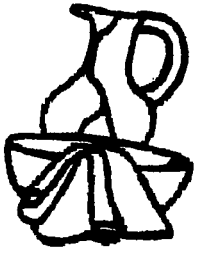


JANUARY 2018



John 13

# SERVANT LINES

*Christ the Servant Lutheran Church*

The One "MUST-READ" For The New Year

Only our loving Heavenly Father knows all that 2018 will hold. This coming year may be filled with hard trials, bring blessing upon blessing, or be mixed with both joy and challenge. Whatever God has in store for us, let us choose to start the New Year right by anchoring our longings and aspirations for 2018 in God's strong words and unbreakable promises. That means that **THE ONE BOOK that is a "MUST-READ" in 2018 is your Bible.**

I was somewhat shocked to find out through the most recent Barna Research Group study that a majority of Christians have multiple copies of the Bible, yet a large percentage of professing Christians DO NOT READ their Bible on a consistent basis. I'm not here to "scold you" if you are part of that percentage, but as your Pastor, I am simply here to encourage you that **2018 is a brand new year...a brand new start... and there is no better time than at the beginning of the New Year to form a new habit of spending time reading your Bible on a daily basis.**

For years now, I have been reading through the Bible in a Year and with the Lord's help, I will do it again in 2018. IF reading through the Bible in a Year seems too daunting of a task for you, can I encourage you to start out slowly and begin with just a chapter a day? **A chapter a day may just keep the devil away!** IF you are struggling to be consistent with a reading plan, **please come and talk to me, I have several that I can recommend to you.**

I can hear some of you: "But Pastor Rick, I don't understand what I'm reading in the Bible and so I get frustrated and wind up quitting altogether!" Trust me, I get it! **Can I encourage you to try a different approach? There are a good number of newer, more modern translations of the Bible** that are true to the original languages of Greek/Hebrew and are what I would call "more readable" than say the traditional King James or New American Standard. Again, **please come and talk to me, I have several that I can recommend to you.**

WHY take so much time AND the FRONT PAGE of the Church Newsletter to talk about Reading the Bible? BECAUSE IT'S THAT IMPORTANT! **NO OTHER BOOK YOU READ, no other spiritual discipline you engage in can transform your mind, your attitude, your outlook, yes, even your very life like God's Holy, infallible, inerrant, inspired Word.** You owe it to yourself (even if you've given up and quit in the past) to give it another try!

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

~Hebrews 4:12, ESV

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## From the Pastor's Heart

Well, 2017 is “in the books” and another year is upon us! Have you taken some time to reflect upon 2017? What went well? What didn't go so well? What do you have to be thankful for? What blessings did God pour out on you in 2017? Elaine, Charles and I have SO MUCH to be thankful for, as 2017 was an incredible year for the Weidman family. Allow us to first say how extremely grateful we are for the most generous Christmas Gift that you folks provided for us. We are continually amazed at how giving all of you are and how truly blessed we are to have the privilege to serve as your Pastor. It is an honor and a privilege that we do not take for granted. Again, **THANK YOU for your generosity!**

As I look out the window from my desk in my home office, I am watching the birds come to one of the many feeders that we have placed on our property (out here in the County). Elaine loves birdies (as she calls them) and so does Charles! We actually have a “Bird Clock” above our stove in the kitchen that has 12 distinct “bird calls” that chirp “on the hour”. Charles is obsessed with this! If we are travelling home, he gauges our ETA by whether or not we will be home in time to hear the “Bird Clock”! See what I mean by “obsessed”? Given that we are right in the middle of one of our coldest “cold snaps” in recent memory, filling the Bird Feeders has become a weekly task that Charles and I perform on Saturday mornings. It usually takes close to 40 pounds of bird seed to fill all of our Feeders and that lasts about 7-10 days.

So what resolutions OR goals have you set for yourself in 2018? Since becoming your Pastor, I confess that I have become lax in my diet and exercise regime and one of my major goals for 2018 is to lose weight (a minimum of 25 pounds) that I have gained in the past 3 years and would really like to lose a total of 40 by the end of 2018. I would also like to get back to running again (I used to run 5K races) and maybe even do at least 1 “Tough Mudder” event, perhaps in the fall (it will take me that long to get back in shape).

