

# CHRONICLER

*Welcome January!*

## January Calendar

January 1 is [New Year's Day](#).

January 5 brings [Twelfth Night](#), an English folk custom that marked the end of Christmas merrymaking and, in ancient Celtic tradition, the end of the 12-day [winter solstice](#) celebration. On Twelfth Night, it was customary for the assembled company to toast each other from the wassail bowl.

January 6 is [Epiphany](#). According to the New Testament's Gospels, on this date, the Magi—the three wise men or kings—venerated and brought gifts to the infant Jesus. Bake a beautiful [Epiphany Tart](#) or a [King Cake](#) with a lucky bean inside!

January 17 is [Benjamin Franklin's birthday](#). He was not only a world-renowned statesman, inventor, and scientist but was also fascinated by agriculture.

January 20 is [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) (observed). This holiday is held on the third Monday in January and honors the principles of this civil rights leader and Nobel Prize Winner dedicated to nonviolence. This year, January 20 is also [Inauguration Day](#).

January 29 is the [Chinese Lunar New Year](#).

## “Just for Fun” Days

January is **National Clean Up Your Computer Month** and **National Hot Tea Month**! Here are some more fun things to celebrate in January:

- **January 1:** Z Day (On this day, those whose last name begins with “Z” get to go first instead of last.)
- **January 3:** National Chocolate-Covered Cherry Day
- **January 6:** National Bean Day
- **January 8:** Elvis Presley's Birthday
- **January 10:** National Houseplant Appreciation Day
- **January 14:** National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- **January 20:** National Penguin Day
- **January 22:** National Answer Your Cat's Questions Day
- **January 29:** National Puzzle Day

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The members of Our Savior have once again been a blessing to so many this holiday season. Donations were received in the amount of \$4181 towards the St. Nicks Club. Eight of Santas elves took on the challenge of gathering gifts for 17 families with 44 children. The elves were busy this year. Outfits, socks, under garments, diapers, and pull ups, were just a few of the clothing items needed.

A Remote control car, Elsa baby doll, Craft Supplies, legos, curling iron, and a Nintendo controller were on the wish list of the children. Santa heard and will deliver Christmas morning. Necessity items that were requested this year included body wash, bedding, comforters, electric blankets, and snow pants.

Imagine the smiles on Christmas morning to children that may not have had much if anything under their tree. Imagine the family that requested their children all have electric blankets to help keep them warm at night.

Another successful season of providing for others. Well done good and faithful servants of OSL. Thank you so much for all that you do to care for others. May the Lord Bless each and everyone of you this coming new year.

Mary Ervin



### January Volunteers

Usher - Bob Bringolf  
Greeters - JoAnn Bringolf  
Fellowship - Doug & Jo Ringger  
Elder - Ron Dlouhy  
Media - Deanna Ihde  
Altar Guild - Julie Dlouhy

### HEAR YE, HEAR YE NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

**President—Randy Ervin**  
**Elders—Ron Dlouhy**  
**Doug Woebeking**  
**Tim Huegel**  
**Trustees—Kevin Hartz**  
**Jary Boger**  
**Bob Mesner**  
**Rick Schiller**  
**Secretary—Selina McKinney**  
**Treasurer—Sue Fortune**  
**Financial Secretary—Donita Huegel**

Thank you to those going off for your service to  
OSL

# Message from Pastor Manz

Do you ever think about why we celebrate New Year's Day? It's really just another day, so why is it so important for people to mark a date change on a calendar?

A new year offers a new beginning, the chance to start fresh. There's a reason January is the most important month of the year for gyms and diet programs, because it seems like a fresh chance to start again, to improve yourself. It seems like a natural time for beginning something, which is why lots of people make New Year's resolutions (*whether they stick to them or not is another story!*).

The Christian life offers lots of opportunities for fresh starts, for changing what we've been doing or beginning to live differently. Each week in Divine Service, we begin with a time of confession where we admit what we've done wrong. We admit to God and to each other that our lives are not perfect, that we're not living the way we ought to live, that we're doing things we ought not do and failing to do things we ought to do.

Then, immediately after confession, we hear God's response. We hear the good news that because of God's forgiveness, because God loves us, we all get a fresh start. Psalm 103:12 says God has taken our sins away from us "as far as the east is from the west." The slate is wiped clean. We don't need to carry the weight of our sins or guilt with us anymore. We are forgiven!

And then we run into the next week (or maybe just the next day, or the next couple of minutes!) and it doesn't take long before we sin again. It doesn't take long for us to forget about what God has done for us. We take the burden Jesus has taken from us and we pick it back up and start trying to carry the weight of our own sins again. But we always have another opportunity to remember God's love. God never gets tired of forgiving us!

