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Messenger of Peace

The monthly newsletter of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2022



Messenger of Peace is a publication of Peace Lutheran Church, Wautoma, Wisc.

Purpose: Messenger of Peace serves the Peace Lutheran Church family with information about people and events that are part of the Peace ministry and with articles that encourage Christian living.

Articles: Please forward information and articles to Christine in the office by the 3rd Sunday of each month. Email it to: peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.



THE LORD, IS THE
Rock
eternal.

ISAIAH 26:4

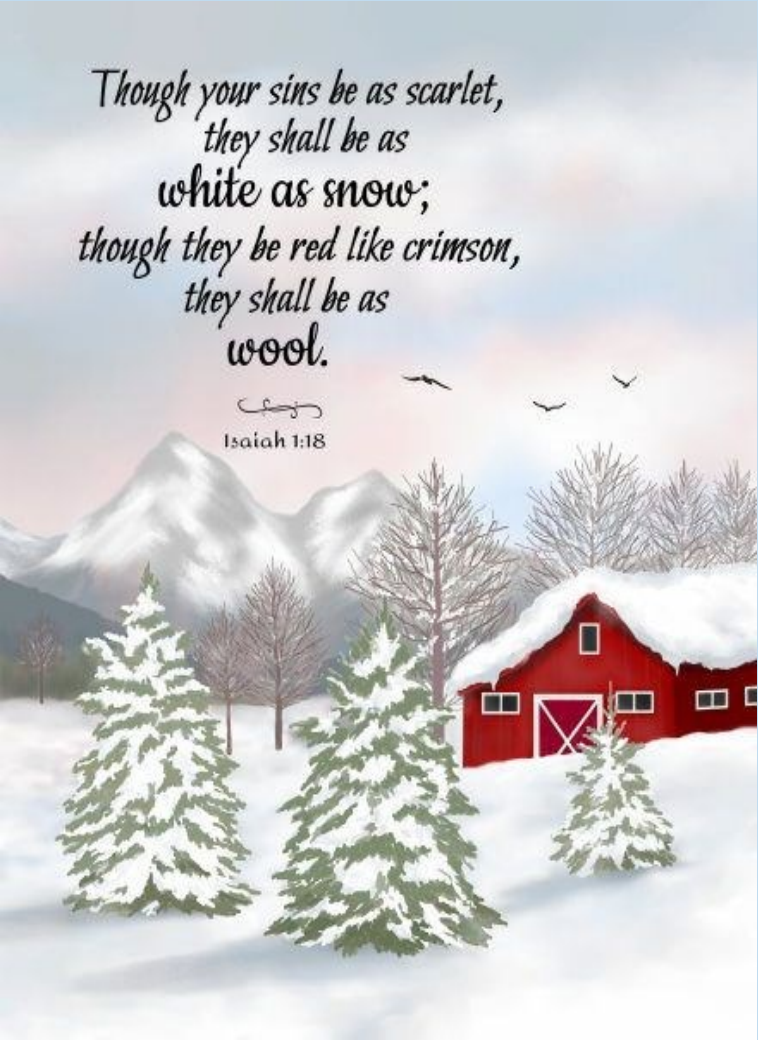
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Though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as
white as snow;
though they be red like crimson,
they shall be as
wool.

Isaiah 1:18



Happy New Year!

You see this abbreviated term all over the place: 'est.' It means 'established.' As we go forward into 2022, our hearts are filled with questions: What will be established in our lives? Who will leave us? Who will be born? What will still be the same when we gather together for worship one year from today in 2023? No matter what, we know the most important part of our lives, our Savior God and his means of grace, the gospel in Word and sacraments, has been established and will stand forever. Standing on the crest of a new year, we pray with Moses in Psalm 90: May the favor of our God rest upon us in 2022!

Having the favor of our God rest upon us is not our natural condition. Our sins arouse the wrath of God. *"We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan."* His anger is holy and righteous, desiring nothing but purity and justice from all people. Nothing we say, think, or do, even in the most secretive of places, can be hidden from the eyes of our all-knowing God.

