



the word

Mark Your Calendar

1/1

New Years Day

1/16

Chili Cook Off – WSP

Sermon Series

Follow His Star

They saw a star they hadn't seen before. The wise men followed it and the glory of the Almighty God, wrapped up in the form of a baby boy, was revealed to them. As we walk through the season of Epiphany we are encouraged to follow His star as well. As we follow Jesus throughout his ministry we too see his glory revealed more and more...the glory of the Almighty God.

A Look Back at the Calendar

By Zachary Pudlo

The New Year gives us the opportunity to do a couple things: 1) look back at the past calendar year, and 2) look forward to the coming calendar year. What's puzzled me about the Gregorian calendar (the name of the calendar we use) is the time of the year in which it begins. Why would anyone think the year begins in the brutal cold of the winter? In my humble opinion, that's an awful time to start a new year.

But the reason for the year beginning in the cold dead of winter is an interesting one. The Gregorian calendar is based on the old Roman calendar, used by the Romans until Julius Caesar made adjustments around 45 BC. The first month of the Roman calendar was Martius, our March. It was later adjusted by Numa Pompilius, the traditional second ancient king of Rome, who added the months of January and February to make an even 12-month year.

It seems like the original Roman calendar makes more sense. It makes sense to start a new calendar year when all of nature is starting new. The days are getting longer, the snow is gone, fresh green shoots are coming out of the ground, leaves are beginning burst into life...that's the time when nature starts new. It makes sense to start a new calendar year then also.

As we look back at the history of our calendar it's worth our time to look at the calendar the Lord gave to the Israelites as well. Interestingly, the Israelite calendar year began in the Spring time when the days were getting longer and nature was almost ready to yield its crops from the damp winter

continued

months (Mediterranean Climate). The first calendar month for the Israelites was Nisan. And the Lord gave some specific instructions for them as to how they should begin their new year. In Leviticus 23:5 the Lord says this, "The LORD's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month."

And he says more about this special New Year's celebration in Exodus 12:14 by saying, "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD — a lasting ordinance."

Even though the festival of the Passover took place 14 days into the new year, the Israelites had to start planning for it as soon as the 1st of the new year rolled around. They had to start looking for a 1-year old lamb without blemish or defect. They had to remove all the yeast from their house (representing the removing of sin from their lives). They had to start preparing for this new year's celebration.

And what was the point of this new year ceremony called Passover? The Lord explains in Exodus 12:25-27, "When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'"

The Lord is telling the Israelite nation the new year is a time for looking backwards. As the Israelites looked backwards they would see how their entire existence was dependent upon the pure grace of the Lord. Looking backwards they would see how every year was a gift from the Lord. Looking backwards they only saw the pure love, power and goodness of the Lord. Looking forward they could expect the same.

In setting the Passover ceremony at the beginning of

the calendar year, the Lord put the Israelites on a path to start they year out right. As you look back at your past calendar year would you say you started it on the right path? Was God part of your last new year celebration? Did you make Him the priority when you started your year? Was He present in your life throughout the rest of your calendar year? Was He present in your church life...your home life...your social life?

The Israelites started the year right with the Passover, with the blood of the lamb, with thankful hearts for their deliverance. Start your year the same. Start your months, weeks and days the same by looking back at your deliverance. Just as the blood of the unblemished 1-year old lamb saved the Israelites from the slavery, so also the holy precious blood of Christ has saved you from your slavery to sin.

In the Eagan Wednesday evening small group Bible Study the current topic is the book of Hebrews. The book of Hebrews probably does a better job of tying together the Old Testament ceremonial law to its fulfilment in Christ better than any other book. The writer says this in chapter 9, "When Christ came as high priest...he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"

It makes sense to start a new calendar year in the spring time when nature is coming to life again. But it makes even more sense to start a new calendar year with God. As you look back to the ultimate lamb of sacrifice, remember there isn't ANYTHING God wouldn't give for you. Let that lamb be your motivation to make Him your EVERYTHING...not just this new year, but each day, each hour, each second of your life.



