



ORFORDVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

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NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2016

FROM PASTOR ANDY TWITON:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Can you believe it's already 2016? I know I will be accidentally writing "2015" for the next few weeks until the New Year finally sinks in.

You may have noticed that I always begin this monthly letter with a verse from Scripture. We are, after all, a community created, shaped, and held together by God's Word. As Psalm 119 reminds us, God's Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

Around New Year's Eve, we often see end-of-year lists that try to sum up the best songs, books, movies, etc. of the past year. To follow suit, I thought I'd offer my "Top 5 Bible Verses" from the past year. In some ways, this is an impossible task. God spoke to us in more verses than these 5, and we can't separate these verses from the whole story of God's love in the Bible. Nonetheless, these are 5 verses that have been guiding lights for me in the past year. Besides, why not have a little end-of-the-year fun? ☺

Pastor Andy's Top 5 Bible Verses from 2015:

1. **Numbers 6:24-26** - *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."*

One of the great privileges of being a pastor is being able to offer words of God's blessing. Too often we hear words of cursing in our world, but, in 2015, I have pondered how God calls us to share prayers and words of blessing with others.

2. **Genesis 12:2** - *"[The Lord said to Abram], I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."*

Like Abram, God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. God has blessed OLC with generous and caring members. How might we continue to share God's blessings in 2016?

3. **Romans 12:15** - *"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."*

My hope for our congregation is that we will continue to grow in our care for one another. Romans 12:15 gives us a vision of a community that is there for each other in times of joy and in times of sorrow. In 2015, I saw how our church family cares for people in times of difficulty and loss. I also saw us enjoying one another's company in times of joy.

4. **John 14:1** – *Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”*

In 2015, every family I counseled about funeral preparations chose John 14 as a Gospel reading. These words of comfort remind of God’s promise for us. God’s love for us is stronger than any grave. That’s a promise we can carry with us.

5. **Mark 10:43** – *“But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant.”*

One of the core values I’ve observed at OLC is service. In 2015, I observed many different kinds of service – the mission quilters, the property committee, our Sunday School teachers, the prayer chain, the serving groups for funerals, everyone involved with the Norwegian Dinner, our Church Council, and the list could go on and on. And many of our members serve in the wider community in more ways than we can count. Christ shows us the way of service and calls it true greatness.

Maybe you will have a list of your own, but those are 5 verses that have spoken to me in the past year. I believe God is at work among us. How has God’s Word spoken to you in the past year?

I pray that God’s Word will continue to light our way forward in 2016.

God bless you.



Pastor Andy Twiton

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastoral Care and Prayer

If you’re facing a surgery or a crisis or if you just need someone to talk to, please let Pastor Andy know by contacting him or by calling the church office (608-879-2575). If you would like to be supported in prayer by our prayer chain, please contact Nancy Dickison (608-879-2638) or Pastor Andy. Pastor Andy may be reached by email at pastor@orfordvillelutheran.org or on his cell phone at 608-886-0546.

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex. We have a new accounting system so you may not have the same envelope number as last year. Please contact the church office if you do not find an assigned envelope and we will get you one. We are still working through the assignment process. *Thank you for your patience.*

January Preaching Preview

During the month of January, we will be hearing God’s Word from the first six chapters of the Gospel of Mark. Here are the upcoming preaching texts for the month of January.

- Sunday, January 3rd – Jesus’ Ministry Begins (Mark 1:21-45)
- Sunday, January 10th – Jesus Heals and Teaches (Mark 2:1-22)
- Sunday, January 17th – Parables in Mark (Mark 4:1-34)
- Sunday, January 24th – Jesus Heals Jairus’ Daughter (Mark 5:21-43)
- Sunday, January 31st – Death of John the Baptist (Mark 6:1-29)

Senior Luncheon - Tuesday, January 5th @ 11:30 a.m.

The Orfordville Community holds a monthly senior luncheon, on the 1st Tuesday of each month through June. The luncheon is held in the fellowship hall at Orfordville Lutheran Church. The meal begins at 11:30 a.m. with an afternoon program; organized by the Orfordville Public Library. In January, soup, muffins and dessert will be on the menu. Following the meal will be Yoga with Peggy Frain of True Nature Yoga in Evansville.

