Crossties

CROSS of CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2012

Our Vision Statement

We see ourselves as a loving, joy-filled family of believers gathered in celebration and praise around our Lord Jesus Christ. As Bible-based Christians, we seek to share God's word of salvation and to live daily in His healing, hope and guidance. We are committed to reaching out to the whole community, as we embrace and nurture new brothers and sisters with our Savior's own forgiveness and love.

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Organized…Disorganized…Empowered!

Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

Sometimes I wonder if pastors are supposed to be "organized" people, because if they are, then I'm a failure. No matter how hard I try to plan out my week, half a dozen unexpected issues come up. My desk and office never look like they belong to an engineer, so I guess it's good that's not my vocation. It's not that I don't plan or want to be organized; I'm actually an enthusiastic planner. It's just the carrying-out of my plans that suffers.

All of this is food for thought for the upcoming annual New Year's "planning binge." You know what I'm referring to, as we grapple with the unknowns and challenges of the next twelve months. We wholeheartedly want to do better as we make resolutions for the year ahead. But those resolutions, no matter how well conceived … how earnestly desired … how seriously decided … almost always wind up on the scrap-heap of "best laid plans." We don't plan to fail; we just don't follow through!

Thanks be to God that our eternal destiny does not depend on how well we keep our promises to our Lord or to ourselves. If it did, there would be no place for any of us in our Heavenly Father's plans for us. Miraculously, the reality of God's love is this: if we are "organized" disciples, we make our way to heaven no sooner than "disorganized" disciples. God is the Faithful One – and that's all that matters! He is faithful to the promise that has rung out across the centuries since Jeremiah spoke it, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

But His faithfulness also has enormous power for us NOW! Let us never doubt that, although our heavenly home depends on Christ alone, this life has a strong point of contact with our eternal life. God calls us to begin our new life in Him right now. To this end He promises to guide and direct and prosper that new life all along the way. Through the Holy Spirit's power each day we can do great things for Him! We are to provide a glimpse of heaven for all those around us who view life as an end unto itself.

Therefore, as we make plans for another year of God's grace and goodness, may we each include resolutions which have an end beyond ourselves, an end meant to provide a window into eternity for the world's weary travelers in 2012.

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JANUARY 2012

"Blueprints For A New Year"

December 31, 2011

The New Year is just around the corner.

Looking into my crystal ball, I would like to tell you what will happen in 2012.

Oh, wait! That's right. I don't have a crystal ball. Nobody has a crystal ball, which means nobody has the ability to make a definite promise that something will -- or will not -- happen.

Of course, that doesn't mean people won't try to predict what their tomorrows might hold.

Over 200 years ago, off the coast of Plymouth, England, a lighthouse was built to warn oncoming ships of the dangerous reefs. The architect of the lighthouse, a fellow by the name of Winstanley was absolutely convinced this lighthouse could survive any storm or wave that might come its way.

Indeed, Mr. Winstanley was so sure his creation could handle the future that he had these words carved on the cornerstone: "BLOW, O YE WINDS! RISE, O OCEAN! BREAK FORTH, YE ELEMENTS, AND TRY MY WORK!"

To make a long story short, the winds did blow, the oceans did rise, and the work of the lighthouse was tried.

The lighthouse was tried and found wanting. In took less than three years for it to be reduced to a pile of rubble and swept away.

Even though Winstanley's lighthouse was gone, the ships still needed a warning. John Smeaton, a Christian engineer, was asked to redesign and rebuild the light of warning. He did. And when he was finished, the cornerstone read, "Except the Lord Build the House, They Labor in Vain that Build It." For many years that lighthouse has stood every test.

Continued on right column

Now I don't know what wind and wave will come crashing down on you in 2012. I do know this: if you try to stand on your own, trusting in your own wisdom and ability, you will go down like Winstanley's lighthouse. On the other hand, if every day of this new year is founded on the Savior who gave His life for our salvation, you will be able to stand as a witness to Jesus; you will be able to withstand the storms and waves.

Which will, my friends, make 2012 a very good year!

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, in 2012 keep me from pride and overconfidence. Let me recognize I can only stand against the storms of life if my life is built upon Jesus. In His Name I offer up this prayer. Amen.

**Devotion is from Lutheran Hour Ministries*
Written by: Pastor Ken Klaus
http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp

Just for FUN!

