

messenger

LIFTED BY GOD

“Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

James 4:10

I am writing this during January wondering if winter will still be like this in February. We really didn't have a white Christmas and the thermometer has never really gotten below zero. Last week we saw daffodils coming up on the east side of the building by the parking lot! But as they say in Iowa, “If you don't like the weather. Just wait. It will change.”

Those crazy winter temperatures are often like so much else in life. When things are going well, we are warned to be cautious about something going wrong. (Isn't that the essence of Murphy's Law?) Just as we know that 50 degrees in January won't last, neither do other good things in life. The fun of Christmas turns into the grind of the winter. The warmth of spring turns to the heat and humidity of summer. Times of good health are followed by sickness and death. And it seems that just like the cold seems harsher after 60 degrees, tough times seem especially rough after things have gone well. The writer of Proverbs said those famous words in 16:18, “*Pride goeth before the fall.*” The higher a building is, the harder it falls when it collapses. The more we expect something good to happen, the harder it can be to take when those hopes are met with failure.

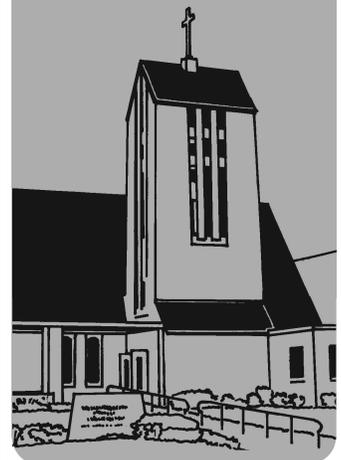
So what are we to do with God's promises? God promises us nothing less than the highest—eternal life with Him. Is it wise for us to hope for something so lofty only to be so disappointed when those promises don't come true? Are we just setting ourselves up for a lot of pain?

God's promises all hinge on Jesus. I Peter 3:18 says, “*Christ died for our sins, the righteous for the unrighteous.*” Though Jesus is at the very top as God Almighty, He came to this world to reach rock bottom in our place by His death on the cross. Since He experienced the very depths of suffering for us, we have the assurance that we will never have to experience that.

Our lives will involve a lot of ups and downs. The “downs” will often seem worse after an “up.” But because of what Jesus did in our place, we can be certain it is the best, not the worst that lies in store for us. Jesus came to free us from the trap of an eternal “Murphy's law.” We can have the confidence to rest our hopes in God, knowing He will not disappoint us. “*Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up.*”
~MTH

inside

- 2 Worship Schedule
Worship Notes
- 3 Education
Youth Activities
- 4 Take Note
- 5 Committee Notes
Getting Involved
- 6 Kebede Ministry
Kebede Financial Rpt.
- 7 Student Ministry
Int'l Student Ministry
- 8 Anniversaries
Birthdays
Financial Report
- 9 Calendar



Drawing by K. F. Dunker

Worship Schedule

 <p>February Worship Schedule</p>	Saturday, February 2	5:00 PM	Informal Worship (HC)
	Sunday, February 3	8:30 AM	Creative Worship (HC)
		11:00 AM	Creative Worship (HC)
	Saturday, February 9	5:00 PM	Informal Worship (HC)
	Sunday, February 10	8:30 AM	Mission Sunday
		11:00 AM	Mission Sunday (HC)
	Saturday, February 16	5:00 PM	Informal Worship (HC)
	Sunday, February 17	8:30 AM	Divine Service, Setting Four (HC)
		11:00 AM	Divine Service, Setting Four (HC)
	Saturday, February 23	5:00 PM	Informal Worship (HC)
	Sunday, February 24	8:30 AM	Divine Service, Setting One
		11:00 AM	Divine Service, Setting One (HC)

Worship Notes

Lent does not begin until March 6, so we have a longer Epiphany season than last year. Epiphany season reminds us of the events in Jesus' life that show Him to be the Son of God. It is also the time when we focus on how Jesus came for all people, not just Israel.

