



**New Hope For the New Year”
January 5-February 16).**

As we anticipate what the new year means, we look with Hope at what 2020 will bring. We understand that there will be New Hopes realized and New Challenges presented as the year unfolds to us. This sermon series is about navigating life in the hope of Christ Jesus and finding strength for the inevitable challenges that surface.

Sunday, January 26
Never “Just” Ordinary
Luke 2:33, 36-38 & Acts 16:12-15

Sunday, February 2
“Return to Faith” II Kings 22-23

Sunday, February 9
“Foundations for Making a New Life” Daniel 1-3.

My favorite study Bible has “personality profiles” scattered throughout. These profiles they include both strengths and weaknesses - because the people they are profiling are actual people. People with jobs and families. People who make mistakes. People who accomplish things. Ordinary people who, through the power of God and their willingness to follow Him, played a part in Christian history. None of them had unimportant parts. Although they were ordinary, they were far from “just” ordinary.

This is our focus this Sunday as we take a look at Anna (in Luke 2) and Lydia (in Acts 16). Two very different women, living in very different circumstances. Both ordinary people, living in hope and serving God by using the gifts and talents God has given them. This is what keeps them, and us, from being “just” ordinary. We live in hope because in Christ, we know we are loved and forgiven. God wasn’t only present with the people we read about in Scripture. God has not abandoned us, He is still at work in this world, choosing to work through our lives, using our gifts and talents to help others and to share Jesus with them through our words and our actions.

I’m looking forward to seeing you this Sunday as we think about how God is working through our ordinary (never “just” ordinary) lives!

e-News

January 22, 2020

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The Week Ahead :

Glory Ringers—Mondays @7pm
Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1
Praise Yoga— Thurs. at 8 am,
Tues. at 7 pm
Confirmation—Sundays at 4:30
Youth Group—Sundays at 6 pm
Midweek—Wednesdays at 5
Women’s Bible Study—10 am
1/23

Ed Council—6:30 pm 1/23
Men’s Dinner—6 pm 1/24
Chili and Movie Night—4:30 pm
on 1/25
Bags of Love Packing—10 am on
1/26
Bags of Love Dist.—11:30 am on
1/27
Project Linus—9 am on 1/27
Growth Council—6 pm on 1/28

CHILI AND MOVIE NIGHT

January 25th! Bring a crock pot of chili at 4:30 or show up at 5 for dinner and the friendly chili competition. Afterwards we will be showing Peanut Butter Falcon, A Dog’s Journey, Breakthrough, Downton Abbey, and Dumbo (2019).

TEEN MIDWEEK: *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S.

Lewis. Letter Ten will talk about how some friends help us grow closer to God, while others pressure us to do bad things. Sometimes our friends aren’t “bad,” but they still draw us away from God. How can that be?

Join us tonight to find out!

CONFIRMATION: This Sunday at 4:30pm we will take a look at the book of Psalms while doing a general overview of other books of Wisdom. What even are books of Wisdom and why do they have their own genre ? Confirmands, we’ll explore all these questions together on Sunday!

WILDFIRE YOUTH GROUP: We are so excited to have Pastor Bo join us this Sunday! We’ve been learning about who the Holy Spirit is and now it’s time to see the Holy Spirit in action! Pastor Bo is going to share how the Holy Spirit spoke to him and led him on a journey that took him across the world and to being a pastor. It’ll be a great night and we are so excited to have him join us!

Volunteers this Sunday, January 26, 2020

	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
<u>Connection Center:</u>	Bob Becker	Colin Becker
<u>Children’s Worship:</u>	Megan Pritz	Sarah Lundeen
<u>Greeters:</u>		
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Ellen Cowgill	Creighton Blaser
<u>Ushers:</u>	Al Brooks Mark Dykema Mark Fumagalli	Ed Schultz Jen Beck
<u>Coffee Fellowship:</u>	Sue Fordyce	
<u>Sound Room:</u>	Keith LeVasseur	
<u>Video Screens:</u>	Matt Blaser	

THE PASTOR'S CORNER...Craig Herr, Head Pastor

Sunday, January 26, We seek the strength of God in and through Christ Jesus for the challenges this new year will set before us. But we also come anticipating the hope, forgiveness, and joys the Lord will bring our way this year. Worship with us at either our Traditional Service at 9:00 a.m. or our Contemporary service at 10:30 a.m. It's name tag Sunday and we will have chance to share with someone around us during the announcement time.

