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From the Pastor's Desk: On Newness

2023 is over, 2024 is here! Whenever the calendar flips over, we tend to look back over the last year and reflect. We reflect over ups and downs, wins and losses, things done and left undone. As you move forward, keep these words from Paul in mind:

"¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." ~ Phil. 3:13-14

I'm certain that you did a lot of things in 2023. You accomplished so much! However, as Paul states, do not consider that you made it on your own. Through everything, God was there. You are where you are right now because God has willed it to be so. Maybe you aren't where you thought you'd be or where you want to be, but know that God has you right where you need to be.

Regardless of what did happen in 2023, good or bad, we must carry on. We cannot dwell on the mistakes of the past. We cannot rest in the good works that God has done through us last year. Each year is another blessing from God! And with each new year comes new opportunities to live life as God calls us.

When you change the calendar from December to January and think about all the ways that this year will be better, know that God has a plan for you. He has called you His own and will not let you do 2024 alone. Now go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ was born, and has been sent for all those with ears to hear. May your ears be opened to hear God's Word and Will. May you begin your new year in God's love, the fullness of Christ, and with the confidence of the Holy Spirit.

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Maxwell Whitehead

VCIS: A Ministry of the larger Viborg Lutheran Church

Vocavit - Congregantur - Illustratus - Sanctificatus - Called - Gathered - Enlightened - Sanctified

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from the VCIS Youth! We spent our last Wednesday of the year together caroling to the folks at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home, the Villa, and a few individuals in the community. We ended up having 17 of us caroling!

We also held our 2nd Annual Parade of Homes! We had 6 different hosts open up their homes to the 41 guests that came through. It sounded like all of the guests really enjoyed themselves.

Other than caroling, we have been discussing the gospel text for the week and beginning to make plans for our Mission at Home! We have a few things planned, but of course many question marks as we are still 6 months out. Each week we will keep putting together more plans and get it much more concrete in the coming months. As of now, the plan is to do service projects during the morning and afternoon, and then have nightly worship and/or events (I have a rough idea of them). If you have an idea of a local service project, talk to one of the kids

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January Calendar

Wednesday, Jan 03

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 PM NO Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM NO Confirmation
 7:00 PM NO VCIS

Sunday, Jan 07

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)
 11:30 AM Council Mtg

Wednesday, Jan 10

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS
7:15 PM VCIS Parents Meeting

Sunday, Jan 14

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service (Traditional)

Wednesday, Jan 17

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Jan 21

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)
11:30 AM Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 24

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Jan 28 **NOTE TIME SWITCH!**

9:00 AM Worship Service (Contemporary)
 10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Jan 31

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

**Blessings^{to} you
 in the New Year**

January Worship Helpers

Sunday, January 07

Reader Tonya Rudd
 Acolytes Andrew Spangler & Katie Spangler
 Communion Helper Carston Mellem
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, January 14

Reader Mitch Larsen
 Acolytes Kaleb Huber & Ryker Larsen
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, January 21

Reader Amie Larsen
 Acolytes Lincoln Mellen & Braxton Sorensen
 Communion Helper Lilly Huber
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, January 28

Reader Faydra Christensen
 Acolytes Nora Rudd & Emily Ludens
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Praise Band

January Ushers & Cleaners

January Ushers

* TBD

Cleaners Dec 24 - Jan 6

* Linda Larsen,
 * Ashley Larsen,
 * Kayla Larsen

Cleaners Jan 7 -

* TBD

Cleaners Jan

* TBD

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or me and we will write it down as consideration! I will also be doing more talking to my pastoral friends in the area and plan on having kids from various towns join us. After all, one of the favorite parts of the mission trips has been meeting new people.

If you would like to make any contributions to the Mission at Home, talk to me (Pastor Max) or Lexie Larsen. Contributions can range from materials as we figure out our work projects, to food/time to feed the kids, to money. All will be needed.

We are so excited to take on this project and serve our community! Lastly, we ask for your support that has nothing to do with money or other resources: your prayers. God does hear your prayers and we could always use your prayerful support!

Thank you for supporting this group as we continue to foster relationships between the 7th-12th grade kids of our congregations and community!

Peace be with you all!
Pastor Max

January Scripture Readings

Jan 07 - Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7,
Mark 1:4-11
Jan 14 - 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18,
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51
Jan 21 - Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12,
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20
Jan 28 - Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111,
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

Looking Ahead To February

Sunday, February 04

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30AM **Worship Service (Communion)**
11:30 AM Council Mtg

Wednesday, February 07

2:00 PM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
5:30 PM Confirmation
7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, February 11

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30AM **Worship Service (Traditional)**

Wednesday, February 14

2:00 PM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
5:30 PM Confirmation
7:00 PM VCIS

Thank You
Volunteers!
You Are
Appreciated!

2024 Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting (SVLC) is January 21 @ 11:30AM According to the by-laws, to be an active, voting member, one must have communed with the congregation and given a contribution of note (check or other statement) within the last year. If one does not fit this criteria, one is not considered a voting member.

January 28, 2024 Time Switch!

SVLC Sunday School will be at 10:15AM & Worship Service at 9:00AM to accommodate OSLC Annual Meeting.

OSLC Sunday School will be 9:15AM & Worship Service at 10:30AM.



Give Online
to SVLC

TOGETHER
WE ARE THE
CHURCH



DEADLINE

The February Newsletter Deadline is January 24. Submissions after the deadline are not guaranteed inclusion into the newsletter. **Please submit all articles and information on time. Thank you!**

Viborg SD 57070
PO Box 98
44707 289th St
Spring Valley
LUTHERAN CHURCH



VCIS Parents Meeting

All parents and students involved in the VCIS Youth Group, please gather at the Parish Hall at 7:15 PM on January 10, so we can discuss the future plans of this group! We will discuss weekly happenings, Summer 2024 plans, and Summer 2025 plans.

A New Years Prayer...

Let us go forth into the world in peace and dedicated to Your service, O Lord. Let us hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and the afflicted, and honor all people. Let us love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of His Spirit. And may God's blessing be upon us and remain with us always. Amen

Please Consider helping if you can. We are in great need of the following items...

- ❖ Facial Tissue
- ❖ Toilet Paper
- ❖ Shampoo
- ❖ Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- ❖ Lotion
- ❖ Body Wash
- ❖ Sauces -
 - * Soy
 - * Worcestershire
 - * BBQ.
 - * Ketchup
- ❖ Canned Goods
- ❖ Toaster Pastries
- ❖ Cereal Bars
- ❖ Granola Bars
- ❖ Cooking Oil
- ❖ Mayo
- ❖ Salad Dressings
- ❖ Spices
- ❖ Peanut Butter
- ❖ Jelly
- ❖ Pastas
- ❖ Rice (not instant)
- ❖ Ramen noodles

We have a freezer for cold storage items as well (meats, cheeses, etc).