In countless ways each day, we violate his perfect will. The time we have in this world is marred by sin; troubles are a constant companion. The first generations of this world lived close to 1,000 years, but because of our sinfulness, things have changed. Moses says, *"The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."*

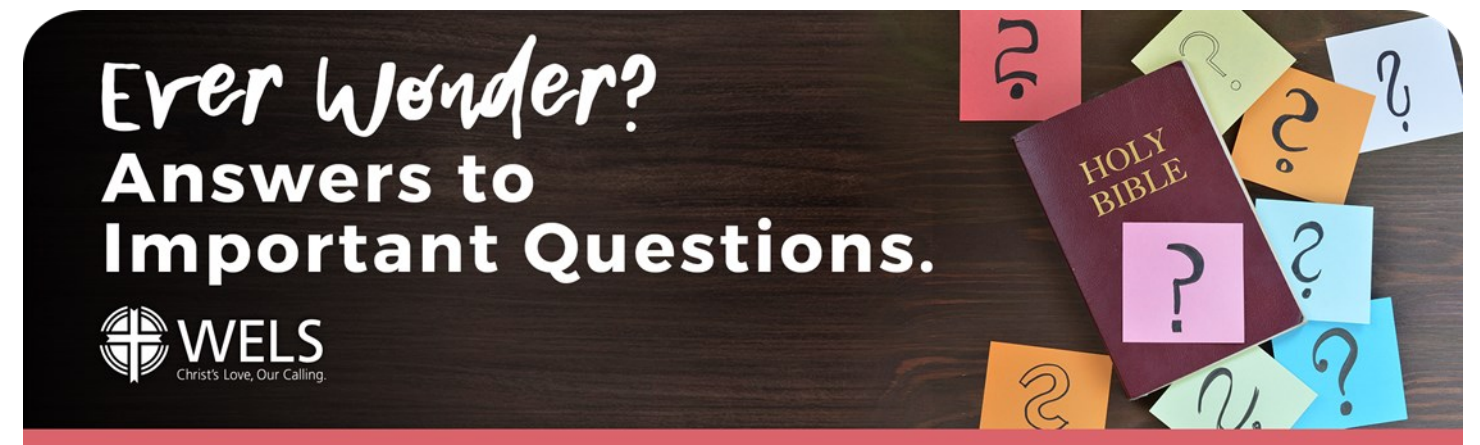
The beginning and end of most human lives are remarkably similar. We enter this world with nothing; we leave this world with as much. This shouldn't surprise us. God has told us it will be this way. Moses speaks about God: *"You turn men back to dust, saying, 'Return to dust, O sons of men. You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.'"*

If our lives are so frail, so brief, and so seemingly insignificant in the grand scheme of things, then why should we consider God to be our dwelling place? The answer is simple: He is our unchanging Creator. In the most selfless act of love we will ever know, God sent his Son to be our Savior. Because of the forgiveness of sins Jesus won for us by his dying on the cross, we will get to be a part of the eternal life in heaven. *"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night."*

Because Jesus has answered our prayers for deliverance, our outlook on life is completely changed. *"Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days."* In the miracle of Christmas we are still celebrating, God the Father answered the cries of his people. The love of Jesus carried our sins to his cross and forgave them there. The love of Jesus means he has come back from death so that the kingdom of heaven might be opened to all who believe.

Because we have a risen Savior who lives and rules from everlasting to everlasting, we will be with him in everlasting peace. *"Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children."* In heaven, we will have timeless joys at the right hand of Jesus. In heaven, affliction will never bother us again. In heaven, we will see face-to-face the Lord whose deeds have ransomed us from the devil, the world, and our own sinful selves. In heaven, we will see the full glory and splendor of God, and no one will be able to take it away from us.

What will be established in 2022? The Lord alone knows, but we do know with certainty that our Lord himself, and his completed work of salvation, will never change. We can pray about 2022 with the closing words of Moses in Psalm 90: *"May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands."* Come what may, may the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us in 2022!



What is Eternal Life?

It is that time again when we encounter the change from the old year to the new. For some, the ushering in of a new year is a ritual of staying up until midnight to make a bunch of noise or perhaps sing an old song. Yet, one way or another, the beginning of a new year is a time of reflection and planning. We take stock of what happened in the last year. We think of our pains, regrets, joys, surprises, births, and deaths. We also look to the future and ponder what we want to do differently in days to come.

In all of our planning, though, there is this unalterable fact that life here will end. Our time is finite. It has a limit. In fact, everything about this world has a limit.

The Bible tells us of one thing, however, that has no end. Referring to those who follow him, Jesus said, *"I give them eternal life"* (John 10:28). In view of our knowledge and experience of limited life in this world, we wonder what eternal life is.