Camp Sunday - Sunday, January 10th - During Worship

Lutherdale Camp Counselors will join us for worship service on Sunday, January 10. They will share their faith stories with the congregation and update us on Lutherdale summer camps.

3rd Wednesday Youth Group—Wednesday, January 20th @ 7:00 p.m.

This month, the Youth group will have a game night at the church. The Youth Group is open to grades 7-12. Friends are always welcome to join.

Confirmation Students DQ Night Fundraiser - Tuesday, January 26th

Please stop by the Janesville Dairy Queen (2222 West Court Street) on Tuesday, January 26 from 4-8 p.m. Ten percent (10%) of all sales will go to the OLC youth for summer camp at Lutherdale.

Submit Your Annual Report by Wednesday, January 27th

Our Congregational Annual Meeting is coming up in February. If your committee will be providing a report, please submit it to the church office (office@orfordvillelutheran.org) by January 27th.

Seekers Group

As Jesus told his disciples, “Seek and you will find.” A few new people to our church family have expressed interest in having an Adult Seekers Group. This would be kind of like adult confirmation or new members class but open to any adult looking to deepen their faith. The group would meet together with Pastor Andy to explore some of the basic parts of being a disciple of Jesus. Times and dates will be set based on the availability of the group. Contact Pastor Andy (pastor@orfordvillelutheran.org) if you’re interested in being a part of this group.

OLC’s 150th Celebration – Setting a Date and Forming a Committee

In 2018, Orfordville Lutheran Church will celebrate the 150th Anniversary as a congregation. At our annual meeting in February, we would like to set an official date for celebrating the anniversary and appoint a committee in charge of planning it. If you’re interested in volunteering, please speak with Pastor Andy.

MIF4KIDZ: OLC Foundation Offers New Gift to Newly Baptized Children

At their December meeting, the OLC Foundation voted to set aside funds to offer a new gift to children baptized at Orfordville Lutheran in the coming year. Each child baptized in the coming year will receive an MIF4KIDZ investment through the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. An MIF4KIDZ investment functions like a savings account specifically for children ages 16 and under. The investment matures on the child’s 18th birthday. MIF4KIDZ investments are a great way to set aside money for college or other needs and teach children good stewardship and money management while connecting them to the life of the church. You can learn more about MIF4KIDZ at this web address: <http://www.mif.elca.org/mif4kidz>. Thank you to the OLC Foundation for making this possible!

Theme for Lent 2016 – Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism

The season of Lent will be here before we know it! This year we will continue our tradition of Wednesday night worship at 7:00pm with a soup supper beforehand at 6:00pm. Wednesday night worship will include music from Holden Evening Prayer. The theme for this year will be “Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism,” which will focus on the promises we make at baptism and at affirmation of baptism (a.k.a. confirmation). Here’s a preview of Lent 2016:

- Wednesday, February 10th - Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday, February 17th – “To live among God’s Faithful People”
- Wednesday, February 24th – “To hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper”
- Wednesday, March 2nd – “To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”
- Wednesday, March 9th – “To serve all people, following the example of Jesus”
- Wednesday, March 16th – “To strive for justice and peace in all the earth”

Office Assistant Hours – Tuesday-Friday, 8:30-10:30 am

OLC's Office Assistant, Sue Draves, will be in the office Tuesday-Friday from 8:30-10:30 am. You can reach her by email at office@orfordvillelutheran.org and 608-879-2575. You can reach Pastor Andy on his cell phone 608-886-0546 or by email at pastor@orfordvillelutheran.org.

Check Out our Website – www.orfordvillelutheran.org

The website has a new look and new content. Check it out and check back for frequent updates.

