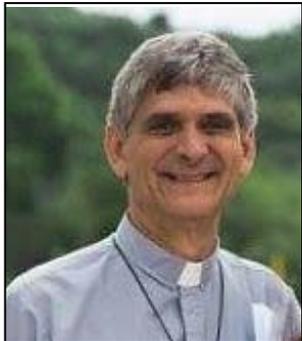




The Flock

Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
822 Belvoir Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37412
www.gslcflock.org ~ 423.629.4661

Vol. 15, Issue 1
January 2019



Pastor's Pen



Happy New Year! Oh, is it really going to be any different from last year? What is really new about it? Will it be better? How would you like a guarantee that it is going to be? There is one to be sure, based on what happened on the 8th days after the birth of our Lord. On that day, January 1 by the liturgical calendar, our Lord was circumcised. On that day they gave him the name Jesus! That event put forth in motion the promise that you will have a better year as God counts better. When it is done, you will be stronger in the Lord. How can I say that?

Jesus was given his name on January 1, if we assume he was born on December 25. What is in a name? The answer is everything. When God gives a name to us, that is, puts his name on us, it is a description of the blessings that God brings to us. But, why was he circumcised on the 8th day? It has to do with creation. God created the heavens and the earth in their vast array 6 days and then set aside the 7th day for the Sabbath Day. On that Sabbath Day, God works on the hearts of his children to free them from sin and to build them up in the holy faith. We rest on that day so God can work. When will God's work be done? On the

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Lk. 2:21 ESV)

great 8th day that has no end, the day of the LORD which God promised would break in with the coming of the Savior. Through his work, God would finally make us completely holy and bring us into the new world where there would never be a night as God would shine on us in all his holy glory. That great 8th day dawned at the coming of Jesus but will be fulfilled at his 2nd coming. So the giving of that name on the 8th day signified two things. First, God is still working on us as we live in this broken sinful world signified by the first 7 days. However, there is a day coming when God's promise will be completely fulfilled, the coming 8th day of the Lord. So yes, God is saying through the circumcision and naming of Jesus that through Christ, the Savior, he will make progress in your life! His name means "to save."

How do I know he will do that for you? You have been baptized into his name. When you were baptized, it was a new beginning for you, a blessing that works a new beginning each and every day in our world. There Jesus works to put to death the old sinful nature as we die with him at the cross, that is our old sinful nature. Day by day as we look to God's promise, he is putting our old sinful nature to death more and more. Paul says that so beautifully in Romans 6:2ff. At the same time, we are daily

raised with Christ in his new life so we can walk in a newness of life, that new man created in the image of Christ. On top of this, Christ even comes to live in us as it is no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us as Paul says in Galatians 2:20. Christ himself is the source of strength and life for our new nature. He is the holy one of God who never sinned. He is working to bring us to that same state of holiness.

What does it all mean? It means that this new year is going to be better than the last. It means you will grow in God's grace because God has promised it would happen in your baptism. He puts his name on you so you will be more like him. **IT IS GOING TO BE A BETTER YEAR!** So happy new year and stay close to Jesus! Pray to him. Remember your baptism. Hear his Word. Take his holy supper. God is faithful. He who began a good work will bring it to completion as he promises in Philippians 1:6.

*In Christ's love,
Pastor Sheets*





It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35) and *“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”* (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, *“Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins, [a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.* (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for

me.”

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God's son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

Stewardship
CAMPAIN

HAPPENING SOON!!!!

More details will be in the
Sunday bulletins soon!

January 2019

EVERY SUNDAY

Traditional Service— 9 am
 Sunday School— 10:10 am
 Contemporary Service—
 11:15 am
 Crossways— 2 pm

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

1st Sun.— Traditional
 2nd Sun.— Contemporary
 3rd Sun.— Traditional
 4th Sun.— Contemporary
 5th Sun.— Both Services
 Every Sat. @ Grace Place

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DEC 30	DEC 31	JAN 1	2	3	4	5
	New Year's Eve Office Closed	New Year's Day Office Closed	No Activities Today!	Yoga— 1:30 pm Feed the Homeless — 5:30 pm		Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser— 4:45 pm Grace Place— 6 pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Epiphany Sunday No Kingdom Kids Sunday School Prayer Group— 6 pm	Blessing Place 9 am— 2 pm Library Booked— 5:30 pm	LWML— 10 am Yoga— 1:30 pm Super Tuesday Meetings	BCA Chapel— 8:30 am Blessing Place 9 am— 2 pm Youth— 6:30 pm Choir— 6:30 pm Orchestra— 8 pm	Yoga— 1:30 pm		Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser— 4:45 pm Grace Place— 6 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mite Collection Sunday	Blessing Place 9 am— 2 pm Library Booked— 5:30 pm BCA School Board— 6 pm	Bible Study w/ Pastor Sheets— 10:30 am Yoga— 1:30 pm	BCA Chapel— 8:30 am Blessing Place 9 am— 2 pm Youth— 6:30 pm Choir— 6:30 pm Orchestra— 8 pm	Chemo Caps— 10:30 am Yoga— 1:30 pm		Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser— 4:45 pm Grace Place— 6 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	MLK Jr Day BCA Closed No Blessing Place Library Booked— 5:30 pm Board of Lay Ministry— 6:30 pm	Bible Study w/ Pastor Sheets— 10:30 am Yoga— 1:30 pm	BCA Chapel— 8:30 am Blessing Place 9 am— 2 pm Youth— 6:30 pm Choir— 6:30 pm Orchestra— 8 pm	Yoga— 1:30 pm	FAMILY GAME NIGHT— 5-8 pm	Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser— 4:45 pm
27	28	29	30	31		
National Lutheran Schools Week Jan. 27 - Feb. 2	Blessing Place 9 am— 2 pm Library Booked— 5:30 pm	Bible Study w/ Pastor Sheets— 10:30 am Yoga— 1:30 pm	BCA Chapel— 8:30 am Blessing Place 9 am— 2 pm Youth— 6:30 pm Choir— 6:30 pm Orchestra— 8 pm	Yoga— 1:30 pm		



January ANNIVERSARIES

1/14- Roy & Peggy White (15 yrs.)
1/23- Rick & Karen Brines (18 yrs.)
1/30- Jim & Suzan Marsh (29 yrs.)



January BIRTHDAYS

1/1- Kacie Wade
1/2- Joan Cutcher
1/2- Anna Fincher
1/3- Ruth Scotchie
1/4- Sandy Morris
1/5- Chip Chipman
1/6- Linda Maples
1/7- Abigail Jarvis
1/8- Janet Loscudo
1/8- Bobby Lee
1/10- Michael Barrett
1/10- Savannah Denton
1/12- Lorna Duderstadt
1/12- Cole Irwin
1/12- Peggy Alsop
1/12- Lexie Pearson
1/13- Tim Eachus
1/14- Mark Lumpkin

1/15- Tom Green
1/15- Sherry Jacobs
1/15- Desiree Humphrey
1/17- Donna Henson
1/18- Robby Allen
1/18- Nathan Mefford
1/19- Adeline McCall
1/21- Brent Henson
1/21- Becky Mietzner
1/21- Eric Strickland
1/23- Ron Morris
1/23- Shana Baker
1/25- Edith McCall
1/25- Ty Whitaker
1/26- Mike West
1/26- Amber Beam
1/27- Steve Meyer
1/27- Pastor Chris Sheets
1/27- Liam Swain
1/28- Tom Manthey
1/29- Briggs Padgett
1/30- Sara Reeves
1/31- Ella Hammonds