In *The Small Catechism*, Martin Luther said we ought to begin each day in this way:

*"In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say: 'God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen.' Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's Prayer... After singing a hymn, or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully."*

You don't have to wait for a new year to have a fresh start. Each day offers the opportunity to wake up and remember that you are a baptized child of God. You have been claimed, redeemed, and set free by Jesus Christ. After hearing the promise of forgiveness and absolution, we continue the only way we can, by together giving joyful thanks to God in song and by learning more about God's grace and love for us by hearing God's word. See you at Divine Service!

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Manz

## IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

- Wednesday, January 1—Church Office Closed and No Bible Study
- Sunday, January 5 during DS—Installation of New Officers
- Tuesday, January 7 @ 6p—Men's Club
- Tuesday, January 14 @ 9a—Quilting
- Thursday, January 16 @ 9a—Quilting
- Monday, January 20 @4p—LWML Meeting
- Tuesday, January 21 @ 7p—Voters Meeting

When Pastor stepped into the sanctuary for the first midweek service of Advent on December 4th, he was surprised to find everyone sitting on one side of the church, including his own family. Rumor has it that the best picture would have been one of the look on his face!



### No Caroling or Chili Supper this Year.



Mother Nature didn't cooperate and sent us freezing rain and ice on Saturday, December 14, which resulted in the canceling of our annual caroling event. We're sure those we serenaded each year were as disappointed as our members were.

This also meant that we did not have our traditional chili supper at the church following the caroling. Again, a big disappointment.

Hopefully the weather will be more cooperative next year and we will be able to resume this annual tradition.

“We Wish You A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!”



Quilts were delivered to the United Way of Jasper County this past month. As with all of our recipients, they were most appreciative for our donation. Good job quilters!



On December 10, 2024, another delivery to **Orphan Grain Train**, Clemons, Iowa was made. It included many clothing items and over 100 toddler and receiving blankets. **Thanks** for all your generous donations! Orphan Grain Train recently made their third shipment for 2024. This one is being sent to the Republic of Georgia. It takes 5-8 weeks to arrive and costs over \$5,000. They greatly appreciate contributions & prayers from OSL members. They encourage volunteers and visitors on **Tuesday mornings**. Boxes are made to a specific size in Conrad, Iowa. They know exactly how many boxes will fit in each semi so very little space is wasted. Pictured is a new volunteer putting together boxes. Pictures also show several women working in the sorting room.



## Christmas for Seniors

A volunteer from Linden Place stopped by the church to pick up the items collected by all of you for the residents who wouldn't get any Christmas gifts. Thank you so much for your generosity. It is very much appreciated..



## The New 2025 Calendar is in the Office

We are going to try to follow a “Key” system for the new calendar for 2025 so people can tell at a glance what is going on at the church. If you need to add something to the calendar, please use the dry erase Marker in the color that is appropriate to your event or activity based on this key. ONLY DRY ERASE MARKERS ARE TO BE USED.

Key:    **Blue**    Regular Monthly Meetings  
          **Green**   Regular Activities  
          **Black**   Midweek Services  
          **Red**     Special Meeting/Activity

If you have any questions, please check with Mickey.

# OSL Christmas decorating (and clean up) elves in action



Tables in Fellowship Hall

Bulletin Board inside the East Door.



Checking over what is available to use for decorating.



Getting everything cleaned and decorated.



Nativity figures on top of the coat rack outside of the kitchen.



As we head into a new year, we need your help in cleaning out the mailboxes. If you haven't taken home the items in your mailbox for a while, please do.

Do you have a "neighbor" who hasn't been able to attend church for a while? Their mailbox is likely getting full and needs cleaned out. Would you check with them to see if they are okay in having you get the items in their mailbox and take it to them?

Do you have trouble carrying the items? Several folks do, especially if you use a walker or cane. For your convenience, we have left a few plastic bags in that area. You can insert your "mail" in the bag and have an easier time carrying it.

We appreciate your help as we continue with cleaning up, clearing out, and sprucing up our church. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Manz, one of the Elders, or Mickey at the church office.



The 2025 Volunteer listings are posted on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. While some positions are filled for the year, many others need more people to sign up. Please search your heart and be in conversation with God on where you can best be of service to your church.

Thank you!

A recent delivery was made to **Berg Middle School**. It consisted of boxes of band-aides and pants/leggings for middle school students. They appreciate how people at our church have made so many donations over the past few years. Thanks so very much!