

JANUARY  
2021

# United in Faith News



# JANUARY

*Why are we  
Here?  
We are to be  
God's  
hands,  
feet and  
voice  
in the  
world.*



From the desk of . . .

On Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, some of us gathered to “Kick 2020 To the Curb!” Whether you had a chance to join or not, each of us can pray and give thanks for a new year and a new start in 2021. Though 2020 was a big challenge for many of us, starting 2021 resting in the love and mercy of God will help us start on the right foot!

## **Prayer as we leave 2020 and enter 2021:**

Leader: O God you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Isaiah 43:16-19**

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

## **Blessing for the New Year:**

Leader: O God, you have been our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. As we welcome this new year, bless us with peace. Fill our days with the light of Christ and lead us on the path of life until we see you in our heavenly home. You live and reign forever and ever.

(OVER)-->

At  
United in Faith,  
The Guiding  
Principles are:

+

Jesus is  
Lord and  
*Savior*

+

Reflect  
God's *Love*

+

Pray and  
*listen* for God's  
guidance

+

Continue to  
strengthen  
*faith*

+

Include *All*  
in *God's*  
*work*

+

Meet people  
*where they*  
*are*

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR CARLA, CONTINUED..

C: Amen.

### Romans 8:31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Happy New Year*  
**2021**

**Toast to what you are looking forward to in 2021.**



# Caring for God's World

Some reminders for going green in the office - at home or at work

- > Turn off lights if leaving the area for 15 minutes or more. Use natural light if possible.
- > Turn off your computer and power strip at the end of the day. During your work time set your computer to go to sleep during short times of no activity.
- > Looking for new equipment? Make sure the new ones are energy saving. Recycle the old with a reputable recycler.
- > Print on both sides of the paper. Use the backside of old documents for your own use. Better yet ask if printing is necessary.
- > Recycle toner and ink cartridges.
- > Buy chlorine free paper with a higher percentage of post consumer recycled content.
- > Put a plant near your workstation. It will absorb indoor pollution.



