



LCMC
Pastor Ethan Fearing

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January 2025 Newsletter



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From the Pastor....

To you, the LORD's beloved people of American Lutheran Church,

Every January, millions of people begin their new year with a resolution. Getting organized, exercising more, eating better, and managing finances are some of the most common goals they set. Yet, we often make resolutions on January 1st, only to give them up by January 8th. Making an actual commitment isn't easy, and that seems to have always been true. In the Bible, James describes the problem like this:

"Listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.' How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog – it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, 'If the LORD wants us to, we will live and do this or that.' Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil! Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." (James 4:13-17)

Our plans may or may not align with God's. If we want to be truly successful with any New Year's resolution, we should search for God's will – His vision – for our lives. With His help, we might actually get organized, lose weight, or become better stewards of our finances. God strengthens us whenever we're willing to follow His plan, but it will take a commitment lasting beyond January 8th. And, really, this should be second nature to us, because Christians are called to long-term commitments. The Bible encourages this, saying, "Be patient, dear brothers and sisters, as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must

From the Pastor (Continued)

be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near!" (James 5:7-8)

The farmer waits patiently for God to bring growth, but that doesn't mean he sits on his porch doing nothing. No! True waiting is busy, and so a farmer works hard. He'll water and weed, repair equipment, and complete his daily chores. And when a farmer does what a farmer is meant to do, the LORD is able to do the things that only He can do.

Would the LORD be honored if our bodies – the temples of His Holy Spirit – were in better shape? Could He be blessed if our financial affairs were in order? Would He use us mightily if we serve in a ministry, or shared our faith? The answer to each of these questions is the same – of course! Of course the LORD can be in these things. However, committing to lose weight does not mean sitting on the couch with a bag of chips watching TV. Like the farmer, we must do what we need to so God can do what only He can to produce results in our lives.

Something else to think about: Why is it that we only make resolutions about weight, exercise, and money? God would be honored if we also made spiritual resolutions. Let's read the Bible more, get involved in or start a ministry at church, or make a step of faith that is so big it can only happen with God's help. Resolve to represent Him no matter what the cost: "If you are suffering in a manner that leads to accomplishing the good will of God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for He will never fail you." (1 Peter 4:19)

Below are a few resolutions to consider:

1) Look for God in your life by praying like King David every morning for the next year:
"Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Do not banish me from Your presence,

and don't take Your Holy Spirit from me." (Psalm 51:10-11)

2) Resolve to give your attitude to the LORD. Commit to making a difference at home, in the workplace, the at the store, on the roads, and even at church. Use this passage as a guide:

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one Body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful." (Colossians 3:14-15)

3) Thomas Fuller, a well-known preacher from England, understood how to make successful resolutions. As he once said, "Seek the LORD and His wonderful plan for your life. The two of you will make a great team – united in your determination to fulfill your destiny. A strong will, a settled purpose, an invincible determination can accomplish almost anything." The two of you make a great team! What an empowering statement. So often we think we are forging our path alone. We live as though life is completely up to us. Yet, if we are "in Christ" we are part of a team:

"God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus." (Romans 3:26b)

4) "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." (Colossians 3:17)

By grace, through faith, in Christ,

Pastor Ethan Fearing

320-874-0104

Proposed Changes to Constitution ByLaws

Proposed clarification to the Constitution Bylaws regarding council meetings. The proposed language intends to define 'Whole Council' and 'Executive Council' as well as how often members are required to attend.

Current Language:

The Church Council shall conduct meetings of the whole council at least one each quarter; as a whole or executive committee (consisting of the officers and the chairperson of each board or designee) shall meet at least monthly; at a time and place as the council itself shall decide.

The members of the Church Council shall be:

- 1. Officers of the congregation;*
- 2. All members of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Deacon;*
- 3. A representative of the Board of Education, Fair Stand Board, and Memorial Board;*
- 4. Pastor(s), serving as advisory member(s) by virtue of office, but without vote;*
- 5. Immediate past-president to serve one year.*

Proposed change to language: The Church Council shall conduct meetings of the Executive Council (consisting of the officers and the chairperson of each board) at least monthly at a time and place as the council itself shall decide. The whole council shall meet 2 times a year with one being in January prior to the annual meeting and the other being in September or October.