Jesus explains, *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life"* (John 5:24). Life is being connected to God and his blessings. The opposite is death, which is separation from God and his goodness. All people are born separated from God because, by nature, they are sinners. As a result, they are headed toward an eternal separation from God to be condemned in a very real place called hell.

But God did something very great. He sent the world a Savior who is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God. In an unmatched act of love, Jesus placed himself under our condemnation for sin. He willingly suffered the death sentence that all of us deserve.

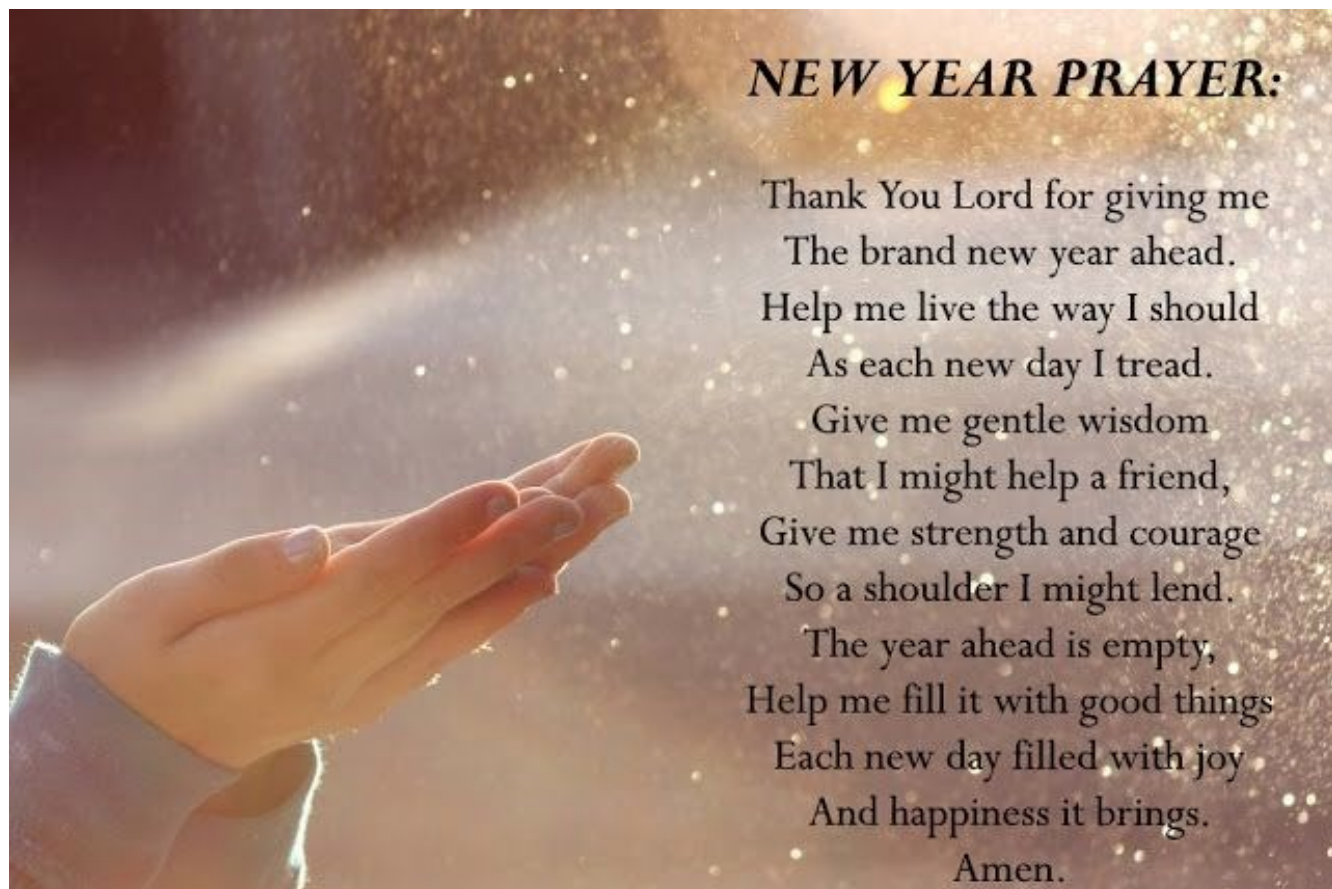
Through Jesus, God has forgiven the world's sin, which separated people from him, and he gives the gift of eternal life. All who listen to the Savior and believe in God who sent him have eternal life. By faith in the true God of salvation, they have crossed over from death to life. They do not face the fear of separation from God, but they rejoice in a close and blessed relationship with him now and forever.

