



CROSS POINTS

JANUARY 2017

New Year's Notes from Pastor Russ



Our Homebound

Joyce Reedstrom
Brian Miller
Dixie King
Sister Jo
Cunningham

God Makes All Things New

God's blessings to you as you begin this New Year in His grace. The calendar turning over to a New Year often brings about feelings of a fresh start. It's like hitting the refresh button on your habits, your routines, and your junk drawer! In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther advocates a spiritual practice whereby you feel this way, not merely once a year, but every morning—

In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Luther believed it was important to begin each day with a fresh start. This fresh start was given to you by God in your Baptism whereby He made you His own child and a **new creation** in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The practice of steadily beginning each day with a reminder of this new identity that you have in Christ Jesus will have a much greater impact on you and your life than cleaning out your junk drawer ever will. Be it resolved, that you will begin each day of this New Year in His grace.

It's A First—Mission Trip 2017

On January 14, Holy Cross will send its first short-term mission team to Belize. Please pray for our safe travel and for God's guidance and blessings on our work there. We will be visiting the remote village of Sunday Wood in the district of Punta Gorda. We have a good ministry plan put together for serving the people of Sunday Wood that we look forward to sharing with you on our return. While we have a ministry plan put together, one of the main purposes of this trip is to continue to build a relationship with the people of Sunday Wood that paves the way for future trips and opportunities to serve there. **Make sure to be in worship when we return on January 22 for a report on our experience and God's activity in Sunday Wood.**

A Resource for Families with Children



What is a parent's purpose if not to share Jesus and God's promise of salvation through Him with their children? While parental responsibilities abound, none have more permanent ramifications than teaching your children to trust and follow Jesus. The start of a new year is a great time to either begin or restart devotions with your children. Elisa and I have found the *Five Minute Devotions for Children: Celebrating God's World As A Family* by Pamela and Douglas Kennedy to be a great resource for family devotions. Each devotion uses an animal and some unique characteristic of that animal as a

launching pad into a discussion about God and our relationship to Him.



Aaron McMillan
Daniel Farish,
Nathan Farish
Joel Farish
Christopher Cox
Selena Cox
Phil Hesterman
Robert Butler
Jaclyn Syrone
Sarah Tomlin
Matthew Murch
Marlon Holloway
Michael Dovin
Brandon Davis
Alex Mock
Adam Glass

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A Resource for Families with Children *(continued)*

The conversations are great! According to Amazon it is for children ages 8 and up, but that must be for them to read it on their own. I would say it works well for ages 4 and up, if you read and discuss it with them. The same authors have 5 – Minute Devotions using Old Testament and New Testament stories, but we have not yet used those. However, if they are as well thought out as the books using animals, they are probably good as well.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Russ

Attention Host/Greeters– There is a sign up sheet for 2017 in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall from the Narthex. Please stop by and sign up.

In His Service January

Communion Assistants: 8:15–Ken Kvalheim, 10:30 – Ernie Sheffield, Charles McMillan

Ushers: 8:15–Robert Williams, Scott Godbold, 10:30– David Duffala, Knut Mueller

	Acolytes	Readers	Altar	Sound System
1-Jan				
8:15		Greg Cleveland	Jeannine Johnson	
10:30		Peggy Sheffield	M. McMillan	Mike Counselman
8-Jan				
8:15	Cadence Powell	Amelia Tomlin	Lee Cox	Stephen Adler
10:30	Alyson Harman	Byron Krogen	MA Brutkiewicz	Benjamin McMillan
15-Jan				
8:15		Paul Freeman	J&K Farish	Jacob Farish
10:30	Cate Langley	Russell Cox	Turner & Adler	Morgan Sumrall
22-Jan				
8:15	Cadence Powell	Jim Farish	J&K Farish	Stephen Adler
10:30	Dylan Johnson	Genavese Harris	M. Millan	Benjamin McMillan
29-Jan				
8:15		Hope Godbold	Jeannine Johnson	Jacob Farish
10:30	Mandy Taddei	Bob Pomrenke	J&J Brutkiewicz	Morgan Sumrall



Social Ministry Happy New Year from the Social Ministry Committee. Thanks for all of your generous support of our 2016 projects. We all are very blessed to be a part of a church family that shows Jesus' love in our lives in tangible ways in the community and are looking forward to many more opportunities in the New Year.

