



The Torch

Jan.-Feb.

2019

"To receive and share Christ's embrace"

Resolutions

Have you made any New Year's resolutions? With the coming of a new calendar year, people often take the time to reflect on changes they feel they need to make in their lives. The top ten resolutions a couple of years ago, according to the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, were:

1. Lose weight
2. Get organized
3. Spend less, save more
4. Enjoy life to the fullest
5. Stay fit and healthy
6. Learn something exciting
7. Quit smoking
8. Help others in their dreams
9. Fall in love
10. Spend more time with family

Personally, I found number 9 a bit odd; how does one make good on a resolution to fall in love? Whatever. I'm sure you'll agree that all these items are good things... IF people actually did them. Writing for *Women's Health*, on-line author Corrie Paul says that only about 40 percent of us are still holding onto our resolutions by July. Frankly, I didn't think the statistics were that high or that resolutions lasted that long.

I know that dedicated "gym rats" hate the month of January because their fitness centers and health clubs become overrun by people who have resolved to lose weight and/or get in shape. They tolerate the long waits for their favorite exercise machines, patiently enduring until February when the resolutions evaporate and the couch potatoes go away.

We can be thankful that our Lord did not allow his resolution to fade away. To the contrary, he set an example of resolve for us. "When the days drew near for (Jesus) to be taken up," St. Luke wrote, "he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). Other translations say that "he was *determined* to go to Jerusalem," that "he *steadfastly* set his face to go to Jerusalem," or that "he *resolutely* set out for Jerusalem" (*emphasis added*). These are all variations on the Greek word, *sterizo*, which means "to make fast" or "establish." It's a word that denotes power and strength, expressing assurance that Jesus would not shrink from the challenges that he faced.

Although he knew what terrible things awaited him – betrayal, false arrest, scourging, denial and, finally, crucifixion – he would not be dissuaded. Nothing could thwart his resolution to defeat sin, death and the power of the grave. And we are the beneficiaries of his resolve.

As we look back to Christmas and remember God's great gift to us in the birth of his Son, we can also look forward to Easter when the full import of that gift is realized. As we celebrate Epiphany with the arrival of the Magi and their worship of the infant King of kings, we can rejoice that the tiny baby of Bethlehem would trade his manger bed for a rough-hewn cross where the problem of sin would be resolved once and for all.

Entering this New Year of Our Lord, 2019, I pray that each of us would resolve to "run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 1:1b-2).

Paula and I wish you a blessed New Year!

Saved to Share,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bill". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Pastor" written in a smaller, more compact style than the last name "Bill", which is larger and more prominent.



**OPERATION SPIRIT FROM THE HEART OF THE
ROCKIES**

**Homemade Cookies Needed – Please!
Chocolate is OK**

**Thank you very much for your generous
donations.**

No more magazines until further notice.

Any cards and letters you would like to send
would be GREATLY appreciated!!

Monetary Donations are also needed to cover
the costs of shipping and purchasing other
supplies and items for the troops. Please make
checks payable to First Lutheran Church and
write "Operation Spirit" on the memo line.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Mark Cunningham, CH(CPT)
James Brown, Anah Kotila, Tim Wilson, Kenneth
Wilson, Thomas Sweet, Jake Engleman, and
Garrett Taylor.

**PACK TROOP BOXES 9 A.M. TUESDAY
January 22nd & February 26th**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

23rd Jessie Carstens &
Gerald Gregory

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd Jim Carstens

9th Kathy Martin

14th Justin &
Travis Eagles-Soukup

15th Johanna Stinnett

21st Linda Hayden &
Lee Shuey

22nd Rachel Stinnett

28th Linda Ryff

ELDER SCHEDULE THROUGH

FEBRUARY 2019-Rotation

Gary Martin

David Geu

"WHO ARE WE?"

Sharon Blanchard is putting together a special project for the congregation. She will be conducting interviews starting in February. This will be a great way to get to know all of your fellow church members better- a great way to start a new year! See Sharon for details.



Kids First Literacy Club

First Lutheran Church

Happy New Year from KFLC!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party. We had the best time. Also, continuous thank you for your constant support and to all the volunteers and tutors. We are so excited to resume after a nice break. Prayerfully consider joining KFLC this year. We meet every Friday at 9:00am. See you there!

Blessings,
Gerrie & Paula



COOKBOOK RECIPES

More recipes needed for the cookbook Sharon Blanchard is putting together. Send in your favorite recipes to Sharon. Family recipes, friend's recipes, your signature recipes, any recipes will do! Thank you. **ranchlady4560@centurylink.net**

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day	2 1pm Bell Choir 7pm AA meeting	3 8a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	4	5
6 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School 11:30am Elders Meeting	7 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	8	9 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting 1p Bell Choir Comforters 9am	10 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	11 9a KFLC	12
13 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School	14 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	15	16 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting 1p Bell Choir Comforters 9am	17 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	18 9a KFLC	19
20 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School	21 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	22 9am Packing Troop Boxes	23 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting 1p Bell Choir Comforters 9am	24 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	25 9:00a KFLC	26
27 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School	28 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	29	30 1p Bell Choir Comforters 9am	31 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria		

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9a KFLC	2
3 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School 11:30 Elders Meeting	4 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	5	6 1p Bell Choir 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting Comforters 9am	7 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	8 9a KFLC	9
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Dear Friends:

**Thank you for your
generous Christmas gift!
You are a blessing to us
in so many ways.**

In His Love,

Pastor Bill and Paula

First Lutheran Church



Sunday

9:15	Worship
10:15	Fellowship
10:30	Bible Class

Pastor Bill Cate

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