Chattanooga "Enjoy the City"

Also featuring Cleveland, Dalton & North Georgia, **COUPON book**

The Thrivent Chapter is selling the "Enjoy the City" coupon book to raise funds for a Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity home that will be built in Chattanooga in 2012. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga will be working with the local Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the area Lutheran congregations to build the home. The coupon book offers over $1000 in savings on restaurants, entertainment, recreation, services and retail and features more than 50 popular local merchants. Most coupons are buy one, get one free and expire in December 2012. The cost of the book is **$20** and can be viewed and purchased from your Thrivent Advocates, Bob Timm and Elaine Burns. The coupon book sale ends soon, so see your Thrivent Advocate and buy one today. The books will also be available at the pancake breakfast if current supplies run out. Contact Elaine Burns at (423) 236-4660 or eburnsrph@gmail.com for additional information.

Applebee's Pancake Breakfast

There will be a pancake breakfast on Saturday, January 14, 2012 from 8:00 to 10:00 am EST at the Applebee's located at 2342 Shallowford Village Drive (located off Shallowford Road near I-75) to raise funds for a Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity home that will be built in Chattanooga in 2012. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga will be working with the local Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the area Lutheran congregations to build the home. The cost of the pancake breakfast is $5 per person. You can purchase tickets from your Thrivent Advocate. Contact Elaine Burns at (423) 236-4660 or eburnsrph@gmail.com for additional information

LWML

Attention Cross of Christ Women! We will have our first LWML meeting of 2012 on Saturday, January 14, at 2:00, at the church. We only meet three times per year but are involved in many volunteer activities in the church and community. I promise you'll find something to get your attention. Give us a try, I think you'll like it! If you have any questions, call Eunice Timm at 423-624-2588. See you there!

Cross of Christ LWML has openings to serve. We need both a Vice President and a Secretary. Talk to Eunice (624-2588) or Irma (842-4777) if you are willing to serve in either capacity. There are also opportunities to serve on the Zone level - just let Irma know if you are interested.

PLEASE NOTE THE QUILTING LADIES WILL RESUME QUILTING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012, AT 9:30 a.m.
WE WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO JOIN US

Adopt-A-Seminarian

With the economy as it is, this is a critical time for helping seminary students with their tuition. If you could help (especially since our own Derek Waffel and Rev. William Miller are in St. Louis) please talk to Pastor about the details of this synodical program, which is being promoted across our Synod.

Need to contact an Elder?

Scott Brewster has offered his contact information for anyone who needs it:

Scott Brewster
Account Manager
Desk-648-1583
Cell-704-1583
Email Brewsterks@epb.net

Crossties

JANUARY 2012

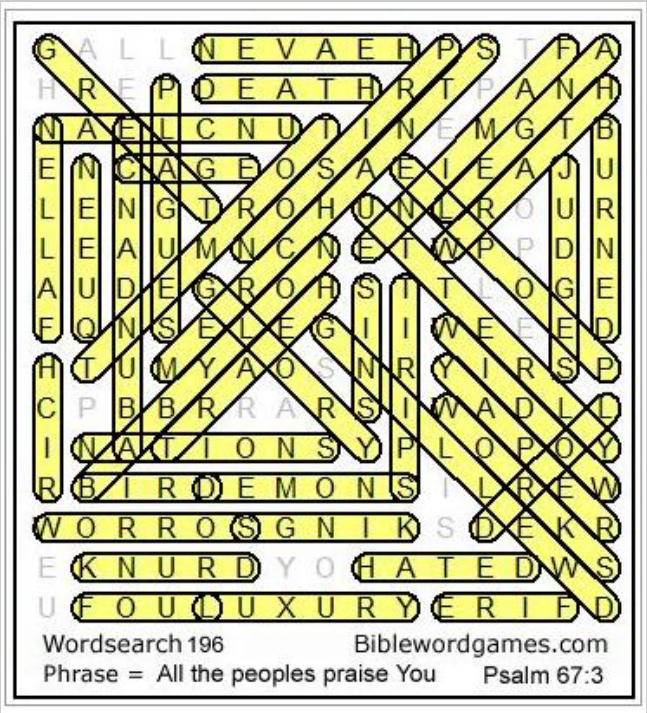
Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives to His beloved sleep.

