

The Wise Still Seek Him



**Holy Cross
Herald
January 2022**

PASTORAL MUSINGS. . . .

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. . . let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Hebrews 12:1, 2b

Aiming
our lives toward
Christ!

Proclaiming
Christ crucified!

Reclaiming
lost lives for Christ!

There are so many ways of decorating a Christmas tree these days. One can decorate their tree monochromatic, all the ornaments being the same. One can have plumage and flowers stuffed throughout the tree. One can decorate their tree with a theme, such as Santa Clauses or sports or angels or Chrismon's. Or you can take the route that we take at our house that is traditional—a hodgepodge of ornaments that have been collected over the years. Some ornaments are from our parents that were special to us; some are ornaments from places we lived or vacationed; and some are ornaments that were either purchased or made and given to us as gifts either from family or from members of the various congregations where we have belonged.



When we hang our ornaments, Teryl and I usually reminisce about the places we have lived or vacationed. We talk about the Christmases of our childhood. But the ornaments that I love the most are ones made by congregational members and given to us as Christmas gifts. For as we hang their ornaments we remember our friendship with them and times that we shared. We also remember their faith and trust in Jesus! And as we remember that faith, it's as if they are still with us witnessing to the forgiveness of sins life and salvation that are ours in Christ Jesus.

Chapter 11 of Hebrews, sometimes called the Faith Hall of Fame, speaks of the faith lives of the saints who have gone before us. And then chapter 12 comes in calling those saints a great cloud of witnesses that are surrounding us as we remember their lives and their testimony. It is as if they are cheering us on in our faith as we remember their faith!

As we enter 2022, let us remember the faith of the saints that have gone before us. May their faith serve as an example to us and inspire us on to greater heights of Christian living. As they did, so may we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. In so doing, may we be an example and inspiration to the generations that are coming up behind us. With all that is going on in the world, the world surely needs Jesus; and it surely needs our witness to him in both word and deed. A most blessed and Happy New Year.

AE



EXTRAORDINARY!

For this January 2022 Elders Corner, I want to start off with two stories/verses in the New Testament.

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Matthew 2:10-11. Imagine the study of scriptures and other documents of the time on the prediction of Jesus birth. The planning to make the trip to Bethlehem, the actual travel and the joy of arriving and finding the baby Jesus. What extraordinary efforts by the Magi.

The second quote is from 1 Peter 2 verse 9; “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may **proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**” (emphasis added) That does not sound ordinary to me but instead extraordinary.

So, my question to each of us is: do we wish to be ordinary? Or do we want to be extraordinary as God sees us? A royal priesthood, a holy nation sounds extraordinary to me.

As God’s chosen people we are empowered to lead. Invite your neighbors and neighborhood to join with us in worshiping God. Let’s use our warm inviting nature to grow God’s kingdom.

It would be wonderful to show our next pastor that we are a vibrant growing congregation, eager and ready for the next steps and challenges. We don’t have to wait for him to lead us. We are already equipped to aim, proclaim and reclaim. Let’s be the extraordinary people of God. Let grow God’s kingdom here at Holy Cross. Let’s have an epiphany that leads us to act not wait.

God’s Blessing on you and your family,

John Pepperman
Elder

JANUARY

Birthdays

<i>Shirley vandenBerg</i>	1/1
<i>Suzanne Adler</i>	1/2
<i>Marlene Wiley</i>	1/2
<i>Gerrie Bufford</i>	1/3
<i>Steve Northcott</i>	1/4
<i>Eli Hecker</i>	1/5
<i>Pat Stewart</i>	1/7
<i>Allison Kaupp</i>	1/10
<i>Mark Meyerand</i>	1/13
<i>June Moore</i>	1/17
<i>Gloria Grunow</i>	1/19
<i>Ron Hintz</i>	1/19
<i>Dee Oswald</i>	1/20
<i>Lee Wiley</i>	1/20
<i>Mark Coon</i>	1/22
<i>Kim Ritthaler</i>	1/23
<i>Ron Vollbrecht</i>	1/23
<i>Evelyn Cantwell</i>	1/24
<i>Connie Haugan</i>	1/24
<i>Daniel Haugan</i>	1/24
<i>Nicholas Mekjian</i>	1/24
<i>Bob Bell</i>	1/25
<i>Elena Garza</i>	1/24
<i>Beth Gillespie</i>	1/25
<i>Dominic Leithead</i>	1/25
<i>Margaret Green</i>	1/26
<i>Erik Wiley</i>	1/30
<i>Pat DeChane</i>	1/31

JANUARY

Anniversaries

Ron & Lynn Hintz 1/14/2000	22 years
John & Sandi Pepperman 1/18/1992	30 years

REMEMBER THOSE IN HOSPICE CARE.