Thanks to the Fellowship Teams with their Thrivent Action cards and the congregation, we were able to collect hundreds of cold winter items for the homeless. Some of the items were distributed through the New Hope Development Ministry Angel Tree Project December 23. Remaining items will be passed out in January.

Brown Bags are returning in January! This month's collection will be items for food bags for the homeless. Bags will be out January 8 and due back January 22. The Social Ministry Committee will hold Sandwich Saturday January 28 at New Hope's new facility on Springhill Avenue. Since the weather is cold, we will serve soup and hot dogs to our guests and give each person a food bag and some of the cold weather items collected in December. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Mary Anne or any member of the Social Ministry Committee.

Watch your newsletters for upcoming activities.

Social Ministry is always looking for new members. We work hard, but we have fun! Contact Mary Anne (251-586-3596) maryannemaria@bellsouth.net to volunteer.

Save the Date:

Holy Cross Family Spring Retreat- Camp Dixie April 28-30. Mark your calendar and watch the newsletter for more information. You won't want to miss this event!

COOLER WEATHER GEAR NEEDED

As the days get shorter and the nights get cooler, Bob Anderson is looking for coats, gloves, blankets and sleeping bags for the homeless downtown. If you have items to donate, please place them in the container in the Education Hall. Thanks



Thank you for the wonderful Christmas gift. We look forward to serving you in the New Year!

PAX (peace in Christ)

Pastor Russ, Elisa, Suzy, Katie, & Shelby



Thrivent Choice Dollars and Action Teams- Please remember to designate your choice dollars. You still have time to designate 2016 Choice Dollars.

If you are helping with a charity event/at the church or in the community, consider applying for a Thrivent Action Team and receive \$250.00 to help with your project. Go to Thrivent.com for details.



3-Korin Taddei

3-Donna Turner

5-Morgan Sumrall

6-Beth Gipson

7-Miranda Segler

8-Crystal Raper

9-Allyson Harman

11-Jim Farish

12-Devin Edgeworth

15-Robert White

17-Carter Cox

20-Melba Williams

21-Gus Cox

21-Bill Mann

24-Tommy Flint

26-Zack Mann

27-Lee Edgeworth

28-Janice Dittmann



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Russ Gipson, Pastor

Elisa Gipson, Organist

Ladies Guild

We are looking forward to the new year with much excitement.

This year we have budgeted for on going support for seminary student Adam Rodriguez & family, hosting the Azalea Zone Rally this spring. These are just two of the many exciting service opportunities we have plan for 2017. Please make plans to join us at one or both of the meetings. The Morning Circle will meet January 11 @ 9:30 AM and the Evening Circle will meet January 24 @ 6:00 PM.

Did you get any new electronics for Christmas and don't know what to do with your old stuff? We have a suggestion.

Recycle to Raise Funds towards the 2019 National Convention in Mobile, Alabama



It's a project of the LWML Gulf States District to raise funds for the 2019 National Convention while doing something good for the environment! All you have to do is donate the following items:

Laser jet and Inkjet cartridges -

Hewlett Packard, Lexmark , Brother some Canons

They must have a metal print head. (if not sure, bring it and we'll figure it out.)

**Cell phones, digital camera, e-readers, tablets, laptops
& scientific calculators.** Include all accessories and batteries if you have them.

Bring you items to the church office and they will be sent to a recycling company that will safely recycles them.
Questions? Ask Lynn Freeman, Maryanne Brutkiewicz or Suzy Cleveland





January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:15 Divine Service 9:30 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9-11 Nifty Knitters</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00 PM Elders</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00 Emotions Anonymous</p> <p>Epiphany</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:15 Divine Service 9:30 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 PM Quarterly Planning meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 Ladies Guild 9-11 Nifty Knitters</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 pm Beta Sigma Phi</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00 Emotions Anonymous</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Mission Trip to Belize 14th -21st</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:15 Divine Service 9:30 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30PM YAF</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9-11 Nifty Knitters</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30 OR Nurses</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00 Emotions Anonymous</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Mission Report Sunday</p> <p>8:15 Divine Service 9:30 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 PM Ladies Guild 6:30PM YAF</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9-11 Nifty Knitters</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:00 Emotions Anonymous</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Sandwich Saturday</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:15 Divine Service 9:30 Bible Class 10:30 Divine Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30PM YAF 6:00 PM Hospitality team leader meeting</p>				