

**Newsletter article for January  
by Pastor Gerald Roise**

Do you take down the Christmas decorations right after Christmas or do you leave them up into the new year? This year there seems to have been more lights than ever! As we've driven around Minot, there seems to be lights everywhere! Not always such elaborate lights but lights in many special places. Might it have been our way of celebrating and finding joy in those things we felt safe doing in 2020? Lights gave us a time of hope and promise at Christmas. It makes sense that it might be hard to take down the Christmas lights this year.

What is truly important, are the lights that we leave up on our pathway into 2021. A pathway of lights is key for us to not get lost or derailed as we head into 2021. Our new battery-operated tools come with automatic lights so you can see your work as they are turned on. Motion detecting lights pop on in key locations so we don't even need to prepare ahead of time with a flashlight. We even have cell phones that provide light whenever we want!

It seems appropriate to ask about and focus on the lights that you have in place along your faith journey into 2021. How important to affirm that Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior is the only **true light forward**. How do we intentionally let that light shine into the corners of our journey forward?

Can I suggest that we each find at least twelve Bible verses or hymns, one per month, that can serve as faith lights into this new year. Bible Verses or hymns that we would focus upon individually or together, offering a path of light shining on Christ's presence in our journey.

We all know the uncertainty in which our faith is tested through the continuing changes we face each week. To have a particular verse or hymn as our monthly theme might be a way to focus on the foundation of Christ in our lives. Maybe you would rather have a new one each week? But the idea of revisiting the same reading or hymn over and over again adds

depth and meaning. Writing down our thoughts or ideas as we ponder these verses also molds and shapes a deeper relationship with our Savior as we invite Him into the new year with us.

Having twelve favorite faith lights seems manageable and important. Personally, I would pick **Psalm 118:24** as my first. "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Isaiah 40:31** is a key light for me, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on Eagles Wings."

**Matthew 28:20** "I am with you always."

There is nothing magical about these three, we each have those that talk to our hearts. I offer them only as suggestions. Please take some time to find scriptures that speaks to you and will shine light along your path. Plan ahead for the year or enjoy the challenge of selecting the one which you will lift and focus upon each month.

Blessings to all in 2021, I pray the light of Christ will shine "His presence" brightly into your world.

Pastor Gerald

**Annual Reports are due in the office  
by 4:00pm, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Put on your calendar that the Annual Meeting is Sunday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am.  
On the agenda will be, election of officers and approval of annual budget.**

**SUNDAY MORNING  
CIRCLE  
WILL TAKE PLACE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
@ 9:30 AM (ACVITIY ROOM)**

# Mary Circle

January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am  
(Fellowship Room)

## December Offering

12/06	\$7724
12/13	\$4344
12/20	\$7775
12/27	\$10,012
Electronic	\$9494
Online	\$3899

## December Ministerial Acts

**Funerals:** Lorraine Grondahl, Byron Rollman, Owen Fawbush

**Baptism:** Layton Clark

## Dec 2020 Memorials:

*In Memory of Val Swenson*

**Music** from Charles & Sue Taft, Daryl & Liane Anderson.

**CHIF** from Nancy Stevenson.

**Undesignated** from Lane & Ardis Evans, Bradley & Lori Bunge.

*In Memory of Adeline Mueller*

**Ministry of Care** from Bill & Bev Jensen.

*In Memory of Shirley Bohmbach*

**Sanctuary Choir** from Bryan & Nadine Holmly.

*In Memory of Arnold Olander & Levi Grindy*

**Undesignated** from Mark & Rhonda Grindy & family.

*In Memory of Lorraine Grondahl*

**Undesignated** from B & T Aufforth, Ed & Paulette Nush, Minot Public School Technology Department.

## Bethany Foundation Dec 2020:

**Memory of Lorraine Grondahl**

By Alma Lee

**Memory of Val Swenson**

By Alma Lee and Greg Simonson

**Memory of Adeline Mueller**

By Lowell & Ann Latimer

**Memory of Orlan & Rosella Tollefson**

By ELCA Unitrust established by Orlan & Rosella Tollefson

## LYO January Calendar!

Wednesday-January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021- Jeopardy

Wednesday-January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021-Pictionay

Wednesday-January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021-Among Us

Wednesday-January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021-Scavenger Hunt

We are still doing LYO via zoom. If you have not joined us, and would like to, you can reach out to Donna Randash for the information on how to connect with us. We always have lots of laughs, and enjoy our time together even though we are apart.

## The Village Education Project

The Village Education Project in the Central African Republic trains village members as elementary school teachers. Use the global mission envelope in your offering box to support our Cause of the Month.

**Miriam Bible Study**

**Jan 14 @ 2:00pm**

**(Fellowship Room)**

**Ruth**  
**Circle**

The BLCW has donated 2400.00 to organizations in the Minot area that were a part of the Twice Blessed program and another \$400.00 to other organizations in the Minot area.



## Bethany Birthdays!

### January:

### Pastor Janet's Joke of the Month

Q: At what time of day was Adam created?

A: A little before Eve.

Q: Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?

A: No, just an apple.

Q: What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

A: Ruthless

Q: Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A: Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once

Q: Where is the first math problem mentioned in the bible?

A: When God told Adam and Eve to go forth and multiply.

Q: What do we have that Adam never had?

A: Ancestors

Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A: It's Christmas, Eve!

Q: How long did Cain hate his brother?

A: As long as he was Abel.

Q: Why did God create man before woman?

A: Because He didn't want any advice on how to do it.



Your 2021 offering envelopes are available to be picked up at the office. If you give online you will still have envelopes. Thank you!

**Due to Covid-19 we will not be having a rhubarb fest but if you would like to do some baking and need rhubarb, please stop by the office!**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Sara Foreid, Betty Frantsvog, Leah Larson, Nancy Morken
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Allen Hirzel, Brett Morris, Ryan Rasmusson
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Gloria Castleman, Tate Schindler
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Branon Dyke
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Joshua Knutson, Debra Lee, Pat Walz
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Declan Bourquin, Steve Files, Malesa Ofsthun, Sharyl Roth, Lacey Stenvold, Jane Trihub
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Dawn Everson, Margo Filipkowski, Gail Hall, Phyllis Hanson
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Michael Anderson, Nancy Lucy
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Haley Egeberg, Roxann Meinert
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Melvin Boger, Wyatt Casey, Norine Coffin
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Berit Meinert, Kenneth Ofsthun, Greg Simonson, Sue Taft
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Jaeley Bambenek, Emily Dennis
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Jorn Brose, Lana Thompson
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Audrey Eidsness
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Brent Armstrong, Lincoln Rasmusson, Larry Walter
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Lance Gehring, Charlotte Kremer
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Brenda Cook, Arianna Gangl, Wenona Nielsen, Holly Shaw, Caleb Walker
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Brady Grosz
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Margaret Schmidt
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wyatt Grindy, Arlene Michalenko, Ron Thunshelle, Jay Wold
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Monda Berg, Janice Mattern, Patty Overvold, Alroy Schoenberg
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Trevor Bearman, MaKenzie Chilson, Karen Fawbush, Jayden Okeson, Joatta Siebert, Christopher Stroschein
- 26<sup>th</sup> – EmmaLee Christiansen, Jessica Schafer
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Ryan Hokenson, Jeremy Meinert, Averie Zietz
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Jason Bambenek
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Justin Gantzer
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Owen Evanoff, Darlene Harstad, Dennis Wright

Also, Happy Birthday to anyone whose name is not on the list. If your name is not on the list then we don't have it, so please call the office with it. Thank you!