Sermon Notes on Mending Fences with Family and Friends, Last Sunday a number of people asked me to include some of the practical insights on relationships which I shared in the sermon. Take a look at the sermon notes for practical ways to grow and or improve the important relationships in your life.

Tuesday, Lunch Study, Our Tuesday, Lunch Study is going to start up again on Tuesday, February 4th. We gather about 11:40 a.m., eat lunch and study the Bible from Noon to 1:00 p.m. We are going to study the book of Isaiah. We start at Isaiah 40 our first Tuesday. Anyone is welcome. It's a great group of people. Bob Hass and I share in leading class discussions.

Personal Financial Planning Idea Exchange Session is on Thursday, January 30 at 4 p.m. and meet in Room 210. Look for the details further on in the E-News.

Chili and Movie Night Early This Saturday Evening, Come out on this Saturday, January 25 to our Chili and Movie night. Bring a crockpot of your favorite chili to share at 4:30 p.m. Chili tasting, or shall I say eating begins at 5:00 p.m. Then at 6:00 p.m. there are five movies to choose from. If you aren't into the movie thing just come for a great dinner of amazing chili!

Bathroom Renovations, Take a close look at the mailing you received this week on our special offering for remodeling our main bathrooms in the church. We are focusing on the two bathrooms on the second floor and then the two bathrooms on the first floor.

Craig

FINANCIAL PLANNING:

The next meeting will be held Thurs. January 30 at 4 pm! These meetings will be for all of us to learn more about financial planning from each other. No one will be asked to disclose personal information. For more info, contact

Ken Graham (630 297-5632)
kengraham8@msn.com or **Jim Huey**
(815 953-8422) hueyjim@comcast.net
Please leave a message if you call.

January 19, 2020

Worship Attendance — 119

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$582,136

Year to Date Expenses \$588,044

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card.

Sunday January 19

“Mending Fences with Family and Friends” Luke 15:11-32

It's been said that you can pick your friends but you can't pick your family. What if we could mend relationships with family members and friends in this new year? What if we could make good relationships even better? Today, I'd like us to think about the Parable of the Prodigal Son or Lost Son in light of our relationships; relationships with family, friends, colleagues and neighbors. What can we learn that will help us in our most important relationships?

The father in the parable never forgets that the younger son is still his son even though he is far away from what is good and right, and far from home. And that brings me to an insight from Positive Psychology. Positive Psychology pioneered by Dr. Martin E. P. Seligman focuses on how to flourish in life rather than focus on what's wrong. The focus is on the good and accentuating what is working. How do we grow based on the good that already exists? The father in the parable never forgets that they are family. Dr. Martin Seligman writes, “Indeed, relationships may be the most important part of a happy and flourishing life.” Cofounder of Positive Psychology, Chris Peterson, sums up their entire field in three words: *“Other People Matter.”*

We might ask of the people in our lives; family, friends, colleagues and neighbors—How much do they matter to us? Here are some thoughts on relationships from the sermon. When it comes to relationships the author Susan Pawelski writes, “Love is an action verb.” Meaning that relationships work out better when you focus not on what you can get but what you can put into them—and become through them.

The father in the parable is all about putting himself into the relationship with his lost son. He is still going to invest himself, his love, grace, and forgiveness in his lost son. “Just like any other human endeavor, we can get better at relationships through well directed effort,” writes Pawelski. In a recent article Dan Reiland writes about the top ten basics for meaningful relationships.

Here they are: Express gratitude, Smile often, Remember the good, Listen well and communicate, Practice generosity, Forgive quickly, Don't criticize, Compliment often, Encourage, and Help.

What if we did some of these things more often with our family, friends, colleagues and neighbors? It's possible, you know, to mend fences with family and friends. It's possible to make good relationships even better.

PROJECT LINUS will be meeting at 9 am on 1/27 .
Come help make blankets for children in need!

Our Church Family

Known to be in the Hospital: no one