The Church uses Epiphany season to emphasize our missions. On February 10 Pastor Max Phillips from the new Zion-Christ parish in Ogden, Bouton, and Perry will be here as a mission speaker. Pastor Phillips was a former executive at Qwest and school board chairman at Grimes, serves as directors of the Perry Lutheran Home and Lutheran Family Service in Iowa, and is a member of the board of directors for LCEF Foundation. He will share with us about the efforts with the Perry Home and Iowa District West to establish a care facility for the elderly in Haiti.

The Memorial Messenger, published monthly [except August] Current Issue: February 2019, Volume 58, Issue 2

Online at: www.MemorialLutheranChurch.org/churchnews

Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center, 2228 West Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50014-7185

Office Phone: 515-292-5005; Email: mlcomesia@aol.com

Mark Heilman, *Pastor*.....email: mkheilman@aol.com

David Beagley, *Associate Pastor*email: drbeagley@aol.com

Richard N. Osslund, *Pastor Emeritus*.....email: rnosslund@aol.com

Judy Newhouse, *Coordinator of Int'l Ministry*.....email: ism.mlchurch@gmail.com

Jeanne Noack, *Administrative Asst.*.....email: mlcsecretary@aol.com

Lyle Groth, *Director of Volunteers*.....cell: 515-451-0573; email: legroth1@gmail.com

Kebede & Workitu, *Agricultural Missionaries*.....email: kebedemt09@gmail.com

Mail: Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Tabor Congregation, PO Box 49,
Awasa, Ethiopia

Education

Sunday School resumed after the Christmas holidays on January 13. Regular Sunday School will be held each Sunday through the end of April except for March 17 and 24 for spring break and April 21 for Easter. On March 17 we will hold a special Sunday School downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

February 10 will be our “Missions Sunday.” We will be having special “stations” like we had for September’s Rally Day to share about missions across the world.

Because either one of the pastors usually needs to be at Trinity, State Center during the education hour, the other pastor has to handle Bible class. Pastor Mark will no longer be able to be Sunday School superintendent during that time, though he will continue to prepare materials. Our student assistants, Misa Hamanaka and Sarah Kreutner will be in charge during that time. Also we have asked professional teachers in our congregation to be available during that time in case of a discipline problem.

Confirmation classes resumed on January 9 and will continue through April 25, with a break March 20 for spring break.

“Interpreting the Bible” will be the topic of our winter evening Bible study to be held Wednesdays in February at 7 PM in the MLC Student Center. We will be studying how knowledge of the context of a passage, background information, the style of writing, and the words used can help us understand what God’s Word has to say to us.

Youth Activities

Dan Voss and Elaina Soulek serve as our Youth Directors. Due to other commitments, Elaina will only be serving 1/3, rather than 1/2 time as she had since the summer. Dan has agreed to serving 2/3 of the position. Luke Heilman continues to serve as student assistant. The high school youth plan to go snow tubing February 9.

Ethan Baltz continues to serve as our student assistant for middle school. In January the youth did activities at the Meeker school gym. Our thanks to Natalie Battles for setting that up. This month the activity date is February 13, where the youth will take advantage of the winter darkness to play “Sardines.”

YOU ARE INVITED!!

The congregation is invited to attend an 80th Birthday Open House for Bob Anderson on Saturday, February 16th in our Fellowship Hall between noon and 3:30 PM.

A light lunch will be served. There will be cake! Please RSVP before February 10th to janderames@aol.com or call 515-233-1878. No gifts, please.

Take Note

In addition to her work with internationals and as financial secretary, Judy Newhouse also organizes groups of volunteers twice a year who go to Hong Kong to help hold VBS's at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. Judy served as a missionary in Hong Kong for five years. Usually she goes with the group that serves in the summer. This month, with the group that goes during the Chinese New Year break she has been asked to go for a week and help develop a new part of the effort that will include these ministries:

LCK Primary school - 220 students

Holy World Lutheran Church - 250-300 students

St. James Lutheran Kindergarten - 60 students

We pray for Judy in this expansion of the ministry in Hong Kong.