IT'S THE GREAT
CHILI COOK-OFF

COMPETE OR JUDGE – Saturday January 16 – 6 pm WSP



For over a decade I have watched Gwen and Jim Pasbrig serve the Lord at Crown of Life and St. Croix Lutheran High School. Jim began as the Director of Advancement and Gwen began as my secretary. I watched as Gwen made us all look good in our ministries as she worked behind the scenes in the office. I marveled at how she put choir pieces together and orchestrated our worship with relative ease. I gratefully watched Jim take on the role of "grade school band director" and taught my children (and so many others) how to play and get our band program off the ground. It went from "floundering" to "prospering" in a relatively short amount of time. They have decorated, served up supper, directed, calculated, advised, manned a booth, walked a parade route, computed, organized and countless other things for so long. They really have been a blessing. What follows is a little poem I put together to say goodbye and "thank you." Gwen and Jim.....we wish you well and with all of God's blessings.

~ Pastor Kom

Farewell to the Pasbrigs

*'Twas the year that Kom came
At Crown of Life and St. Croix
Both needed some help
From a girl and a boy.*

*"Advancement was needed"
At St. Croix right away
Jim Pasbrig said "yes"
To that call the same day!*

*But it was Gwen who'd come here
To work in our church
We needed a secretary!
We'd been left in the lurch!*

*Jim and Gwen were so faithful
At their tasks and their call...
That they took on even more
And gave it their all!*

*Jim would serve on Committees
And share his advice
Gwen coordinated worship
To give life some more spice.*

*Then the choir needed a director!
To the rescue Gwen flew!
(not to be outdone....)
Jim joined the choir, too!*

*And so they have served
For so hard and so long
Right here at COL
Was where they belonged.*

*But time has a way
Of changing things up
You wake up one fine morning...
No longer a "pup."*

*"Retire" is a word
That they used more and more
Until that great longing
They could no longer ignore.*

*So our dear Gwen and Jim
Have decided to move
To a state next door
To find their "new groove."*

*Oh, they'll stay very active
Of that we are sure
And seeing more of the grandkids
Is a pretty big lure!*

*And so we say THANK YOU
To a wonderful pair
You gave us so much
We love you! Take Care!*

FAITH BUILDERS

Are you interested in joining Crown of Life Church or looking for a great refresher class? Faith Builders is the course for you. Starting in January, this 9-week series covers the main doctrines of the Bible with topics like Sin and Grace, Sacraments and End Times. The class and childcare are both free of charge.

To sign up contact Pastor Pudlo at 651-485-0190 or zacharypudlo@crownoflifemn.org

ASK THE PASTOR

Answered by Pastor Pudlo

Q Why do you wear a scarf during church?

A The scarf is called a stole. The history of the stole is long and not perfectly clear. For Lutherans, the stole is worn only by ordained ministers..

Q Why is everyone's scarf different (colors/designs)?

A There are many different companies that manufacture and design stoles. Another reason for the different designs of stoles is that the stole represents different things to different denominations. For Lutherans, it represents the call and ordination to be pastors of a congregation. The

ministers usually wear stoles that represent the colors of the church year. During the season of Advent (coming) we use blue to represent the way in Christ will come to us again, from the sky. In Christmas we use white.

Q Do you get to pick it out yourself?

A Usually the congregation provides stoles for their pastors.

Q Can God Die?

A The Biblical definition of dying is "the separation of body and soul". God is spirit. He has no body. Therefore, He cannot die.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

Submit to: zacharypudlo@crownoflifemn.org

Jensen's Food & Cocktails

Reviewed by Leslie Yoder

Looking for somewhere to have a great dinner for a special occasion? We've found one in our own backyard. We call Jensen's Food and Cocktails in Eagan our "secret family restaurant" – although it isn't much of a secret. It's become our "go to" place for birthdays and holidays.

The menu at this supper club style restaurant includes the expected steak and prime rib as well as walleye, shrimp and crab options. The kids menu has the usual selections, but also includes walleye and filet mignon – not something you find at most restaurants. A meal here begins with a choice of either Caesar or house salad, or a cup of soup (the lobster bisque is one of our favorites), served with popovers and honey butter. Sides are priced separately and portions are generously served family style. The desserts are also generously sized and delicious.

While the prices make this a special occasion choice for us, the food and service never disappoint. We prefer to dine earlier in the evening to avoid the prime time crowds from the nearby outlet mall. Jensen's shows up periodically on Groupon, and often has coupons available online. If you're looking for somewhere to go in the Eagan area, we'd recommend Jensen's, our "secret family restaurant", located just off of Highway 13 and Silver Bell Road.



PIONEER NEWS

About 15 seniors enjoyed lunch hosted by the Pioneers on Dec 6th. After lunch everyone shared in fellowship by playing a variety of games.



