
The ECHO

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Volume 69 Issue 1

JANUARY 2022

JANUARY 2022 CALENDAR

SUNDAY, January 2
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Hopper usher team
NO Confirmation class

WEDNESDAY, January 5
All reports due for annual mtg

THURSDAY, January 6
11:30 Women's Fellowship
Chili/cornbread & potluck sides
Installation of officers

SUNDAY, January 9
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Weckback usher team
Confirmation class
YOUTH meeting after service

TUESDAY, January 11
6:30 Church Council

SUNDAY, January 16
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Rob Bohle usher team
ANNUAL MEETING in sanctuary
Immediately after service
NO Confirmation class

WEDNESDAY, January 19
7 pm Men's Fellowship

SUNDAY, January 23
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Wakeland usher team
Confirmation class

Sunday, January 30
10 am Worship & Sunday school
YOUTH SUNDAY (*youth usher*)
Confirmation class

Season of Giving update

Thank you for sharing your time, talents and gifts with our church family and our community during this season of giving.

Some special thanks to...

Members who donated \$6200 toward a Walmart shopping event for Peace Pantry families. Thank you again this year to Lin Lohse for coordinating this giving project.

Darlene Strupp and Tammy Birkenbach and their angels who helped make and deliver baskets to our church family shut-ins.

Terri Green, youth sponsors and youth who volunteered at the Foster children's holiday party and who sponsored two local families sponsor with gifts and food.

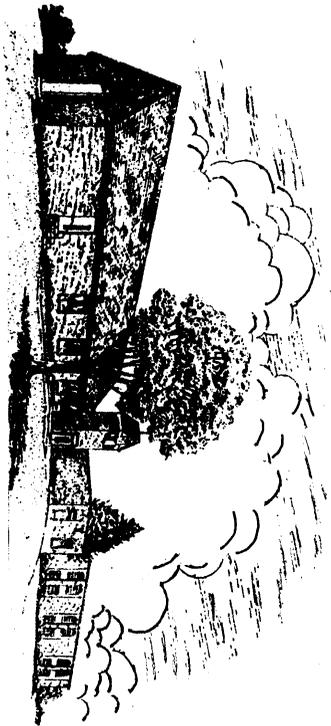
Shawna Zeilman and our Scout troop who volunteered at the Foster Children's Holiday party, sent Christmas cards to our shut-ins and assisted with parking at the outdoors Christmas Eve service.

The Learning Center children who sent cards to our shut-ins at both Thanksgiving and Christmas and also helped decorate luminary bags for Christmas Eve service.

Dave Kramme and Roger Hopper and others who assisted Pastor when the pivot was made to outside services on Christmas Eve and Dec 26th.
...and many others.....

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It is the beginning of a new year and we generally start out at such times making resolutions and mustering up all of the motivation that turning a page on the calendar can give us to make a new beginning.

We have a cultural bias toward new things and, after having lived through another year with the pandemic as the lead story every time we turn on the radio or TV – we are totally ready for just about anything new and different in the year ahead!

It occurred to me recently that newer is not always better. Here are a few new ideas which never caught on: In 1998 Kellogg's had the idea to package milk and cereal in the same carton along with a plastic spoon in order to make breakfast on the go super convenient. Turned out convenient doesn't matter when it tastes bad!

In 1974 Gerber came up with the idea to create a 'baby food' for adults. Gerber believed that there's a market for ready to eat food in a jar, but oh how wrong they were. Consumers didn't find jars of meat mush very appetizing and Gerber Singles failed badly.

Then there is this world famous super failed new idea which was not improved. In 1985 Coca-Cola decided to reformulate Coke. New Coke didn't taste bad it just didn't taste the same and within three months the company had to reintroduce the original formula and rebrand it as Coca-Cola Classic.

At the end of yet another year when there has been so much disruption I am feeling like we need to begin 2022 focusing upon the things which have NOT changed. We all could use a dose of old-and-reliable in my opinion and that is why it seems like a good idea to me to start the new year reminding ourselves of the promises of God which never change!