Acolytes for the month of January:

1/3/2016	Kailey Frame & Max Gerber
1/10/2016	Bailey Paulson & Bryce Hammon
1/17/2016	Arianna Humphres & Payton Stark
1/24/2016	Dynally Mould & Bryce Hammon
1/31/2016	Kailey Frame & Bailey Paulson

Altar Guild Person of the month:

Bonnie Hoff

January Birthdays

Gary	Hallmark	5
Kourtney	McManus	12
Kari	Peterson	13
Lyle	Amundson	14
Kate	Grayless	15
Fumiyo	Stuvengen	15
Kevin	Ramquist	17
Dakota	Peterson	18
Jennifer	Cronk	20
Kurt	Stuvengen	20
Sara Lynn	Pautsch	23
Amira	Stuvengen	26

Note:

Please help us keep our birthday lists up-to-date. If you see an error or if we missed someone, send us an email at office@orfordvillelutheran.org.

Thank you's and Thanksgivings

- Thank you to the Altar Guild and to all who helped with the Christmas Tree!
- Thank you to Nancy D. and our serving groups for their service at the funerals we had during December.
- Thank you to Mike Varilek for his leadership with our church's finances, especially in preparation for our annual budget meeting!
- Thank you to Glen Johnson and Ron Nelson for their help moving food for the C.U.P. Food Shelf!
- Thank you to Bernice Amundson for volunteering to help Pastor Andy with the worship service at Evansville Manor!
- Thank you to Kathy Demrow, the Altar Guild, and the OLC Foundation for providing and delivering poinsettias for Christmas!
- Thank you to everyone who provided or purchased items for the Confirmation Bake Sale Fundraiser!
- Thank you to everyone who helped make the Sunday School Christmas Program a success! Thanks especially to Laurie, Kathy, Sue, Jill, Racheal, Jed, Deb, and any other adults who helped. The kids did a great job!
- Thank you to our mighty group of carolers for a fun night of singing around Orfordville and Footville!
- Thank you to all of our musicians and readers for making Christmas Eve special! A special thank you to Megan Draves for providing special music at the late service.
- Thanks be to God for the many blessings of this past month! Wow, we have a lot to be thankful for!



In honor of Marvin Renly...The Orfordville Fire Department brought the antique fire truck to the cemetery to recognize Marvin's many years with the Department. He drove the truck in many parades in Orfordville.

The Orfordville Fire Department paying their respects to Marvin Renly.



Members of the Altar Guild, with some additional helpers, decorated the tree and church for the Christmas season.



Parsonage Open House – Dec. 13th
The OLC congregation were invited for refreshments, fellowship and a tour of Pastor Andy's & Kristin's home.

The confirmation students decorating cookies to sell at their bake sale held on December 19. All proceeds, from the bake sale, went toward confirmation camp tuition.



Sunday School Christmas Pageant - The congregation was treated to a dinner show, on December 20th, as the Sunday School kids performed in their annual Christmas Pageant. The kids did a wonderful job!

OLC'S CALENDAR

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 pm AA Meeting	2
3 9:00 am Worship No Sunday School	4 9:00-3:00 pm Quilt Class 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	5 11:30 a.m. Senior Luncheon	6 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation	7 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P	8 8:00 pm AA Meeting	9
10 9:00 am Worship Lutherdale Camp Sunday Ryder's Akkerman's Baptism 10:15 Sunday School	11	12	13 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation	14 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P	15 8:00 pm AA Meeting	16
17 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	18	19	20 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm 3 rd Weds Youth Group	21 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P	22 8:00 pm AA Meeting	23
24 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	25	26	27 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation	28 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P	29 8:00 pm AA Meeting	30
31						