The pastors will continue to lead worship on Sundays at Trinity Lutheran Church in State Center. Their worship is held at 9 AM, so the pastor who leads worship there can return to Memorial to participate in the 11 AM service, a vital component of our campus ministry. Trinity has an LCMS trained teacher who is doing confirmation instruction and other pastors are handling the calls on the homebound, so our pastors' responsibility beyond Sunday worship is possible hospital calls and funerals. Plans are developing for how to handle Lenten services beginning in March. The hope is that Trinity will call a candidate from the seminary to begin in early summer.

Hannah Heit is a sophomore at Iowa State in agriculture. During high school she spent several weeks in Ethiopia as part of the World Food Prize working with poultry production. In addition to spending time at the government research station in the capital of Addis Ababa, she went out to farms in the country and even visited Awassa, where Kebede lives. She is now hoping to go to Ethiopia this summer to work with Kebede on developing poultry in the villages where Kebede works. From what Kebede tells us, poultry is women's work there, so it will be helpful for a woman to be involved with this. Also Kebede's wife, Workitu, will be there, as she knows the local language in the villages. Hannah has contact with Iowa State professors who work with poultry and are supportive of her efforts. We will be looking into ways to fund her air travel, cost of living, and project expenses. This could be a wonderful door that God is opening for us!

Committee Notes

Summary of the January 8 Board of Directors Meeting

Generous contributions at the end of 2018 place us in good financial standing. Rich Weiss will thank the congregation on the 13th.

Pastor Beagley and Debra Freese were selected to be our congregation's electors to vote for the Synod president before the summer convention.

The board gave recommendations for Rich Weiss to fill out the forms for nominees for Synod president, vice president, and regional vice president which are due in February.

Rich Weiss, Debra Freese, Tim Dacken, and Denise Balvanz will meet to form ideas for evaluations for the pastors.

The youth director position was changed so that Dan Voss is 2/3 time and Elaina Soulek is 1/3 time.

Judy Newhouse will be allowed time to help with the servant event in Hong Kong next month as they have requested her to develop a new program for that.

The board is developing nominees for the board election in April. Our new Board of Directors will be elected at the end of April. We have three present members who will not continue after April, including the church treasurer. If you are interested in serving on the board, speak to a board member or one of the pastors. Our present board is: Rich Weiss: *President of the Congregation*, Deb Freese: *Chairman of the Board*, Garry Gruhn: *Treasurer*, Tim Dacken: *Secretary*, and board members Denise Balvanz, Andrew Smelser, and Lynn Nehls.

Getting Involved

Each Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter season we hold "Project Compassion," where volunteers visit those who are limited by ill health. We received this note from Mallory Schon, who with her son, Jett, participated in the program for the first time before Christmas. *"Just wanted to let you know that Jett and I had a lovely visit with Ron and Cleo Honold. Spending time with them warmed our hearts, and hopefully we brought them a little 'joy' too!"* We thank all our "Project Compassion," volunteers.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday School

The New Year means a new semester and often teacher changes. To be a teacher's aide or substitute contact Pastor Mark.

Service Volunteers

Substitute as an Usher, Greeter, or Communion Assistant. We have a special need for ushers for Ash Wednesday: March 6, Maundy Thursday: April 18, and Good Friday: April 19. Contact Lyle.

Altar Guild

Work with Altar Guild to prepare Holy Communion, contact Brenda Smith (mooncat1463@gmail.com)

Get involved with the International Ministry

International Nursery

Volunteer in the nursery anytime, Monday-Wednesdays from 10-11 AM beginning in January.

Volunteers are needed to sit with internationals during the 11 AM service to help lead them through the worship service.

Prayer chain: If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain please let me know and make sure I have your email address. If you have a request, please email me at legroth1@gmail.com

Kebede Ministry

We received this report from Kebede late last year.