Psalms 137: 1-2

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

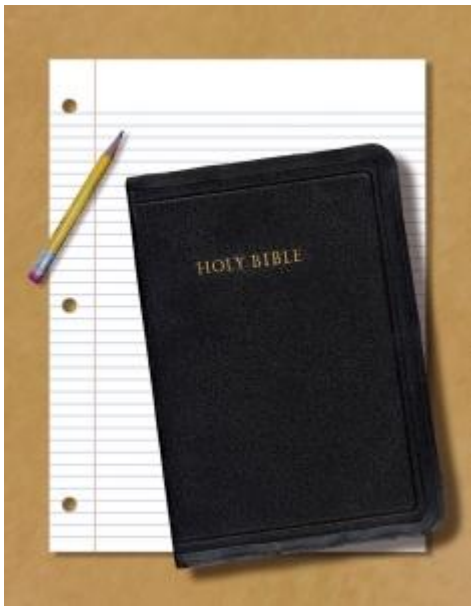
Answers Just for Fun



*http://biblewordgames.com/wordsearchpage196.htm

COC Youth

The quilters would like to thank the youth group for putting together all the school kits for shipping. That was a great big help to us. Thank you so much.



Do you have information that you want put into the next edition of Crossties? You can submit any information or articles to Danielle Thorsen in the following ways:

- Submit online by clicking the Submit an Announcement online!
- Email to daniellethor@gmail.com or newsletter@cocluth.com
- Call Danielle at (256) 694 – 1286

Crossties

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM Morn. Wors.w/Hc 9:45 AM SS&BC 11:00 AM Contem.Serv. w/Hc Pastor Gone	*2* 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	*3*	*4* 6:00 PM "Wed. Nite Live" 7:30 PM Adult Choir	*5* 8:00 PM "Bible & Brews"	*6*	*7*
8 8:30 AM Morn. Wors. 9:45 AM SS&BC 11:00 AM Contem.Wors. 7:00 PM Bell Choir	*9* 7:00 PM Bd. of Elders' Mtg. 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	*10* 9:30 AM Mission Quilt'kshop 9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study Grp	*11* 5:00 PM Jr. Confirm.w/meal 6:00 PM "Wed. Nite Live" 7:30 PM Adult Choir	*12* 7:00 PM Bd. of Elders' Mtg. 8:00 PM "Bible & Brews"	*13*	*14* 8:00 AM Pancake Breakfast @ Applebee's on Shallowford Rd. 9:30 AM LWML Zone Mtg. (First Luth.)
15 8:30 AM Morn. Wors.w/Hc 9:45 AM SS&BC 11:00 AM Contem.Serv. w/Hc 7:00 PM Bell Choir	*16* 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	*17* 9:30 AM Mission Quilt'kshop	*18* 5:00 PM Jr. Confirm.w/meal 6:00 PM "Wed. Nite Live" 7:30 PM Adult Choir	*19* 8:00 PM "Bible & Brews"	*20*	*21*
22 8:30 AM Morn. Wors. 9:45 AM SS&BC 11:00 AM Contem.Wors. 7:00 PM Bell Choir	*23* 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	*24* 9:30 AM Mission Quilt'kshop 9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study Grp	*25* 5:00 PM Jr. Confirm.w/meal 6:00 PM "Wed. Nite Live" 7:30 PM Adult Choir	*26* 8:00 PM "Bible & Brews"	*27*	*28*
29 8:45 AM SS&BC **10:00 AM One Blended Service** 7:00 PM Bell Choir	*30* 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	*31* 9:30 AM Mission Quilt'kshop				

December 11

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

Crossties

JANUARY 2012

Those Who Serve in October

	1	8	15	22	29
Elders	8:30 Bob Timm and Kent Kressenburg 11:00 Scott Brewster and Marc Burns				
Readers 8:30	Connie Hamilton	Gordon & Judy VanLoon	Philip McCall	Larry Zhender	
Readers 11:00	Ann Hunt	Scott & Allison Brewster	Philip McCall	Dave & Cara Welsh	
Greeters 8:30	Dave Murray	Elaine Jones	Richard & Lanette Bagley	Julia Edmundson	Jo Parham
Greeters 11:00	Jim & Sandi Reisenbeuchler	Jim & Penni Walpert	Rick & Laura Dalke	Ray & Pat Veldman	
Altar Guild	Sherry Reed and Donna Flippen				
Acolytes	Jacob and Jared Clemmons	Jacob and Jared Clemmons	Jacob and Jared Clemmons	Jacob and Jared Clemmons	Jacob and Jared Clemmons

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Return service requested