



Dear Family in Christ,
Happy New Year! So now we are at that place of new beginnings, starting fresh with (maybe) some sincere intentions of forming healthier habits: eating, drinking, smoking, using our time more wisely, etc. But, as we pretty much know, those good intentions often dissolve over time and our old habit patterns snap back like a rubber band. Ouch.

Keeping you informed:

- If you didn't get your **"JOY card"** from the **Christmas Eve Service**, there are still some extras on the tables in the sanctuary.
- **Soup Supper at Rod & Connie Buxton's house, Friday, Jan. 19 @ 6 pm.** Bring some friends and your favorite soup to share!
- If you haven't turning in the missions \$ from your **World Changer Containers** for **Puerto Rican Hurricane Relief**, please do so. Thanks!
- Mark your Calendar for **Community Movie Night, Friday, Jan. 5, 7 pm.**
- Also, don't miss the **Annual Meeting** after service on **Jan. 14** where we will set a missions' strategy for 2018 and cast a vision for how we can be change-agents for Christ!
- New Tuesday morning series called **"Alpha"** where food, friendship, and open discussion can help people discover personal answers to their most important questions. Join us Jan. 9th at 9:30 to begin your adventure!

*There's got to be a better way... That's why I'm starting a new sermon series, **"Stepping into Healthy Habits with Jesus"**. We'll learn together how to take those "baby steps" toward freeing ourselves from unhealthy habits and walking in the freedom Christ offers us every day.*

A blessed New Year to you,

- Scott



This **Christmas** we helped six local families with gift cards to Sunes Grocery, gave \$150 to the Clinic's "Lights of Love" campaign, and had 50-60 people for our Christmas Eve Service.

After conducting a **survey of people's church experience**, I reflected on the highlights in my January Digest article. Over half of the 35 respondents were not regular church attenders. The major reason given was that they had felt judged or had been emotionally hurt by a Christian. At Lighthouse, we are looking for ways to heal that experience through the unconditional love of the Father.

One way to share God's transforming love is by learning to share our own experiences without all the judgments and expectations normally associated with "religious" conversations. We are beginning a new series on

Tuesday mornings called **"Alpha"**. It is designed to stimulate spiritual discussions all within the context of friends exploring real life questions in a safe, non-threatening atmosphere. Come check it out as we begin Tuesday, Jan. 9th, @ 9:30 am. You can also click on link at www.alpha.org to get a sense of the program.

Community Movie Night is back, once a month, starting Jan. 5 @ 7 pm with "The Emojii Movie". This is a fun way to reach out to our local community.



By Cathy Irvin

I recently saw this quote, *"No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending"* (Unknown).

I really began to think about that statement. The conclusion was that we don't start over; but we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

As a believer in Christ, it is not about saying I will do this and I won't do that and then dropping the idea or falling short. *It is more about asking the Lord to help us each day, to fall deeper and deeper in love with Him.* This way our focus will be set on the things of heaven and not on all this earthly stuff.

If I were to make a New Year resolution, it would be to have a deeper commitment, a deeper love, and a deeper worship for the Lord. In the beginning of this past year, He spoke to me in that still small voice in prayer and said, "I am more than enough. I am more than enough in every area of your life." He also said to tell others the same thing.

This year I am determined to make Him my all and all. He wants our undivided attention in spite of the distractions and temptations that lie waiting around the corner. He has to be our main focus.

How we will end this year will be determined by how we started it. Did we want to get more "INTIMATE" with the lover of our soul? I looked up the word intimacy and the meaning is to be close, familiar, very personal and private.

Do you want a new ending this year? How do you want the ending of your life? If you're not a Christian, please know that this could be the best New Year of your life. Your life can be filled with hope and peace. To know what the ending will be is an extra bonus. Why should every year be the same as the one before with nothing really changing? After all, the New Year resolutions may or may not get accomplished. If you are a Christian and you feel stagnate in your relationship with the Lord, then now is the time to rekindle the love affair with Him. He calls us to Himself and says, "Come away my beloved." Can you hear Him? He is tugging at your heart. The real ending in our life will be when Jesus says well done my good and faithful servant.

(cont.)

That statement will be for someone who took the time to get to know Him, love Him, and that obediently followed Him.

(From <http://www1.cbn.com/devotions/new-beginnings-make-new-endings>)

Pearls of Wisdom: "Our True Identity in Christ".
We are righteous and holy in Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 1: 30.

- Ruth Wise

*No matter what your problem is...
Don't curse it,
Don't rehearse it,
Just give it to God and He will reverse it!*
- Karin Benson

New Year's Prayer By Lolita Pinney

A whole new year is mine today . . . May I be wiser, Lord, I pray! I'd strengthen friendships, old and true, and learn to cherish new ones, too; to keep on learning and to grow a little better as I go. To cast aside each grudge and grief, and hold fast to a firm belief that life is joyous, gracious, good, when lived in terms of brotherhood! To welcome fun, and play a while, to lighten work with happy smile! To thank the Lord and every day Remember Him, and kneel to pray in gratitude for strength and health and blessings which are all my wealth! This year's a gift from God to me To spend, or use, or set me free . . . A whole new year is mine today . . . May I be wiser, Lord, I pray!

(Submitted by Chuck & Colleen Barko)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Dorothy Larrabee

(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)

UPCOMING JANUARY ACTIVITIES

- 2 **Elders meet:** 7 pm, Church Library
- 5 **Movie Night @ 7.** Invite a friend!
- 7 **Potluck** following worship.
- 14 **Annual Meeting**, following worship. All are encouraged to participate.
- 19 **Soup Supper** at Rod & Connie Buxton's house. 6 pm.
- 20 **Men's Breakfast @ 9 am**



JOIN US for
**FRIENDLY SMALL GROUP
FELLOWSHIP:**

- **Tuesdays:**
 - 9:30 **Discussion Group** in the Library on God, life, and the Bible. Current study: "Alpha" series, exploring spiritual stuff in the company of friends. Join us!
 - 11:30 **Worship Team** in Sanctuary. You're invited to listen in as the Team prepares for Sunday.
- **Men's Breakfast**, every third Sat. @ 9 am, in the Church basement. Come for a great breakfast in the company of friends!

(If you've got an idea that might gather a group together, let me know! - Scott)

ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY TUESDAY, Jan. 23rd, (IF YOU CAN SUBMIT BY EMAIL, IT IS APPRECIATED)

 Lighthouse Christian Church

Scott Danforth, Pastor Telephone: (906) 493-5233
P.O. Box 40 E-mail: lighthousechurch906@gmail.com
Drummond Island, MI 49726

www.LighthouseChurchDrummondIsland.com