January 6  
 January 14  
 January 24  
 January 31

James Haas  
 Stephanie Chobot  
 Judi Schira  
 Leah Escalante

## SERVING IN WORSHIP: *January 2021*

WORSHIP ON  
**facebook**

or

**You Tube**

at 9:30 am

~~~~~

COFFEE HOUR  
 ON ZOOM  
 at 10:30 am

9:30 AM  
 SERVICE  
 ON-LINE

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| Jan 3  | on line |
| Jan 10 | on line |
| Jan 17 | on line |
| Jan 24 | on line |
| Jan 31 | on line |



† **UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING** †  
**UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021**  
**10:30 A.M.**  
**on ZOOM**

All members of United in Faith are invited  
to the **ANNUAL MEETING**  
on ZOOM (either online or on phone)  
This is an important meeting of our membership  
to review past activities,  
look to the future and to elect new Council members,  
Synod Voting Members and a Nominating Committee.  
Please plan to attend!  
Watch for a letter or February's newsletter  
for specific details about ZOOM.

***FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE***  
**Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and CHOCOLATE**



Use the *ORDER FORM* found around church  
and we will fill your order.  
(or call the church office)

*Thank you for your support  
of small farmers of the world!*



Wednesdays only  
10:00 am until 3:00 pm  
until further notice



# UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH EDUCATION ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

United in Faith Lutheran Church has an established an *Education Endowment Scholarship Fund* which is available to members of our congregation. Students who have a financial need can apply for assistance. Eligible awards can be for any Christian pre-school through high school as well as any post-secondary school and can include special educational needs or gifts at any level of education.



Each application is carefully reviewed by the Education Endowment Scholarship Committee. Awards are based on need and funds available. The application forms are available in the church office and must be completed in full to be considered for a scholarship for the school year 2021-2022 **& returned no later than February 28, 2021**. Place the completed form in the **church mail box marked "Scholarship"** located in the hallway or give to any scholarship committee member. All information on the application will be treated as confidential.

- Applicants must be an active member of United in Faith Lutheran Church.
- Identify, to the best of your knowledge, all school related expenses for the school year, plus any other source of income or assistance you have to meet those expenses.
- Applicants and their parents(s)/guardian(s)/care giver(s) must participate in the life of United in Faith Church. This can include, but is not limited to: serving as an acolyte, usher, reader, or assisting minister, Sunday School aide or teacher, participation in fund raising activities, and assisting with church events to the extent that is reasonable and possible.
- Attendance at worship is required.



The Committee will then give careful consideration for awards on each application. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision by March 31, 2021. An applicant may receive a scholarship in subsequent years as long as they meet the requirements. Scholarship amounts may vary from year to year based on the number of applicants and funds available each year.

*If you have any questions, or are interested in joining this committee, please contact Bonnie Maginnis at 773-237-5357.*

The Education Endowment & Scholarship Committee,  
**Pastor Carla, Bonnie Maginnis, & George Schultz**

*Christmas blessings and the gift of hope  
to you from your friends at  
United in Faith*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

# Keeping the Twelve Days of Christmas at Home

From the Blog [The Art of Simple](#) by Jerusalem Greer  
Keeping the 12 Days of Christmas



<https://theartofsimple.net/12-days-of-christmas/>

Okay y'all, hang on to your britches. I have some news. Despite what many retail outlets will have you believe, the Twelve Days of Christmas do not occur in the twelve days *before* Christmas, but in the twelve days following. And these twelve days, well they are the actual Christmas Season as originally dedicated on the Christian Year Calendar. What comes before Christmas Day is the season of Advent, not Christmas.

Christmas runs from Christmas Day until January 5, which is also called Twelfth Night. January 6, is called Epiphany. Epiphany is the day in which the arrival of the Magi (or Wise Men) is celebrated. Their arrival marked the moment that Christ's identity as the Son of God was revealed to non-Jewish persons, ergo it was a pretty big "epiphany". Back in the olden days of yore Christmas trees were not put up until Christmas Eve because the Christmas season did not begin until December 25. The following twelve days leading to Epiphany, were then the time for all the merry making and party throwing and frolicking about in fancy clothes. A large Twelfth Night party was often the end of the season, sometimes even with a reversal of roles – the servants of the wealthy would be served by their employers and all would celebrate together. January 6 was then the day when the tree came down and the decorations went back into storage – a tradition many still hold on to.

**Here are a few of my favorite ideas on how to celebrate this season in modern times!**

## ***Learn the Alternative Meanings for the Song***

I have always loved the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song. A few years ago I stumbled across a children's book that paired the twelve verses with twelve basics of Christianity. After digging around I learned that some people believe that the Twelve Days of Christmas was a way to teach children their religious catechism through symbolism and song.

Whether or not this story is true ancient history or modern folklore, the fact remains that you can easily pair each verse of this traditional Christmas tune with the most basic and fundamental Christian teachings, which can be a fun instructional tool for old and young alike.

The pairings go like this:

A partridge in a pear tree: Jesus

Two turtle doves: The Old and New Testaments

Three French hens: Faith, hope, and love

Four calling birds: The Four Gospels

Five gold rings: The Torah/Pentateuch, first five books of the Old Testament

Six geese a-laying: The six days of Creation

Seven swans a-swimming: Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

Eight maids a-milking: Eight Beatitudes



Nine ladies dancing: Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

Ten lords a-leaping: The Ten Commandments

# Keeping the Twelve Days of Christmas at Home

*Continued*

Eleven pipers piping: The eleven faithful apostles

Twelve drummers drumming: Twelve points of the Apostles Creed

