

**January Calendar 2024**

**Events**

**Anniversary & Birthdays**

Mon.	1-Jan	(H) New Years Day	1-Jan	(B) Lisa Smith
Wed.	3-Jan		3-Jan	(A) Carla & Judd Newcomb 2004
Thurs.	4-Jan		4-Jan	(B) Madeline Gladson
Sat.	6-Jan		6-Jan	(B) Alex Gladson
Sunday	7-Jan	(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School	7-Jan	(B) Caryl Hickerson
		(E) 10am Worship Service		
Mon.	8-Jan	(E) 7pm Ladies Aid Meeting		
Wed.	10-Jan	(E) 7pm Council Meeting		
Sunday	14-Jan	(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
		(E) 10am Worship Service		
		(E) 11am Voters Meeting		
Mon.	15-Jan		15-Jan	(B) Keith Torbeck
Tues.	16-Jan		16-Jan	(B) Molly Hickerson
				(B) Ryan Schaal
Fri.	19-Jan		19-Jan	(B) Diana Bauer
Sat.	20-Jan		20-Jan	(B) Susan Williams
Sunday	21-Jan	(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
		(E) 10am Worship Service		
Thurs.	25-Jan		25-Jan	(B) David Wasmuth
Sunday	28-Jan	(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
		(E) 10am Worship Service		
Wed.	31-Jan		31-Jan	(B) Jacob Smith

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January 2024

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

As we enter a new year, it's good to reflect on the special days in January. The first such day is "The Circumcision and Name of Jesus," which is celebrated on January 1, the eighth day of Christmas. Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 as we remember the visit of the wise men bearing gifts for the Christ Child. On Sunday, January 7, we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Since I can't cover all three of those feasts in one article, I'll settle on the first one.

Now it may seem odd to observe and celebrate the circumcision of Jesus. It's not the kind of thing one usually discusses. After all, more attention is usually given to the New Year just beginning, with resolutions and such. Yet, it is also the eighth day of Christmas. So, we don't stop our celebration of our Lord's birth, but our attention is drawn to His circumcision and His receiving the name Jesus.

Why would we observe such a day? Well, "circumcision was required for every Jewish boy one week after birth. So it is that Jesus' blood was first shed when He was only eight days old (counting the day of His birth). This marked the first indication of all that He would later suffer. At that time, the infant Savior was given the name of Jesus ("the Lord saves"), following the directive of the Lord's angel to [Mary (Luke 1:31) and] Joseph (Matt. 1:21)." Of course, that name is "the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:9-11).

While that name is often wrongly and sinfully used by many, it is the most precious name to us for whom He died and rose again, so that our sins would be forgiven and that we might live with Him forever. Hymn 900 in *Lutheran Service Book* is "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love." It is a wonderful hymn for contemplation on Jesus' name.

A few notes about the hymn are helpful to have a greater appreciation of it. "The author [William W. How] begins each stanza with the name "Jesus" followed by an exclamation mark, showing that this is no ordinary child who bears His name in an ordinary way. It is not only the name itself that bespeaks goodness; it is also its meaning as acted out in the saving death and resurrection of the One who bears it that brings the promised blessing. For the cross is always the focus, even here as the infant Jesus is brought into the Abrahamic covenant of circumcision. Many others have borne this name throughout history, but only Christ Jesus reveals its full meaning perfectly for the sake of all." (*Lutheran Service Book Companion to the Hymns*, vol. 1, p. 1430).

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee  
Bow in deep humility.

2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
To the maiden mother told,  
Kneeling in her lowly cell,  
By the angel Gabriel.

3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
To the fallen of the earth  
For the promise that it gave,  
"Jesus shall His people save."

4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,  
Given to the holy Child  
When the cup of human woe  
First He tasted here below.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: Public domain

God bless you always as you enter the new year and continue to celebrate Christmas and the gift of a Savior, Christ the Lord. I urge you to use every opportunity available to celebrate Jesus' name by gathering with your fellow saints to receive His life-giving and life-sustaining gifts and to praise His holy Name.

Pastor Landskroener

Here are the readings for the upcoming Divine Services:

January 7 The Baptism of Our Lord  
Gen. 1:1-5  
Rom. 6:1-11  
Mark 1:4-11

January 14 Epiphany 2  
1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20)  
1 Cor. 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

January 21 Epiphany 3  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
1 Cor. 7:29-31 (32-35)  
Mark 1:14-20

January 28 Epiphany 4  
Deut. 18:15-20  
1 Cor. 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

**STUDY GOD'S WORD IN 2024...** LCMS Stewardship has encouraged Lutherans to spend 1% every day (14 minutes) in God's Word and prayer. The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is currently leading a study on the Book of Colossians. You can listen at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org), the LPR mobile app or your favorite podcast provider.