Claim these reliable promises regularly in the new year and your faith will serve you well:

The Promise of Salvation

Romans 10:13 – for “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

The Promise of Forgiveness

I John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Christian Education Update, cont'd from page 6

with your words and show them with your life. Tell them what he's done for you and how you've been changed by His grace and forgiveness and goodness and love. Tell them how they can be too. Point them to Jesus. Over and over and over again.

Take your kids to church. They'll love it there. It's the only place where they can go and just be themselves. They don't have to "be" good enough or smart enough or athletic enough. They don't have to perform for approval or achievement. They just get to go and hear how much God loves them. Just because they're them. Just because He created them, they're valued. Wanted. Their worth isn't based on the grades they make or their ability to throw a curveball. It's not dependent on their performance or skill level. And they need a little more of that, don't you think? A little more grace and a little less pressure. A little more love and a few less demands.

Take them to church. Before you take them to the ballfield or the dance studio or the gym. Before you take them on vacation or to grandma's or to the backyard to play. Take them to church. Let them know it's a priority. Show them it has eternal value. Let them see you set aside schedules and extra curricular activities and work and busy-ness to be present with the Lord in His house. I promise you won't regret it. I promise you it won't return back void.

Take them to church.

I promise it's worth it.

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’”

Matthew 19:14



Sandy Roland opened our December meeting with a Bible Story. We had 18 members present and we met in Fellowship Hall where we enjoyed pizza and pot luck salads and desserts. After eating, we enjoyed exchanging gifts with our Secret Prayer Partners and drew names for 2022.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 6th in Fellowship Hall. There will be chili and corn bread available, and a pot luck of salads and desserts. Pastor Scott will be installing the officers for 2022. A snow date is set for January 13th. In addition, we are planning a Cabin Fever Day Out on Thursday, January 20th at the Pacific Family Restaurant. Plan to be there at 11:30. Please RSVP to Tammy Birkenbach at 636-357-8288. The snow date for this event is January 27th.

All women of the church are invited to join us. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 am. We would love to have you join us for fellowship and good food!

Sandy Roland

Christian Education Update—January, 2022

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, we will resume the Sunday School schedule which we have been accustomed to in the past! Children's time will be a message with the youngsters in morning worship at 10:00 am after which they will be invited and encouraged to go to Fellowship Hall for a Bible lesson.

During the month of January our lessons will be all about the Parables of Jesus. This renewed schedule is all possible because of the fabulous and faithful volunteers who have made the commitment to our children. Thanks, and God bless you!

This article by Megan Woodham, appearing in For Every Mom, February 26, 2021

Take your kids to church.

Make the effort. Wake them up early. Fool with the belts and the buckles and the fancy hair bows. Endure the sleepy, grumpy faces and the misplaced shoes. Run around like a mad woman gathering everybody's everything and trying to get out the door on time. Hop to the car with a shoe in one hand and your make-up bag in the other. Give those babies a pop-tart and some milk and let 'em eat it in the car. If it's raining, get wet. If it's cold, get a jacket. If you're tired, go tired. But take those babies to church. You know why? Because Jesus is there.

He's there. And He'll meet them there. And you too, Mama.

He'll be there in the sweet smile of their Sunday School teacher as she greets them into their room. He'll be there in the goldfish and the apple juice and the filling of their little bellies and hearts. He'll be there in the hug from a sweet friend and the encouraging smile that assures you that they "just barely made it" too. He'll be there in the sacred words read from the Bible speaking truth to their little impressionable hearts. He'll be there in the worship and the raised hands and the watery eyes and whispers of praise.

So take them. Carry all of their Bibles and drawings and toilet paper tube creations. Sit by them in worship. Open your Bible and open theirs. Show them how to find the scripture the pastor is preaching from. Show them how to worship. Explain to them why He's worthy of worship. Let them see you laugh and cry and praise and study. Forgive their wiggles and paper rustles and know that they're listening even when it seems like they aren't. Ask them questions and answer the ones they ask you. Introduce them to Jesus. Tell them of His greatness - his power - his faithfulness. Tell them

(continued From the Pastor's Desk, pg.1)

The Promise of God Working Even through Difficult Circumstances

Romans 8:28 – And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

The Promise of Answered Prayer

Matthew 7:7-8 – “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

The Promise of God's Presence

Hebrews 13:5 – Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”

The Promise of Peace in the Midst of a Storm

John 14:27 – Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

The Promise of Heaven

John 14:1-2 – “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

Here is wishing you an old-and-reliable-NEW year!