## **Collect [or Create] Twelve Days of Christmas Goodies**

Growing up my mother had a collection of 12 Days of Christmas Drinking Glasses. Appetizer plates, table cloths, ornaments, books, and a whole host of decor items can be found [or made] in the twelve-days theme.

## **Do an Unconventional Countdown**

If you are looking for a fun way to observe the 12 Days, but want something a little more unconventional and something that will help give a little bit of shape and purpose to your holiday break, [pictured]. Who knows, following this list might become a tradition usher in the new year.

**12 Days of Christmas**

**ACTIVITIES**

|       |           |                                      |
|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Watch | <b>1</b>  | ONE OLD MOVIE                        |
| Visit | <b>2</b>  | FRIENDS YOU DON'T SEE OFTEN          |
| PLAY  | <b>3</b>  | GAMES OF CARDS                       |
| Make  | <b>4</b>  | MEALS TO FREEZE                      |
| Plan  | <b>5</b>  | WAYS TO VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW YEAR    |
| Clean | <b>6</b>  | DRAWERS OR CLOSETS                   |
| READ  | <b>7</b>  | PAGES IN A NEW BOOK OUT LOUD         |
| Give  | <b>8</b>  | BOXES OF PET FOOD TO A SHELTER       |
| LEARN | <b>9</b>  | WAYS TO SAY HELLO IN OTHER LANGUAGES |
| Share | <b>10</b> | GOOD MEMORIES WITH SOMEONE           |
| Do    | <b>11</b> | JUMPING JACKS                        |
| Write | <b>12</b> | THINGS YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR          |

# SAVE THE DATE

Virtual Town Hall with  
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Jan. 19 at 11:30 a.m. Central time

Recently the ELCA Church Council affirmed a new Future Church design at its fall meeting, Nov. 12-14. I'm sure you're wondering what that means, which is why I am emailing you.

I think we all recognize that the ELCA continues in a pattern of macro decline, as do other mainline churches. The majority of our members are aging, and our membership profile does not reflect the diversity of the United States or the kingdom of God.

Yes, Future Church takes those trends into account, but that's not the primary reason for a new design. We know the world needs to hear the gospel, because the way of Jesus is the way of life and grace. Future Church is based on the strong belief that members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization must work together to share a powerful witness of the gospel in the world, engaging our current members in new and innovative ways while inviting more young and diverse people to experience God's grace in action. It envisions a world experiencing the difference that God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

More information about how all members of this church can be part of growing this church into the future will be available in the coming months, including a virtual town hall for rostered ministers with me.

God's peace,  
Elizabeth A. Eaton

## FOCUS ON HUNGER & DISASTER RELIEF: IN WHAT WAYS WILL YOU SERVE?

**ELCA World Hunger**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



When the dust settles & headlines change, we - as Lutheran Christians through **Lutheran Disaster Response** and with our trusted partners - stay to provide **ongoing assistance & hope** to those in need of continuing aid.

Your Gifts to ELCA World Hunger help our church creatively and courageously find solutions to **Hunger** and **Poverty** in over 60 countries and the United States. Together, we work towards a just world where all are fed.



**Will you help with your gift today?**

**GIVE online** at [elca.org/Donate](http://elca.org/Donate)

**GIVE** by phone at **800-638-3522**

**Learn ways to ADVOCATE**

at [elca.org/advocacy](http://elca.org/advocacy)

**GIVE** by mail with a stamp to:

Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



# ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JANUARY 13, 2021

## RACHEL MADE IT TO ESWATINI!!!

Our MIC student, Rachel, is on her way to Eswatini (Swaziland) from Johannesburg now. She had a delay before she flew out of ORD (wrong COVID test) and a delay in Qatar (international bureaucracy). The next we should hear/see is a picture of her and Nathi and here it is....

After all the international bureaucracy both here in the United States and in Qatar, they are finally together for Christmas. It has been a long journey for them.

Merry Christmas Rachel and Nathi.



**BEST  
CHRISTMAS  
EVER**



# A Note to Say: Thank You



Barb Patrick would like to thank UIF for the beautiful prayer shawl she received. She would also like everyone in her UIF family to know she is doing well but is currently homebound.

Marion Hansen would like to thank all for the cards she received from church members while she is recuperating from a vertebrae fracture. She misses church very much and hopes to be back.

## BOOK STUDY

For five successive Wednesday evenings at 7pm in early 2021 (January 13 – February 10), you are invited to study and discuss the book Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. by Lenny Duncan, the self-proclaimed “unlikeliest of pastors.” We will gather on ZOOM those week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87063186914?pwd=dkhZRWV5REk3UVh6ZGIFdXJKb3AzUT09>

Some of us read this book early in 2020, but now we are ready to return to the group discussions as a congregation. You still have some time to read or re-read this book before mid-January!

This book challenges us to listen to a voice that may not be familiar or comfortable or easy, but that will help us learn and grow. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, Dear Church offers a bold new vision for the church to take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice.

Reading Schedule:

1/13 review intro, chapter 1 & 2

1/20 chap 3 & 4

1/27 chap 5 & 6

2/3 chap 7 & 8



## United in Faith Lutheran Welcome Statement

United in Faith **openly welcomes and values every person who walks through our doors**, regardless of race, nationality and ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation & gender identity, marital status, social and economic situation, ability, cultural reality, & need.



Further, United in Faith supports efforts to share with all: God's gifts of love, acceptance, & grace; invites all people, **uniquely created by God**, to **experience the word of God, communion, & promise of the risen Christ**; and encourages all people to participate fully in the ministries of this congregation, which are based