**2024 Offering envelopes** are available in the Narthex.

**Ladies Aid meeting** at 7:00 pm in Parish Hall Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Installation of Officers** will be Jan 7<sup>th</sup> during our service.

**Council meeting** is Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**Voters meeting** is immediately after the service Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Save the Date:** Sunday, January 21, 2024, Holy Cross, Vandalia, will host their annual Chili/Soup Luncheon. It will be Drive Thru Only! Hours are 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM (or until soup is gone). Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

**Sausage Supper** St. Peter's Lutheran Men's Club will once again be holding their Sausage Supper with sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, and all the fixings on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with serving beginning at 5:00 PM in the St. Peter's Lutheran School Gym. Carry Outs will be available. Pre-orders for sausage and ribs will once again be offered and encouraged ahead of time, with deadline to order being January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – **a limited amount of sausage will be available on the day of the supper – order early!** To order, please call one of the following: John Lotz 618-553-5585, Tim Brauer 618-267-6229, David Schaal 618-292-3732, Reggie Grandt 618-553-6213, St. Peter's Lutheran Church 618-349-8321 (after 12 PM)

**Save the date – Saturday, March 9, 2024** - Mark your calendars! Join the CID LLL District at their annual convention hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont, Illinois. All are welcome to attend. Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour® focusing on Energizing Mission. Join us for a day of spiritual growth with inspirational presentations to encourage and equip you as partners in His mission. Be on the lookout for more convention details in the New Year.

**Parish Hall reservations** – If you would like to plan an event or meeting to use our Parish Hall for any reason, this also includes Church activities, you will need to contact Scott or Karen Torbeck. If not asked, we don't know. Use of the Parish Hall will be determined by the first reservation made.

**Contact Pastor Landskroener** 330-204-4180 for a Pastoral visit.

**Prayer Request** – When prayers are requested, we ask that we are informed of the relationship of the person with our congregation. There has been concerns about names on prayer list & who they are. We will add the relationship to the prayers. This will allow members to ask about the individual's progress in recovery. In an effort to manage the list more effectively, individuals will be placed on the list for a period of four weeks. If at the end of that time, those people still need additional prayers, they may be re-added to the list for another four-week term. This may be done as long as the individual continues to need the added strength of the church prayer for their special need.

**Augsburg is collecting Christian materials**, Bibles, Portals of Prayer, Sunday School and VBS materials, Lutheran Witness, books, etc., to be given to the mission in Butler to distribute worldwide. Please put them on the table in the middle of the basement.

# Bible Word Search:

## OCCUPATIONS IN THE BIBLE

R X T F T R Z Q D A Y V M R I  
E C H W A B E N E S N C I E N  
P Q U C A R P E N T E R D H N  
E O L P Q O M J T R J J W C K  
E R P U B P H E V O A S I A E  
K O D H O E N M R L I T F E E  
E R O E I G A V A O L R E T P  
T E T R R L K R A G E P A P E  
A P S A T N O R E E R D T H R  
G M V M A I D S E R V A N T C  
Z E M R Q G A H O A R A H P C  
R T N A H C R E M P L P S Y I  
H T I M S K C A L B H Z V I L  
E H A R P I S T X H E E I T I  
W A R R I O R Q J J D I R F L

ASTROLOGER	BLACKSMITH	CARPENTER	CHARIOTEER
CUPBEARER	EMPEROR	ENGRAVER	FARMER
GATEKEEPER	HARPIST	INNKEEPER	JAILER
MAIDSERVANT	MERCHANT	MIDWIFE	PHARAOH
PHILOSOPHER	POET	TEACHER	WARRIOR

**References:** Isaiah 47:13; 1 Samuel 13:19; Mark 6:3; 1 Chronicles 19:18;  
Genesis 40:1; Acts 25:25; Exodus 28:11; 2 Timothy 2:6; 2 Samuel 18:26;  
Revelation 14:2; Luke 10:35; Acts 16:23; Deuteronomy 15:17; Matthew 13:45;  
Genesis 35:17; Genesis 12:15; Acts 17:18; Acts 17:28; 1 Chronicles 25:8;  
Judges 11:1

