

~ January 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:00-7:45 p.m. Wednesday School 7:15 p.m. Vespers	3 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast at Country Kitchen	4	5 6:00 p.m. Divine Service
6 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	7	8 Pastor at Circuit Meeting 6:00 p.m. Midweek Bible Study	9 6:00 p.m. Take Down Christmas Decorations 6:00-7:45 p.m. Wednesday School 7:15 p.m. Vespers	10 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast at Country Kitchen	11	12 9-12:00 p.m. Swaddling Clothes 6:00 p.m. Divine Service
13 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Study Elders' Meeting	14	15	16 6:00-7:45 p.m. Wednesday School 7:15 p.m. Vespers	17 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast at Country Kitchen	18	19 6:00 p.m. Divine Service
20 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:15 a.m. Coffe Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 6:30-9:00 p.m. Youth Fun Night	21 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	22 6:00 p.m. Midweek Bible Study	23 6:00-7:45 p.m. Wednesday School 7:15 p.m. Vespers	24 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast at Country Kitchen	25	26 6:00 p.m. Divine Service
27 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	28	29	30 6:00-7:45 p.m. Wednesday School 7:15 p.m. Vespers	31 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast at Country Kitchen	Notes:	
Acolytes 6 th Jady Hallgren 13 th Erynn Ward 20 th Joel Hallgren 27 th Lina Newland	Communion Elder	Ushers Don Bailey-Head Usher	Altar Guild			

Message from Pastor

January 2019

From God the Father, virgin-born
To us the only Son came down;
By death the font to consecrate,
The faithful to regenerate.

(LSB 401; Latin, c. 5th-10th century; translated by John Mason Neale, 1818-66).

Happy New Year, dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

The new year brings new year's resolutions. It is understandable that we want to improve on ourselves from the previous year, and what better time to do it than in the new year; a fresh new start! Our hymn of the month talks about a fresh new start when it says "By death the font to consecrate, the faithful to regenerate." Regenerate means to cause to be reborn. Sin is but away and righteousness is brought forth. Martin Luther expresses this in the Catechism, "What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

By his death Jesus consecrates the Baptismal font to regenerate us. St. Paul says this very thing in Romans 6, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

So, how do you start anew? By returning to your Baptism and trusting in Christ, who died for your sins. Only through faith in Jesus Christ, who bore your sins on the cross, can you truly walk in newness of life. The sins that tempted you last year will very likely tempt you this year. The challenges of 2018 might want to be the challenges of 2019. But He, who regenerated you in your Baptism and made you a holy child of God, will also cause you to walk in newness of life in 2019. Jesus Christ, who joined himself to us physically by becoming a human being has also joined us to himself spiritually through Baptism. And he continues to join himself to us through the preaching of his Gospel and the reception of his holy body and blood. Jesus can give you strength for this year, even as he will give you strength to live forever in that final unending year. May God increase your faith this year and keep you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Preus