Elaine is back to work at CCU in the Student Accounts Department and from what she's been telling me, January will be EXTREMELY BUSY. Busy days and longer than usual hours as payments are due for last semester and a new semester begins. Please pray that she will remain healthy and have the physical stamina she needs in order to perform her job well.

Charles is back to school tomorrow at Kingston Elementary in Ms. Rosales' 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class where he continues to excel in Math, Reading and Computer Lab. If you haven't seen him recently, then you probably don't know just how much he's grown! (It's been hard for us to keep him in clothes and shoes that fit, he's been growing that fast!)

It has been said that a pessimist is one who sees a difficulty in every opportunity; whereas an optimist sees an opportunity in every difficulty. Let 2018 be a year of seeing opportunities rather than difficulties! If we have eyes to see, there are “open doors” everywhere! **WE LOVE YOU ALL!**



We offer our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of Connie Chandler who passed into the Church Triumphant on December 18. Services were held at St. Paul's Church in Conway on December 28. Please keep this family in your prayers.

We offer our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of Victor Hitchcock who passed into the Church triumphant on December 24. Services were held in Chadbourn, North Carolina on December 29 with Pastor Rick officiating. Please keep this family in your prayers.



**DATES TO REMEMBER –**

Tuesday, January 9 **PAIRS & SPARES** meets at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and fellowship.

Wednesday, January 17 at 10:30 **PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY** meets in the Conference Room. Everyone welcome

Thursday, January 18 **STITCHIN' SISTERS** imeets at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 20 **SUPPER CLUB** meets at Chestnut Hill Restaurant, Myrtle Beach, at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 27 Men meet for **BREAKFAST** at 8:30 in the Fellowship Hall

**CALLING ALL KIDS:** Kids Club will meet on Fridays, January 12 and January 26 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall!

**JANUARY 21 AND JANUARY 28** are open dates on the Flower Chart. Flowers are \$ 40.00. If you are interested in having flowers on the altar please contact the office.

Planning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Bill Sigler Memorial Car Show** is under way. On January 20, 2018 at 9:30am there will be a meeting at church for anyone who is interested in helping with the Car Show or wants more information about what we have planned. All are welcome. Questions ?? Call Debbie Sadar 843/457 3547.



We are in the process of preparing our 2018 Directory. If you have moved or changed your telephone or email address within the past year, please notify the office.

## OUR ATTENDANCE IN DECEMBER 2017

| DATE    | SUNDAY SCHOOL | 8:30 WORSHIP | 11:00 WORSHIP | TOTAL WORSHIP |
|---------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dec. 3  | 18            | 108          | 134           | 242           |
| Dec. 10 | 17            | 110          | 127           | 237           |
| Dec. 17 | 20            | 119          | 145           | 264           |
| Dec. 24 | 12            | 82           | 77            | 159           |
| Dec, 31 | N/A           | 103          | 81            | 184           |

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 6:00 – 137; 8:00 – 78 TOTAL: 215



Proceeds from our **“Noisy Offerings”** are used for a community project. This past Christmas season we donated several new bicycles to the Toys for Tots project. Thank you to our Youth and Youth Advisor, Chip Booker, for coordinating this project.

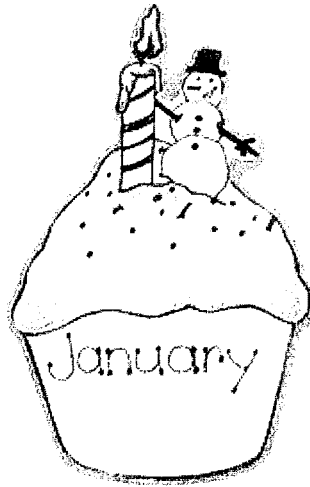
Thank you so much to everyone in the congregation for your contributions to the **Angel Tree Project** this year. Our church helped over 100 children in Horry County to receive a present on Christmas. We appreciate your generosity. Have a Happy New Year!