What a great way to start a new year! We have the confidence that no matter what has happened in days gone by, and whatever the future holds, our life with God is secured forever by faith in Jesus.



Plan now to join us for the WELS Women's Ministry Conference at Luther Prep in Watertown on July 21-23, 2022. We will dig into Ephesians and learn about the richness of God's grace. Grace that moved Jesus Christ to the cross and won us by his blood. Find out how that truth shapes and impacts us as women in the church, home, and workplace.

For more information, visit wels.net/event/2022-wels-womens-ministry-conference/



URGENT NEED



We are in urgent need of people to learn how to run the sound/video equipment for church services, as well as people to learn how to use the Hymnsoft for when we don't have an organist.

Please talk to Kevin Bohn (920-765-2146) if you can assist in either of these ways.

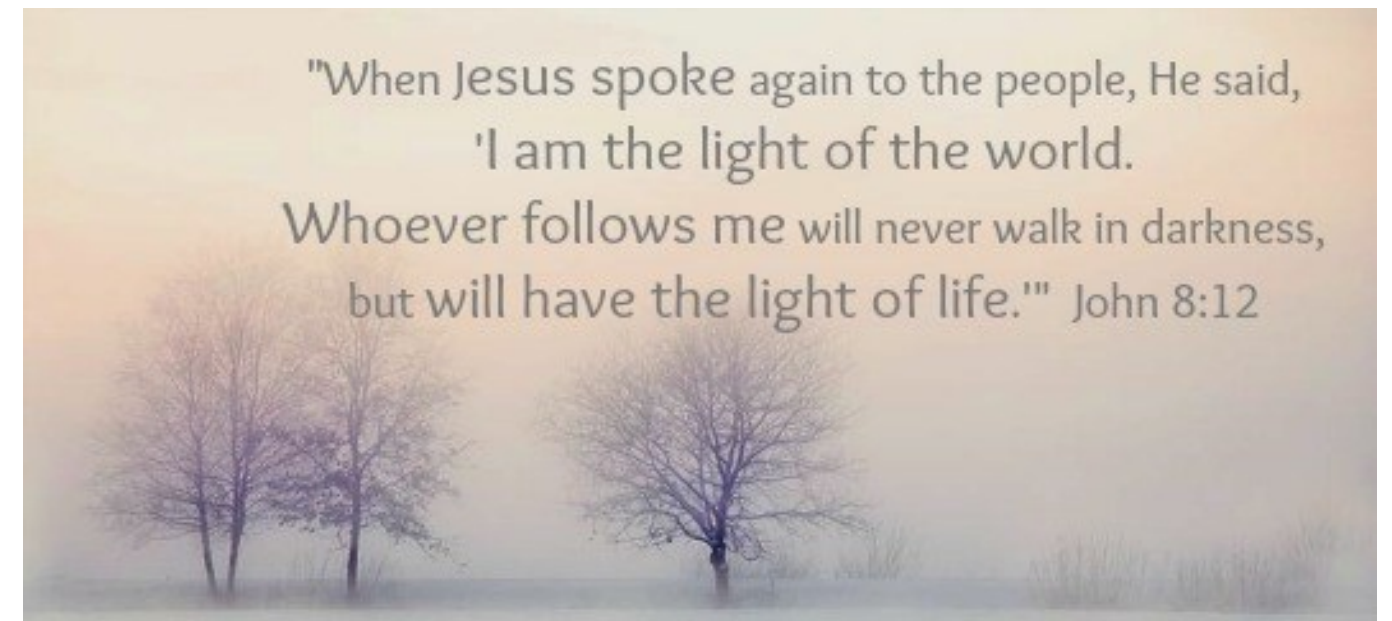
Pill Bottles Needed



The Circle of Peace is collecting empty pill bottles with covers (labels removed) for the Central Africa Medical Mission. Please place in the box on the back table. Please see Sheryl Bohlmann with any questions.

New Hymnals

If you would like to purchase a hymnal for the sanctuary in honor of or in memory of someone, please see Christine in the office.



Contact Updates Needed

Did you get a new email address this year? Changed cell numbers or moved to a new home? Please let the church office know any information changes so that our records are up-to-date!

