

OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

January 2025

Change?

It's that time of the year when we... we umm... say that it's a new year. Over the many centuries, the beginning of a new year has been at various points, seasons. For most of it, it was at the Spring Equinox, marking the end of Winter, beginning of Spring. Pretty reasonable. When the Gregorian Calendar was put together, the beginning of the new year was set to be the Circumcision of the Lord. That's a rather great change. But, it's also called the Presentation of the Lord (to the Temple, to be redeemed as a male born to Israel). That's important to all of us.

When Jesus was presented at the Temple, and made part of the Family of Israel, He was confirmed as the One who would fulfill all that the People of Israel (or any of this World) were unable to do, and then also to truly be the Redeemer for all the sins of the People. Not by gold, or silver, or even two pigeons, but by His own Holy Blood. That covers all – to this day, and days to come until He comes again – who are children to Abraham, and Israel, by Faith. This is change for the better for all who would answer His call.

There are, however, many people who do not like any sort of change, whether it's for their own good, or not. They don't trust change. True, because of the winds of this world people can become embittered by changes, such as the death of a child, this change through Jesus is not of this world, and indeed takes us out of the clutches of this world. While the world and its Baal may do many heinous deeds against us, if we are safe in the hands of the Lord Jesus that damage is only for a little while. Even the most devastating of emotional damage can be put into perspective when we understand what it means:

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

(Romans 4:25-5:5)

There WILL be bad things, very bad things, "sufferings," Saint Paul calls them, that happen to us. These are there to connect us to our Lord, and know with full certainty that He is our Great High Priest who has sympathy, compassion, because He came to us to suffer what only human creatures can suffer. He understands, He hears us; even if (even IF) something that happens is because of our own bad decisions (and who has not made many of those?), Jesus was here in the flesh, and whatever traps we can make for ourselves, so have all the people through the ages done. There is nothing new under the sun, not even our mistakes are unique. So, Jesus speaks for us, stands with us, as one of us, and offers His hands, His arms, His healing smile, to pick us up even when life seems like a bowl of... shaving cream.

Now, there's the change. Where once we were alone to try to endure, we are no longer alone. Beyond Jesus Himself, He has also given us each other to have sympathy, compassion, because together, as one Body, we've made every mistake, and suffered every evil, and been hit with all the Devil can throw, so we have the understanding that another needs when the World from which we've been redeemed hits another one of us.

There are people who don't want this. They only want that vertical relationship with God, forgetting, or ignoring, or even disliking, the horizontal component, which is that we are Family. Thank God for that.

Rev. Jeffery H. Leichman

JANUARY

January	1		No Bible Study today
	5	9:00 am	Second Sunday after Christmas With Communion Coffee and... January Birthdays
	6		No Bible Study today
	7		Sonshine Preschool reopens after winter break
	8		No Bible Study today
	12	9:00 am	The Baptism of Our Lord No Communion
		10:00 am	Coffee and...
	13	7:30 pm	Bible Study resumes
	14	4:30 pm	BOD Meeting
	15	11:00 am	Bible Study
	19	9:00 am	Second Sunday after the Epiphany With Communion Coffee and...
	20	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	22	11:00 am	Bible Study
	26	9:00 am	Third Sunday after the Epiphany No Communion Coffee and...
	27	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	29	11:00 am	Bible Study



Justin Burmeister – 7th
Jon Noll – 10th
Karen Braun – 12th
Ruth Koelper – 20th



No Anniversaries this month.