Ron Atkinson
(father of Kevin
Atkinson)

<i>Barb Ugo</i>	<i>Al Zeckzer</i>
<i>Shirley Pontious</i>	<i>Harry Roberts</i>
<i>Donna Marshall</i>	<i>Frank Erdodi</i>
<i>Mae Ristau</i>	<i>Dolly Ferries</i>
<i>Lotte Weber</i>	<i>Margaret Green</i>
<i>Ken Sobocinski</i>	<i>Siegfried Tyburski</i>
<i>Marylou Schmidt</i>	<i>Vern & Ruth Parker</i>
<i>Peggy Majeske</i>	<i>Jim & Evelyn Cantwell</i>
<i>Linda Troppman</i>	



Remember Our Homebound

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

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

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21

11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1 ,

22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13 ,

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1 , 25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15 25 14 10 12 14 .

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6, NIV

MINISTRY BY OLDSTERS TO YOUNGSTERS

A blessed Epiphany season to you!

May you, throughout these weeks until Lent begins March 2, experience many "AHA!" moments as we focus on Jesus's words and actions that provide proof, He is indeed the promised Messiah. That's what EPIPHANY means - REVELATION!! Those "AHA!" moments when you finally "get it" and say "Oh, now I understand!"

The Magi led by a star? Proof that the Messiah comes to ALL people, not only to the "children of Abraham". Water becomes wine? Wind and waves obey His voice? Thousands are fed from 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish? Only God has that kind of power over nature. The blind see, the lame walk, the sick are healed at His word? Can' t be. WHAT? He brought 3 dead people back to life? **"No human can do that! BUT there were many eyewitnesses to all these miracles.... And yet, many did not believe."** We pray that as we share some of these true accounts with the children, many WILL believe. Please pray with us.

Jan Cook, Margaret Yusko, Phyllis Ulmer, Pat Stewart,
Kathy Green, and Barbara Unger

FOG - CHALLENGE

Last year we had 10 teams prepare a total of 500 lunch bags - in the New Year, the challenge is to increase that number.

Please contact Roberta Hanka (586-486-5645) if you have any questions or if you are Wondering about any of the following:

- 1) Need help in forming a team
- 2) Just want to contribute towards a team or for the purchase of items needed (lunch bags, mayo, etc)
- 3) Perhaps you have a date/month preference to work on this project
- 4) You could help with delivering the lunch bags to Family of God

Monetary gifts are accepted to purchase items in bulk. Make the check payable to Roberta Hanka - income and expenses are reported at the Ladies Guild meeting.

Watch for more details regarding February 13th when Pastor Tyler will be at our church.

1 Peter 4:18 - Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.



NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY

We would like to wish everyone in our church family a Happy New Year from New Hope Outreach Ministries.

For the month of November New Hope Food Pantry served 27 families, feeding 89 people. We gave 3 Bibles and 3 Pks. of diapers. In addition, for Thanksgiving we gave 89 turkey food baskets which fed approximately 356 people.

To date the totals are 309 families, serving 1079 people. 313 units were given, 19 Bibles and 14 Pks. of diapers. The 2021 final totals including Christmas will be in the February Herald.

Once again, we are putting out a cry for help. The Food Pantry is in desperate need of new members. After serving for many years our director and treasurer are stepping down. We have even had a discussion about having to shut down the pantry. Many of us are in our 70's and 80's. and along with that comes limitations on what we are able to do, and help needs to come from somewhere. Please join us at our next meeting and see if there is a small part or something that you can do to help us. Even a little of your time would be appreciated. We will welcome visitors at our next meeting on January 8, 2022, at 10 a.m.

MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

In memory of Nancy Schultz

For the General Fund
Gerrie Bufford & Lisa Potter
Ron & Joanne Vollbrecht

In memory of Jackie Johnson

For the General Fund
Ron & Joanne Vollbrecht
Carol Heidenreich
Gerrie Bufford

For New Hope Food Pantry
Jim & Phyllis Ullmer

In memory of Gordon Tallman

For the General Fund
Diane Morelli
Joan & Jenny McCoy
Carol Heidenreich
Timothy Hillman
Steve & Michelle Cappellino
The family of Gordon Tallman

In memory of Ron Downs

For the Music
Ministry
Roberta Hanka



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FAX 586-751-3926

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

SATURDAY MERITAGE
5:30 PM

SUNDAY
8:30 AND 11:00 AM

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John Pepperman
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Denise Vandenberghe
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Linda Conger
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NEW HOPE
FOOD PANTRY
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