Pastor Scott



January 2022 meeting
7 pm, Wednesday, January 19

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



In January, white goods, such as toilet paper, paper towels and tissues are requested donations. The Peace Pantry appreciates any and all donations throughout the year.



Our Youth have been busy. In November they carried all the Christmas decorations from the parsonage to the church– a huge help. We baked “several” dozen cookies that were delivered to members who are unable to attend worship in person. December brings thoughts of Christmas, family, and the birth of Jesus. On December 12th the older youth helped with the Children’s Christmas Pageant that was held during our regular church service.

Through props, changing wardrobes, hand-made crowns, noise makers, and the smiles of the youth in our congregation, we were once again reminded of a night in Bethlehem when a star appeared and led the wise men to a manger in a stable to witness the arrival of Jesus. It doesn’t matter how many times you hear the story or how it is portrayed, it is still a miraculous story.

The youth adopted two area families for Christmas. On December 12th we had lunch together and went to Wal-Mart to shop for our families. This is a favorite youth activity. It’s rewarding knowing that on Christmas morning there will be two families that we helped make their Christmas a little brighter. We were able to purchase gifts for all the children, we made a family basket of cleaning supplies, toiletries, and bath towels, and gave each family a food basket. Another December favorite is helping with the Jefferson County Foster Family Christmas party. This year we were part of the clean up crew. This is an amazing event that foster families are invited to every year. The children receive blankets, hats, board games, they have dinner, see Santa, and receive an individual gift from the big man himself.

Our next regular meeting is January 9th. In January we will be discussing our upcoming Mission Trip in June 2022 and Canoe Camp in July.

Lots of exciting things happening!!!

Youth Brags:

Luke Meier, a freshman at Northwest, is wrestling on the Varsity team. In December, he got his first win.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Zeilman. Elizabeth was the winner of the SPAR All-Star Classic. Elizabeth is a member of the Northwest Debate Team. The SPAR Classic was their last debate tournament of the year.

Congratulations to two of our seniors....

Julia Moder, a Northwest senior, has made a commitment to attend Maryville University in the fall to study nursing. Her passion and commitment to tumbling and cheer skills, led Maryville to offer her a spot on the Maryville Stunt Team.

Zach Stenger, also a Northwest senior, will attend St. Louis Community College to major in Elementary Education and play baseball.

Terri, Kathy, and Donna



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

SUNDAY,
January 16
In Sanctuary
Immediately
after service

Please join us!



80+ years

Nona Doyle	01/03
Bernice Halbrook	01/25
Patsy Cordia	01/26



25+ years

Ron & Linda Tate	01/01
Chris & Kim Hahn	15
Jeff & Karen Bonacker	01/18
Tom & Judy Davis	01/28



Forrest E. Fortner, Sr.

April 8, 1932—December 24, 2021

Council Update

Please mark your calendar for the annual business meeting on January 16. An abbreviated version of the usual meeting will occur in the sanctuary immediately following worship service. In spite of COVID, the business of the church goes on and there are two very important topics that require us to have a meeting to at least vote on ...2022 budget and church officers.

The resurgence of COVID in the form of the very virulent Omicron virus has caused Council to strongly suggest that inside attendees wear masks for the first several weeks of January. The mitigation efforts of masking, social distancing, etc. are not popular topics, but are revisited by Council on a regular basis....let’s remember COVID is REAL and we want for our members to be safe and feel comfortable when they come to worship. Outside options will continue....speaker and FM transmitter broadcast.

SMUCC will be purchasing HEPA filters to recirculate air. Steve Strupp has researched these as an option to filter air. By a show of hands at the 12/19 service, members agreed to the purchase units which should cost about \$4000. There are available funds. A partial shipment arrived on 4/28.

The membership committee is undertaking a project to send letters to members whom we do not see inquiring about their continued interest in being on the membership list as an active, inactive or associate member.