SCHOOL NEWS

First grade is a new experience, with desks, different teachers for Spanish and Grammar, higher expectations, and more independent work time. Here are some of the first graders' favorite things about first grade:

Maria – "The new teacher is funny!"
Faith – "I'm so happy to have the new teacher!"
Friedrich – "I like that I get my own desk."
Quinn – "I like the new books."
William – "I like my new teacher."
Kaci – "I'm so happy that we have Book-it!"
Noah – "I liked it in Florida, and I like it in Minnesota, too."
Ava – "I like the new classmates this year."
Isaiah – "I like the new teacher."
Jillian – "The best thing about first grade is that I have the best teacher."
Libby – "I like the new books, too!"
J'anna – "There's more kids in our class than last year."
Sierra – "I like art!"
Eli – "I like my new friends."
Dania – "I love reading the new hymnal!"
Jenna – "I like to read Junie B. Jones books."



Here we are, ready for
A brand new year!
Places to go,
People to see,
Yes, and time to share that Jesus has set us free!

New things to learn and do,
Every year is a gift from God!
We thank and praise Him every day!

You can count blessings, by hours, days, and years,
Even through tough times, God gives blessings with the tears.

Always by our side, in good times and in bad,
Remember that, no matter what, He'll bring us to His side!



The second graders have been studying about rainforests. We learned about the plants and animals in the rainforest and had a tasting party to try some of the foods. Then we made rainforest frogs for art. Notice that the frogs have symmetrical designs. We have been learning about symmetry in Math. The frogs were a great way to show what we learned.

Forgetting What Is Behind

"Forget about it." It's a phrase we may say to ourselves when we don't want to face up to something. Perhaps we give it in the form of advice to someone who's complaining about an offense he's received. According to Paul, it's a good thing to do. It's counsel he followed himself: *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me Heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13b-14).

Paul had a past anyone would want to forget. In his Pharisaical zeal, he had caused the imprisonment, persecution, and even death of many who were followers of the Way. All that changed, we know, when he himself faced Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Yet, from our reading of Scripture, we know he didn't "forget what was behind." He brought it up many times as he explained the change that Jesus had brought about in his life to the other apostles and as he testified in the highest courts of the day.

Like Paul, we can't forget about our past sins – and maybe that's good, as long as we remember that Christ has forgotten them! Remembrance of our sins serves the purpose of keeping us humble and grateful, aware that we walk in God's ways only as we rely on Him to lead us, thankful that He forgives all sin, past, present, and future. Then we are not encumbered by guilt (1 John 3:20). We can *"[forget] what's behind"* and *"press on toward the goal"* that Christ has lain out before us as we serve Him with all the gifts He so graciously gives us.

Stewardship Thought

"What do you have that you did not receive?" asks the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 4:7). The world admires the "self-made man," one who has started with little or nothing and has turned it into millions. While we should respect those who work hard and use their gifts wisely, we need to remember that it is God Who is the giver of those gifts and that He gives those gifts for a reason: "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Source: 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship (vol. 2) by Ronald J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors

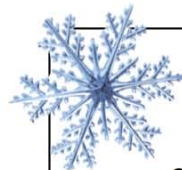
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Miles Graves	18	Serenity Belmares Carrie VandenBosch
2	Dale Herold		
3	Jacob Bejblik	19	Peter Boehlke Rae Fredrich Ryan Hulse Joseph Werz
4	Charles Wiplinger		
5	Beverly Abel Bethany Brigham Skyla Ohm Robert Schmidt Maliah Williams	20	Maxwell Kutz
		21	Bonnie Kurth Abigail Petermann
7	Marlys Kohnke Pamala Otterstatter	23	Jamey Engstrom Scott Pottorff
8	Matthew Lorenz	24	Scott Mulinix
10	Paul Monson	25	Glen Frieze
11	Kay Beebe	26	Nora Schletty
12	Dakota Hulse	27	Abigail Kruse Lyla McClellan Mindy Simonette
13	Timothy Moe		
15	Dakota Krosting Angela Mulinix	29	Scott Portz
16	Emily Footh Ruby Kutz	30	Adam Brigham Isaiah Duff Kevin Kowitz Isabella McClellan
17	Vanessa Belmares Jamie Berg Isabelle Kapanke Trinity Lorenz	31	Jan Mullins

REPORTS

BAPTISM – Lucas Bradley Munoz son of Jose and Kirsten Munoz on Nov 28

DEATH – Arena Maser died 12-02-15, funeral with Pastor Kom on 12-07-15.