A big **THANK YOU** to Doug Larson for the bench in memory of his wife and Patty Alfano for the bench in memory of her husband and Juno Jones in the area of the columbarium and to Dick Shingledecker for the curbscape in the same area. There are still a few niches available. If you are interested please contact Dick Shingledecker or George Lotterer.



**“COATS FOR THE HOMELESS”** - During the month of January we will be collecting “gently used” coats, sweaters, scarves, sweatshirts for both adults and children along with blankets. These items will be donated to Associated Charities for distribution to the needy. A collection box is located in the narthex. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile cause.

**Churches Assisting People (CAP)** is in desperate need of food to help the needy. Their shelves are almost bare. Donations may be left in the CAP box in the foyer.



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2 Wanda Mercer  
3 Carl Hallberg  
4 Madeline Eisenhardt  
6 Dorothy Newcomer  
Ken Kean  
9 Bruce Brech  
13 Dennis LeBuis  
15 Jean Angersbach  
16 JoAnn Grove  
18 Jean Holshouser  
19 Sharon Rose

23 Annette Krapf  
25 Mary Jane Sarvis  
31 John Garbett

**ANNIVERSARIES**

1 George & Darlene Ringler  
4 John & Pam Garbett  
6 Mitch & Natalie Nealy  
Lenny & Sue Geneczko  
15 Lisa & Leo Paul



| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                                     | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday               | Saturday   |
|---|--|---|---|--|----------------------|--|
|   | New Year's Day 1<br><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED !</b> | 2<br>6:00 HC Special Election               | 3<br>Noon AA<br>7:00 Choir                                | 4<br>7:00 Bible Study  | 5                    | 6  |
| 7<br>8:30 & 11:00 Holy Communion<br>9:30 Fellowship<br>10:00 Sunday School                                | 8<br>1:00 Care & Prayer MT                     | 9<br>12:30 Pairs & Spares<br>7:00 Handbells | 10<br>Noon AA<br>7:00 Choir                               | 11<br>2:00 Outreach MT<br>7:00 Bible Study   | 12<br>6:30 Kids Club | 13<br>9:00 Council Workshop  |
| 14<br>8:30 & 11:00 Worship<br>9:30 Fellowship<br>10:00 Sunday School                                      | 15   | 16<br>7:00 Handbells                        | 17<br>10:30 Pastor's Bible Class<br>Noon AA<br>7:00 Choir | 18<br>10:00 Stitchin' Sisters<br>7:00 Bible Study  | 19                   | 20<br>9:30 Car Show Planning Committee<br>5:00 Supper Club @ Chestnut Hill |
| 21<br>8:30 & 11:00 Holy Communion<br>9:30 Fellowship<br>10:00 Sunday School                               | 22<br>11:30 League of Women Voters             | 23<br>7:00 Handbells                        | 24<br>Noon AA<br>7:00 Choir                               | 25<br>7:00 Bible Study   | 26<br>6:30 Kids Club | 27<br>8:30 Mens Breakfast<br>Noon Private Party                            |
| <b>Sanctity of Human Life Sunday</b> 28<br>8:30 & 11:00 Worship<br>9:30 Fellowship<br>10:00 Sunday School | 29   | 30<br>7:00 Handbells                        | 31<br>Noon AA<br>7:00 Choir                               | <b>ON THE FIRST SUNDAY</b> of each month you are invited to bring non-perishable food and monetary offerings for CAP. Please place food in the CAP box and monetary offerings in the jar. Thank you! |                      |  |

**LAY ASSISTANTS**

**8:30** Ken Ballington  
**11:00** Barbara Miller

**ACOLYTES**

Kayla Alford  
Frank Ricupero

**USHERS 8:30**

Ron Dusterhoft  
Larry Setzer

**USHERS 11:00**

Geoff Wilson  
Debbie Goff

**GREETERS 8:30**

Theo Johnson  
Theo Johnson III

**GREETERS 11:00**

Vince Niemetz  
Winnie Niemetz

**FLOWERS**

Jan. 7 G & D Ringler  
Jan. 14 D Siee

**ALTAR GUILD**

Mary Jane Sarvis