# January 2021

| Sunday                                                                                     | Monday                                                                                               | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                                                                  | Thursday                                | Friday                                                                                       | Saturday                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                            |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                            |                                         | <b>1</b><br>NEW YEARS DAY –<br>Office closed<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Men's AA -<br>Fellowship Hall | <b>2</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> Al-Anon -<br>ZOOM meeting<br><b>4:00 PM</b> Survivors of Incest<br>Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting  |
| <b>3</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> On-Line Worship Service<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour on ZOOM  | <b>4</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Planning-<br>ZOOM meeting           | <b>5</b><br><b>3:00 PM Bulletin</b><br><b>Announcements Due</b><br><b>7:15 PM</b> Women's AA -<br>ZOOM meeting                                                             | <b>6</b>                                                                                                                                   | <b>7</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry  | <b>8</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Men's AA -<br>Fellowship Hall                                     | <b>9</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> Al-Anon -<br>ZOOM meeting<br><b>4:00 PM</b> Survivors of Incest<br>Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting  |
| <b>10</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> On-Line Worship Service<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour on ZOOM | <b>11</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Monthly Service<br>Unit Meeting (Unit 286) | <b>12</b><br><b>3:00 PM Bulletin</b><br><b>Announcements Due</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b> Church Health<br>Team - ZOOM meeting<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Women's AA -<br>ZOOM meeting     | <b>13</b><br><b>9:00 AM ABSOLUTE</b><br><b>DEADLINE FOR ALL</b><br><b>ANNUAL REPORTS</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b> Book Discussion<br>ZOOM meeting | <b>14</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry | <b>15</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Men's AA -<br>Fellowship Hall                                    | <b>16</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> Al-Anon -<br>ZOOM meeting<br><b>4:00 PM</b> Survivors of Incest<br>Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting |
| <b>17</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> On-Line Worship Service<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour on ZOOM | <b>18</b><br>MLK DAY - Office closed<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry                                   | <b>19</b><br><b>3:00 PM Bulletin</b><br><b>Announcements Due</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council<br>Meeting - ZOOM meeting<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Women's AA -<br>ZOOM meeting | <b>20</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b> Book Discussion<br>ZOOM meeting                                                                                | <b>21</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry | <b>22</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Men's AA -<br>Fellowship Hall                                    | <b>23</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> Al-Anon -<br>ZOOM meeting<br><b>4:00 PM</b> Survivors of Incest<br>Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting |
| <b>24</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> On-Line Worship Service<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour on ZOOM | <b>25</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Ministry Directors -<br>ZOOM meeting       | <b>26</b><br><b>3:00 PM Bulletin</b><br><b>Announcements Due</b><br><b>7:15 PM</b> Women's AA -<br>ZOOM meeting                                                            | <b>27</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b> Book Discussion<br>ZOOM meeting                                                                                | <b>28</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry | <b>29</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Men's AA -<br>Fellowship Hall                                    | <b>30</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> Al-Anon -<br>ZOOM meeting<br><b>4:00 PM</b> Survivors of Incest<br>Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting |
| <b>31</b><br><b>9:30 AM</b> On-Line Worship Service<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour on ZOOM | <b>UPCOMING</b>                                                                                      | <b>February 17</b>                                                                                                                                                         | <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>                                                                                                                       |                                         |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                         |

# JANUARY

## Worship Schedule



|                                                           |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>January 3</b><br><b>CHRISTMAS 2</b>                    | <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service - on line<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour - on ZOOM |
| <b>January 10</b><br><b>BAPTISM OF</b><br><b>OUR LORD</b> | <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service - on line<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour - on ZOOM |
| <b>January 17</b><br><b>EPIPHANY 2</b>                    | <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service - on line<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour - on ZOOM |
| <b>January 24</b><br><b>EPIPHANY 3</b>                    | <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service - on line<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour - on ZOOM |
| <b>January 31</b><br><b>EPIPHANY 4</b>                    | <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service - on line<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour - on ZOOM |

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th IS ASH WEDNESDAY**

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6525 West Irving Park Road  
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**Rev. Carla Thompson Powell**

Pastor

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