**Orfordville Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2015**

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order by President Glen Johnson at 5:58 p.m.
2. Devotions were led by Pastor Andy Twiton.
3. Roll Call
Council Members Present: Traci Manthey, Glen Johnson, Pastor Andy Twiton, Jason Burtness, Tony Ends, Aaron Burns, Ken Heller, and Mike Varilek.
Council Members Absent: Violet Renly and Racheal Grenawalt.
4. Approval of Agenda
Aaron Burns made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Jason Burtness. Motion approved.
5. Approval of the November Minutes
Council reviewed the minutes from the November 2, 2015 council meeting. Jason Burtness made a motion to approve the November 2, 2015 minutes. Motion seconded by Ken Heller. Motion approved.
6. Treasures Report
Mike provided the treasures report. During the congregational budget meeting the following topics will be discussed: rolling roof money to parking lot fund, undesignated funds—ideas on what to do with it. Pastor would like to start a reserve fund when general fund fluctuates. Jason Burtness made a motion to approve the treasure's report. Motion seconded by Ken. Motion approved.
7. Pastors Report
 - Open House at the Parson on Sunday, December 13th from 1:00-3:00pm.
 - We have a lot to be thankful for during the past month of November. For 3 out of 5 Sundays in November, we had over 70 people in worship. We had as many as 14 kids in Sunday School.
 - Christmas services will be on Christmas Eve at 4:00 & 10:00pm.Looking back at November:
 - *Counseling and Visitation:* Met with 5 different families for funeral planning, prayer, and grief counseling. Made 7 pastoral visits during November.
 - *Special and Community Events:* Bingo at Collinwood, Led prayer at Senior Luncheon, Led Service of Holy Communion at Woods Crossing, Preached at Community Thanksgiving Service, Hosted OLC Young Adults at the Parsonage.
 - *Meetings:* Met with John Thomson from Footville Church of Christ about the Thanksgiving Service, First Call Theological Education in Marathon City,
 - Baptisms: Brinley Larson, Clayton Elgersma, and Camden Elgersma
 - No Weddings.
 - Funerals: Dave Olson (for Bethlehem Lutheran), Elva Anderson (for Bethlehem Lutheran), Bernice Keeseey, Tanya Johnson, Marvin Renly (Officiated by Pastor Jack Way of Luther Valley)
 - No Transfers in or out.
8. Old Business
 - A. Forks for Sustainability
Lead conference—March 12.
 - B. Norwegian Dinner Follow Up
 - C. Other

9. New Business

A. 2016 Budget

Council went over the financial sheet. Motion to accept the 2016 budget was made by Jason Burtness and a second by Aaron Burns. Motion approved and the proposal with changes will come with the minutes at the congregational budgeting meeting.

B. Church Calendar

Bulletin board will show the calendar.

C. Member Survey

Pastor will work on this.

D. Other

Some wondering what is going on with the clothes closet. Pastor will check on this. 150th celebration will be sometime in September.

10. Next Meeting/Devotions/Treats

Next meeting will be Monday, January 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Racheal will have devotions. Jason will provide treats.

11. Adjournment

Ken Heller made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion seconded by Mike. Motion approved.

12. Closing

Glen Johnson led the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Racheal Grenawalt
Council Secretary

**Orfordville Lutheran Church
Congregational Budgeting Meeting
December 13, 2015**

1. Establishment of a Quorum
Jason Burtness stated we had enough for a quorum.
2. Call to order
Glen Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.
3. Opening devotions
Pastor Andy led with devotions.
4. Approval of the agenda
Aaron Burns made a motion to approve the budget meeting agenda. A second was made by Terry Gerber. Motion approved.
5. Old Business
None to report.
6. New Business
 - A. 2016 Budget
Mike Varilek presented the basics of the 2016 budget. A motion was made to accept the 2016 budget. Motion carried and budget approved.
 - B. Allocation of Norwegian Dinner Funds
The profit from the dinner was about \$7700.
A motion was made by Delores Nelson for five hundred dollars to go to the Orfordville Lutheran Cemetery. A second by Deb Speich. Motion approved.
A motion was made by Terry Gerber to allocate five hundred dollars towards missions. A second by Lyle Amundson. Motion approved.
The other proceeds will go the general building fund. Motion approved.
 - C. Remaining Roof Funds
We have about \$2400 left in the roof fund. Aaron Burns made a motion to roll that money over to the parking lot fund. A second motion was made by Lyle Amudson. Motion approved.
7. Adjournment
A motion to adjourn was made by Bernice Amudson. A second by Jason Burtness. Motion approved.
Glen mentioned for everyone to think about a date/time they would like to celebrate 150 years of Orfordville Lutheran Church.
8. Closing Prayer
Glen Johnson led the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Racheal Grenawalt
Council Secretary