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New Year, Same Faithful God

2025 is over, 2026 is here! Whenever the calendar flips over, we tend to look back over the last year and reflect. We reflect over ups and downs, wins and losses, things done and left undone.

As you move forward, keep these words from Paul in mind:

*"¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
~ Phil. 3:13-14*

I'm certain that you did a lot of things in 2025. You accomplished so much! However, as Paul states, do not consider that you made it on your own. Through everything, God was there. You are where you are right now because God has willed it to be so. Maybe you aren't where you thought you'd be or where you want to be, but know that God has you right where you need to be.

Regardless of what did happen in 2025, good or bad, we must carry on. We cannot dwell on the mistakes of the past. We cannot rest in the good works that God has done through us last year. Each year is another blessing from God! And with each new year comes new opportunities to live life as God calls us.

When you change the calendar from December to January and think about all the ways that this year will be better, know that God has a plan for you. He has called you His own and will not let you do 2026 alone. Now go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ was born, and has been sent for all those with ears to hear. May your ears be opened to hear God's Word and Will. May you begin your new year in God's love, the fullness of Christ, and with the confidence of the Holy Spirit.

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Max Whitehead

!!! EMERGENCY NEED !!!

PLEASE HELP END HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Anything you can contribute would be very much appreciated. We do have a fridge and freezer for cold storage items such as meats and cheeses. Barbecue sauce, mayonnaise, sugar, flour, coffee, canned vegetables other than green beans, breakfast bars, toaster pastries, quick or cook oats, pasta, canned fruits, cooking oil, toilet paper and tissues. Thank you so very much in advance!



Calendar

Sunday, January 4

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service
 11:30 AM Council Mtg

Wednesday, January 7

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 - 5 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation Meal, Class @ 6:00 PM
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, January 11 - Annual Reports due to Mitch Larsen

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, January 12

2:00 PM Circle Group

Wednesday, January 14

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 - 5 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation Meal, Class @ 6:00 PM
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, January 18

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service
 11:30 AM SVLC Annual Mtg & Potluck

Wednesday, January 21 - Newsletter Deadline

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 - 5 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation Meal, Class @ 6:00 PM
 7:00 PM VCIS
 7:30 PM Bible Study @ the Daneville Inn

Sunday, January 25

9:00 AM Worship Service (Note time change to accommodate the OSLC annual mtg.)
 10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, January 28

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 - 5 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation Meal, Class @ 6:00 PM
 7:00 PM VCIS

Worship Helpers

Sunday, January 4

Reader Mitch Larsen
 Acolytes Ryker Larsen & Barrett Larsen
 Communion Helper Lilly Huber
 Stream Youth
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, January 11

Reader Dawn Kludt
 Acolytes Chloe & Braxton Sorensen
 Stream Youth
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, January 18

Reader Faydra Christensen
 Acolytes Nora Rudd & Eden Rudd
 Communion Helper Carston Mellem
 Stream Youth
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, January 25

Reader Karen Larsen
 Acolytes Ainsley Hanten & Beau Hanten
 Stream Youth
 Organist/Pianist Praise Band

Ushers & Cleaners

January Ushers

- ❖ Kenny Jensen & Gail Anderson
- ❖ Robert Jensen
- ❖ Kevin & Kaye Lee
- ❖ Elaine Lee & Brenda Lee
- ❖ Katie & Danny Smit

Cleaners Dec 29 - Jan 10

- ❖ Julie Hartman,
- ❖ Sheila Wek,
- ❖ Kara Edelman

Cleaners Jan 11 - 26

- ❖ Linda Larsen,
- ❖ Ashley Larsen,
- ❖ Kayla Larsen

Scripture Readings

- Jan 04:** Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Jan 11: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 18: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42
Jan 25: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23



Looking Ahead to February

Sunday, February 1

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
 11:30 AM Council Mtg

Wednesday, February 4

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 - 5 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation Meal, Class @ 6:00 PM
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, February 8

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, February 9

2:00 PM Circle Group

Wednesday, February 11

2:00 PM Bible Study
 3:45 - 5 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation Meal, Class @ 6:00 PM
 7:00 PM VCIS



January time switch!
 Worship service will change to 10:30 AM and Sunday school will meet at 9:15 AM. Please mark your calendars!



To give on-line, please visit
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8FH/home>
 or scan this QRCode:



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<https://login.apps.thrivent.com/login>
 For questions, please contact Tammy Sorensen at tsorens@iw.net



Viborg Lutheran Youth Ministries

CONFIRMATION - JRVCIS - VCIS

JRVCIS - GRADES 1-6

Wednesdays After School - 5:00 PM

Just a couple weeks to talk about. But in those two weeks, our big project was coloring Christmas cards for our nursing home residents! Each student made at least one card, while most made several. The residents were so thankful to have received them! Along with their cards, we also sent along a little Christmas-themed stuffed animal for the residents to enjoy.

By the time we were done with our cards each week, we cleared the area, put on some pop Christian music and played musical chairs!

Thank you to the volunteers who have provided snacks so far this year! Please contact me if you are willing/able to serve a group of about 16 elementary kids at 3:55 on a Wednesday afternoon.

VCIS - GRADES 8-12

Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00

As mentioned in last month's edition of the update, the kids heard devotionals by Dawn and made tie blankets! We aren't quite done with the blankets yet, but when we are, we plan to bring them to the Children's Inn in Sioux Falls.

And as usual, we spent some time playing Catchphrase as well. It has been a lot of fun for me to watch the kids improve at that game. The older kids pulling in the younger ones, and watching their brains learn and move faster with the speed of the game.

Thank you for the continued support of these youth programs! It is amazing to see the growth happening with the students! If you would like to serve the kids on any given Wednesday evening or make a monetary donation to their mission trip to Boston, please let me know.

CONFIRMATION - GRADES 6-8

5:30 Meal, 6:00 Time to Learn

This article is being written about the month of December. With Christmas break in the mix, there is not much to say. We started into our "Bible" lessons on the first week and discussed how it is that the Bible should and should not be viewed (more than a history book for example), and handed out the first memory verses for the kids. The first verse they will have memorized coming into the new year is John 1:17, "For the law came through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

We visited the nursing home too and had a good time making Christmas decorations and playing cards with the residents!

2026 will bring about more lessons, more memory verses, more time with the nursing home residents, and a trip to Minnesota for the Augustana District Confirmation retreat! Speaking of that retreat, it will cost each student and chaperone \$130 (plus van rentals to get us there). If you are willing to help sponsor a student, please let me know. We have 11 students and 2 chaperones that will be going. Thank you for your consideration!



It's that time of year again!
Annual Reports are due to Mitch Larsen
by January 11, 2026. Thank you!

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May the Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, fill your heart and home with His peace this Christmas.

May His light shine in your joys and in your sorrows, in your gatherings and in your quiet moments.

As the New Year begins, may God go before you to lead you, beside you to strengthen you, behind you to protect you, and within you to comfort and guide you.

May you know the deep assurance that you are loved, forgiven, and held in His hands.

May 2026 be a year of growing faith, renewed hope, and overflowing love in Christ.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.