Hursa is an Outreach Churches in the Arsi Mission Area. Hursa is in Kofole sub-District (county). Until it grows and becomes a self-governing congregation the new church is referred to as preaching station.

The Hursa church started as a new church two years ago. The Worship and Prayer programs were started in a private house. The family who received Jesus Christ and first allowed their house for a prayer service is called Desta Husein and his wife Bontu. They used to be strong Muslims in the community before they dedicated their lives to Christ. Now they became committed Christians among their Muslim community and relatives. It is very difficult to get a piece of land to have a church in such a Muslim dominated community. The family of Desta came up with an idea and allowed us a piece of land from their farm land for a reasonable cost. Currently a worship house is under construction on the land. Still the family is willing to let us have more land for some cost for the church to plant crops for the church. This is a very good opportunity for the small church at Hursa to have its own farm and grow faster. Part of our Agriculture Program budget would be used on such lands of churches in addition to supporting local evangelist farmers in the Mission area. Currently there are 53 members at Hursa church. Many people in the community especially Muslims come and visit the church building that is in progress. Most of them promised to come and believe in Jesus Christ. Some have been helping and encouraging the Christians to quickly build and finish the construction of the new church. If we can secure the land, the Hursa church can grow different crops and get two harvests each year. During the first season usually farmers in the area grow potatoes, cabbages, beets, and carrots. In the second season of the same year the land can be replaced by either wheat or barley. For the churches in the countryside growing crops is one of the main income sources to support church ministries. Therefore we encourage new churches first to get land where they can farm and harvest good crops to support themselves in the future. For a short time it is also easier for the local churches to grow crops by themselves rather than looking for other means of income. So far our Agriculture Mission support has been doing successful work in helping new churches and local Evangelists who depend on farming crops to become self-supporting.

	<u>Budget Amt.</u>	<u>Collected Amt.</u>	<u>OTHER NEEDS</u>	<u>Budget Amt.</u>	<u>Collected Amt.</u>
<u>Salary, wires, & Work Program</u>	49,211/yr.	13,194	Seed Project	4,500	3698.00
			Gidola Cong.	4,550	0.00
			Women's Grp.	1,750	1750.00
			Youth Grp.	1,750	500.00
			Hursa Outreach	7,250	250.00
Next payment on March 1					

Student Ministry

- *Megan Hiller, Brianna Stover, David Eddy, Ethan Hopkey, Josh Buettner, and Noah Russell were installed January 13 at student peer ministers for the spring semester.
- *Student fellowship continues on Wednesdays at 8:30 PM.
- *The student activities committee hosted “painting with Bob Ross” on January 26th.
- *We thank John Anderson and all who helped with the welcome back meal for students on January 27.
- *Students are planning to go on a spring break servant event the week of March 17.

Activities for February:

February 3- (10:30 AM) Breakfast Pizza

February 17- (noon) Coffee and Hot Chocolate

February 23- (1:30 PM) Bowling or Laser tag

International Student Ministry

Our next “F.I.S.H.” (Friday International Student Hospitality) dinner will be February 1 at 6 PM. The cooks will be from Iran.
March “F.I.S.H.” will be held March 1.

Thank you to the teachers for this semester:

Basic Level—M,W -Weihua Zhu; *Level 1/2*—M,W -Bruce Calhoun; *Level 3/4*—M,W - Pam Millen, Jewell Proctor; *Advanced Level*—M, Micaela Bryant, W -Bob Hunter; *Nursery*—M,T,W -Amy Balvanz, Kong Keochai; *Art Class*—M, Cleo Lynch; *Bible Study*—M, T -Judy Newhouse; *Intro to American Literature*—T, -John Carlson; *English Lab*—T, -Kristi Carlson, Ken Dunker; *TOEFL*—T,TH -Ken Dunker; *Idioms Class*—T,TH -Judy Newhouse; *Life in English*—T, -Judy Newhouse; *Composition Class*—W, -David Hedden-dorf; *Medical Terms*—W, -Linda Vogtlin; *Quilting* (1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month) — Linda Vogtlin and Sally Hartman; *Mom’s and Tots Group*—2 times /month on Fridays-Carol Anderson.