The primary difference between the Whole Council and the Executive Council is regarding the Trustees and Deacons. The Whole Council includes all members of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Deacons while the Executive Council includes a requirement for a representative from the Board of Trustees and Board of Deacons.

According to the Constitution, bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called and conducted meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting. The proposed bylaws or amendments must be read at a public service of the congregation or mailed to the voting members, no less than ten days prior to the meeting.

Mission Focus

Pregnancy and Life Resource Center and Medical Clinic



Pregnancy and Life Resource Center is a non-profit medical clinic which offers free, compassionate, confidential services. They are a confidential center and personal information is safe with us.

They offer a safe, caring, confidential place to talk. They are staffed by trained volunteers who offer support and resources to men and women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, are at risk for an STD, or need resources as new parents.

Pregnancy and Life Resource Center does **not** recommend, provide, or refer clients for abortion, but are available and desire to help clients make an informed choice.

Service Group 1 – Jan - Feb

Service Group Responsibilities:

- Serve for funerals on a rotating basis every 7th Funeral.
- Serve for special events occurring during the two-month period.
- Call for Ushers during the two-month period.

Group 1 Leaders: **Doris Peterson**
 Jane Olson

Group 1 Members:

Anderson, Blair & Marchell
Baker, Misty
Chapin, Bob & Tammie
Faust, Kevin & Donna
Gustafson, Woody & Marilyn
Haugen, Bryan & Linda
Hillig, Scott & Becky
Krause, Ione
Monson, Helen
Olson, Kirk
Ostendorf, Jim & Patty
Parker, Chuck & Kathy
Schneekloth, Gary & Pam
Schultz, Pat & Tracy
Simpson, Vicki
Tirk, Al & Blanche

January

HAPPY BIRTHDAY











2nd Garrett Hasse
4th Hannah Hasse
4th Iris Wolbeck
5th Alli Rach
5th Sydney Rach
6th Scott Hillig
7th Ellie Goplen
7th Dale Peterson
12th Jessie Arenson
12th Nicholas Eldred
13th LaMoine Hatton
13th Braydon Karjala
16th Dennis Oliver
17th Delvin Durheim
17th Sam Olson
18th Ty Drum
21st Karl Lawin
22nd Gary Westerberg
25th Kristen Vanselow
26th Dannielle Berscheit
26th Brielle Bodle
26th Joan Pesta
26th John Prill
26th Addison Young
26th Ellianna Young
27th Amanda Parker
27th Wanda Thompson
28th Dale Ellingson
28th David Ruda
28th Jonathan Young
29th Olivia Browen
31st Elle Olson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

8th Frank & JoAnn Schrader
9th Dale & Connie Peterson



ALC CALENDAR JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed for New Year's Day Holiday 	2	3	4
5 9:00am Worship Service with Communion 10:15am Sunday School 	6 6:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Trustee Meeting	7	8 9:30am Esther Circle 5:00pm Family Night Supper  6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Youth Group Grades K-6 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Group Grades 7-12 7:00pm Deacon Meeting 8:00pm Church Council Meeting	9	10 Camp Lebanon Mega Fun Grades 3-6 	11 Camp Lebanon Mega Fun Grades 3-6
12 Camp Lebanon Mega Fun Grades 3-6 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Mission Committee Meeting	13	14 8:15am Staff Meeting	15 11:00am Newsletter Articles Due 5:00pm Potluck Family Night Supper  6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Youth Group Grades K-6 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Group Grades 7-12	16	17	18
19 Baby Bottle Campaign Kick-Off 8:15am Choir Practice 9:00am Worship Service with Communion 10:15am Sunday School 	20 6:15pm Sarah Circle Singing at Meadow Place 7:00pm Sarah Circle Bible Study	21 8:15am Staff Meeting	22 5:00pm Family Night Supper  6:00pm Youth Group Grades K-6 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Group Grades 7-12	23	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Prayer at Altar after Service 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Annual Meeting with Potluck Following  	27	28 8:15am Staff Meeting	29 5:00pm Family Night Supper  6:00pm Youth Group Grades K-6 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Group Grades 7-12	30	31	