You can email changes to peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com, call at 787-3856,

or drop off a copy of changes during regular office hours.

Thanks for helping us stay current!

Peace Pantry Hours



Peace Pantry is open during regular office hours during the week and by appointment.

The pantry is open to our members and the community.

Call Christine at 920-787-3856 for more information.

2022 Coffee Hour

If you would like to host coffee hour, please sign up on the sheet on the table at the back in the fellowship hall.

The Visit of the Magi

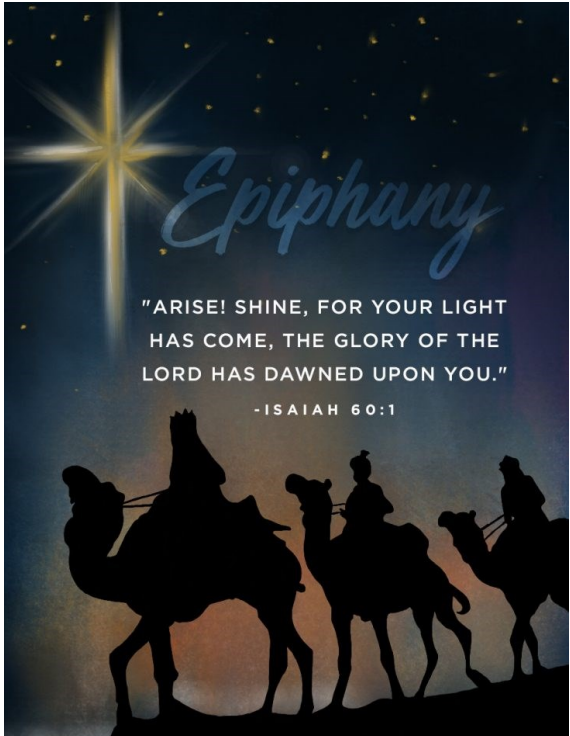
On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).



Y W A Y L X P H C H H M Q D H
K N N T Y I G R Q V O E G M B
W I U A W C N N I R U W R Y R
O V N R T E A C H E R S R O G
R W Q G X T R V E K S A O M D
S O M C H R I S T N M T E K E
H R O V B G H V L M S H S O H
I S T Y L O O U G I E E H C Q
P H H U A D U O B L E B R Y J
E I E Y Z V S E H N M A G I D
D P R O N Y E T V A E G H L Q
G B O R N H E E A S T R I B T
T P B K F B G A V E R H W C E
P M W I C I N E J Y C S T A R
M M B Q D D L V M V T X L X Y

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD



Tell Me A Joke!



Q: What do you call an old snowman?
A: Water!
Q: What does a snowman eat for breakfast?
A: Frosted flakes!
Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a shark?
A: Frostbite!



January Birthdays

- 1/1 Dayna Lemke
- 1/8 Jonah Siegel
- 1/10 Boone Welty
- 1/16 John Hannemann
- 1/19 Julie Tetzlaff
- Joshua Wedde
- 1/21 Jack Snyder
- Carlyle Schmidt
- 1/25 Char Vanier
- 1/27 LouAnn Treichel



January Anniversaries

- 1/20 Ken & Marie Kasper (33)

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, that means the church does not have it. Please drop off dates at the church office, call 787.3856 or email peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.



Sunday School Corner

Sunday School meets every Sunday from 10:15-11:15 am. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Sunday School Christmas Service on December 18 a success:

All our Sunday School kids & families; the Sunday School staff: Mrs. Landwehr, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Bohn, and Mrs. Tews; Pastor Tews; Kevin Bohn; Robin Rudolph; the ladies choir; Sy Vanisaveth

Now that our Christmas service is over, it's back to regular lessons! We know it's easy to think that now is a great time to "take a break" from Sunday school, but every Sunday is important! Here are January lessons:

Date	Lesson
January 2	The woman of Samaria
January 9	Jesus Heals a Paralytic
January 16	The Young Man of Nain
January 23	The Upper Room
January 30	Betrayal in Gethsemane
February 6	Peter's Denial

Sunday School is an extension of the family. We are here to assist families in their job of teaching and preparing young Christians for life. We consider it a privilege to serve the families of our congregation and urge each of you to take an active role in the Christian education of the children in your lives.

Please speak with me, any Sunday School teacher, or Pastor for more information about Sunday School, to volunteer, or to donate to the Sunday School program.

Karin Hetcher (920-240-6201)
Sunday School Superintendent