Mom’s & Tot’s Group

Several years ago Suzanne Klocke and Carolyn McCall hosted a “Mom’s and Tots” class for international mothers on Fridays. When they “retired” from doing that for many years, we could not identify anyone to continue the group. Now Carol Anderson from Ascension Lutheran Church in Ames has agreed to “resurrect” the group. Carol Anderson is a wife and mother of three teenagers. She has been an elementary teacher and holds a Master of Arts degree in elementary education. She loves to travel and has lived abroad with her family for over 5 years. She’s familiar with the joys and challenges of being immersed in a foreign culture and language. Her interests include reading, hiking, enjoying/cooking ethnic foods, and good strong coffee. Carol and her family just recently moved to Ames and are really enjoying it.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

10	George & Linda Martens	51 yrs.
13	Rob & Brenda Brown	26 yrs.
13	Richard & Kathryn Handy	37 yrs.
13	Nelly & Manuel Oyenvidez	23 yrs.
20	Justin & Lisa Nolting	9 yrs.
25	Jeff & Denise Balvanz	41 yrs.
25	David & Jeanette Dietrich	48 yrs.

February 1	Zack Charter	February 12	Carter Clayberg	February 20	Lee Wilkins Sr.
February 3	Jamie Barker		Richard Handy	February 21	Aaron Clayberg
	Connie Mortvedt	February 13	Logan Halfwassen	February 22	Larry Gilbert
February 4	Faye Abel		Jason Krull	February 23	Amelia Anderson
	Sandra Ausborn	February 14	Helen Mackey		Matthew Trotter
February 6	Kris Grotheer	February 15	Stanley Rabe	February 24	Lauren Smith
	Stephanie Johnson		Bob Anderson	February 25	Pam Millen
	Vonda Junck		Isabella Arce	February 28	Sue Reimers
February 7	Acacia Deadrick		James Bengtson		
	Donna Sogard	February 16	Robert Streit		
February 9	Scott Hall	February 17	David Heddendorf		
February 10	Donna Heilman	February 18	Kevin Cole		
	Achol Lual		Brandt Damman		
	Steve Ringlee	February 19	Matthew Klocke		
	Chuck Robinson		Nelly Oyervidez		



Below is a short paragraph describing the QCD opportunity.

Stewardship News for Memorial Donors

Members with itemized deductions less than \$24,000 (married) or \$12,000 (single) may no longer deduct charitable contributions under the recent tax act. However, if this is the case for you, there is a way to donate to Memorial and still retain tax advantages. If you are over 70 1/2 in age and have an IRA or an annuity from ISU or IPERS, you can make "Qualified Charitable Distributions" (QCD) to Memorial that are free of tax. By directing your investment manager to remit part of your regular IRA or pension payments directly to Memorial, you will not be taxed on those amounts by either Federal or State governments. This benefit is limited to \$100,000 per year and only for those age 70 -1/2 and older. To do this, you should contact your pension or IRA manager and set up a QCD to benefit Memorial Lutheran. Deposits may be made directly to our bank account: JUDY WOULD NEED TO FILL IN ROUTING NUMBER, BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER, AND BANK FOR THESE REMITTANCES. BEST TO HAVE A SEPARATE ACCOUNT FOR THEM.

~Steve Ringlee

Financial Report

As of January 20, 2019

	<u>Budgeted Amt.</u>	<u>Received</u>
Expenses	29,947.00	29,123.00
Synod	2,841.00	1,220.00
Missions	456.00	00.00
Kebede	2,839.00	2,739.00
Totals	\$ 36,083.00	\$33,082.00

To date, members and friends of Memorial Lutheran have donated their Thrivent for Lutherans "Choice Dollars" in the amount of \$80.00

Thank you for your support.