, gifts, and remembrances you have showered upon us at Christmas. You demonstrate the love of the Lord so well. May your new year truly be blessed by our Lord!

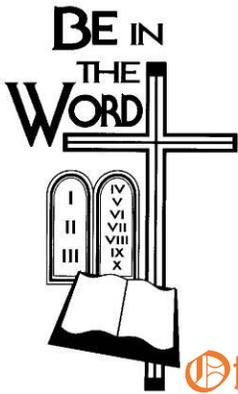
Pastor and Barbara Herring

Thank You!

We were overwhelmed by the generous Christmas spirit of our congregation in the cards gifts and many loving greetings. We are so very thankful for the loving people of God in our congregation and we greatly appreciate every one of our fellow believers here at Grace.

Kenneth and Bernadine Haydon

Thoughts



From The Board Of Elders

As we now enter into January, we hit a date, the sixth, of importance on the Church Calendar. This day has had times of great celebration and times of achieving little notice. We seem to be into the latter of those cycles. But let us consider and celebrate in our personal devotions its importance.

One dictionary description is:

An epiphany is an experience of sudden and striking realization. Generally the term is used to describe scientific breakthrough, religious or philosophical discoveries, but it can apply in any situation in which an enlightening reali-

zation allows a problem or situation to be understood from a new and deeper perspective.

Another, and more relevant to us is:

epiphany

[ə'pifənē]

NOUN

- ✂ the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12).
- ✂ the festival commemorating the Epiphany on January 6.
- ✂ a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being.
- ✂ a moment of sudden revelation or insight.

Note that the time between December 25 and January 6 is The Twelve Days of Christmas. Some cultures have made these twelve a celebratory time. As Lutherans, we tend to stress the first definition and the lessons include the arrival of the Magi.

There is a long list of things that are not Biblical about the Magi and their coming. However the most important factor is that point The Christ being revealed to and for the

Gentiles – i.e. non-Jews. It is clear that these men knew something of the promise of a Savior coming through the line of the Jews.

History tells us that the term “Magi” referred to advisors to the ruler in the area of Babylon and it tells us that they were also astrologers. But until recently, astrology and astronomy were two sides of the same coin. These studies led them to seek **“Him who has been born, King of the Jews”**. (Matthew 2:2)

Walter Martin suggested these were the wisest of all astrologers. Why? They recognized and worship the Redeemer whom God had sent. We do well to join them since we, like the Magi, come from a line of Gentiles. Nevertheless, God has loved us so much that He would send His Beloved Son to suffer, die and rise again so that we might have life not and hereafter with Him.

Make your Epiphany of recognition, celebration and joy!

Kenneth Haydon, Elder

Tree Trimmers

Once Again!

It is the time of year to get our membership list in order. In the narthex you will find a list that of the information we have. Please check to see if your information is correct. We may have missed a change or slipped in a typo. After the first of the year an updated list will be placed in your mailbox.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