Winter Season Announcement

Please walk carefully. Snow removal is contracted for snowfall over 2". For those able to help, shovels and sand have been placed in all entries if a snow has recently fallen or ice has formed making conditions unsafe. Please use the shovel to remove snow or sprinkle some sand over the ice. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 5:00 pm Worship (C) – EGN
3 8:00 am Worship (C) – WSP 9:00 am Worship (C) – EGN 9:15 am Bible Study/SS – WSP 10:15 am Bible Study/SS – EGN 10:30 am Worship (C) – WSP	4 6:30 pm Worship – WSP 7:00 pm Mary/Martha – WSP	5 6:30 pm Handbells – WSP 7:00 pm Evangelism – WSP 7:00 pm Technology Team	6 6:30 pm Public School Confirmation – EGN 7:00 pm Senior Choir – WSP 8:00 pm Praise Band – WSP	7 2:30 pm Southview Service 6:30 pm Pioneer Meeting – WSP	8 5:30 pm Basketball Away Game @ Bloomington	9 5:00 pm Worship – EGN
10 8:00 am Praise Service Worship – WSP 9:00 am Worship – EGN 9:15 am Bible Study/SS – WSP 10:15 am Bible Study/SS – EGN 10:30 am Praise Service Worship – WSP	11 6:30 pm Worship – WSP 7:00 pm Fellowship 7:30 pm Worship Committee	12 6:30 pm Education 6:30 pm Properties 7:00 pm Stewardship	13 6:30 pm Public School Confirmation – EGN 7:00 pm Senior Choir – WSP	14 1:00 pm Circle C – WSP 2:30 pm Southview Service 7:00 pm Elders	15 5:30 pm Basketball Away Game @ King of Grace	16 5:00 pm Worship (C) – EGN 6:00 pm CHILI COOK OFF – WSP
17 8:00 am Worship (C) – WSP 9:00 am Worship (C) – EGN 9:15 am Bible Study/SS – WSP 10:15 am Bible Study/SS – EGN 10:30 am Worship (C) – WSP 6:30 pm Pioneer Swim/Gym Night	18 6:30 pm Worship – WSP	19 7:00 pm Council	20 6:30 pm Bible Class – EGN 6:30 pm Public School Confirmation – EGN 7:00 pm Senior Choir – WSP	21 2:30 pm Southview Service 6:30 pm Pioneer Meeting – WSP 7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery – WSP	22 5:30 pm Basketball HOME Game vs. Good Shepherd	23 Charger Classic Basketball Tournament 9:00 am Pioneer Pine Car Workshop 5:00 pm Worship (C) – EGN
24 8:00 am Worship – WSP 9:00 am Worship – EGN 10:30 am Worship – WSP	25 2:30 pm Lilydale Service 6:30 pm Worship – WSP 7:00 pm Youth & Adult Ed	26	27 6:30 pm Bible Class – EGN 6:30 pm Public School Confirmation – EGN 7:00 pm Senior Choir – WSP 8:00 pm Praise Band – WSP	28 2:30 pm Southview Service	29 5:30 pm Basketball HOME Game vs. Belle Plaine	30 5:00 pm Worship (C) – EGN
31 8:00 am Worship (C) – WSP 9:00 am Worship (C) – EGN 9:15 am Bible Study/SS – WSP 10:15 am Bible Study/SS – EGN 10:30 am Worship (C) – WSP Coristers SING						

JUST FOR FUN

DECEMBER CHALLENGE ANSWERS



**?
GUESS
WHO**



STEVE PETERMANN

WORD SCRAMBLE BAPTIST, JESUS, TRUTH

CROSS WORD



School Hallway Puzzle

Every so often the fifth grade class and Mr. Ohm plan out and design a mural that goes with the lesson they learn about in Christ Light class (Bible History class). They try to pick one that is universally recognizable to make it easy for the lower grades to recognize. When they come up the middle staircase for library or computer lab the goal is to show them a pictorial representation of the lesson they discussed in their religion class.

All the classrooms teaching Christ Light have finished discussing the Exodus from Egypt. The students picked this particular mural several weeks ago and brainstormed how best to represent each plague. Then the students formed groups to design a particular plague of their choosing. When they were done with their assigned plague they pitched in to help other groups finish. Here's some pictures of the finished mural. How many of the 10 plagues can you find? Cf. Exodus chapters 7-11 for a reference.



Please direct ideas, questions or comments about this issue to ZacharyPudlo@crownoflifemn.org



CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Eagan Campus – 4150 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55122