



St. John's Lutheran Church

A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ

News & Notes ~  **JANUARY** 2023



LIVING FOREVER IN HIS PRESENCE

Scripture alludes to heaven in 3 different ways:

1. The vast expanse of space surrounding the earth or firmament or atmosphere (Ge.1:8)
2. The matchless celestial universe (Ps. 19:1)
3. the longed for dwelling place of God (Heb. 4:14)

The reality that Christians will one day live forever in the presence of the Lord is a fundamental doctrine of the faith.

The Bible only gives a few glimpses of this heavenly abode. Heaven is a place prepared for believers, one without sorrow, darkness or any kind of sin. In heaven, we will be like Christ: yet we will be able to recognize one another. The most important thing about heaven, is the presence of God. We will be forever with him.

Heaven is not meant to be an ethereal concept stored in some mental safe-deposit box until we feel that need of it. We are to live now in the light of eternity. The values and perspective of eternity should guide our lives in the present. (2Pe.3:11)

THE BEAR FACTS

Hello everyone. I am doing well. I started my new medication and I haven't gotten sick. Bloodwork to be done in 6 weeks to see if they are working. Keep your paws crossed.

I heard there is a new dog in the neighborhood. Nana (Pat King) got a puppy named Smokey. I have a new friend. Welcome to your forever home. Nana if its too much for you to handle out hotel is open even for dogs. (Bow wow)

Got lots of treats for Christmas & chew bones. I love chew bones especially with the bacon.

Thank you all for the Christmas cards for me and mom. Until we bark next month have a happy healthy New Year.

Hugs & Puppy Kisses,

Bear

Just for Kids!

TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
 - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
 - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
 - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
 - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
 - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
 - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!



Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

- God made wild animals and livestock. ○ _ _ _ _
- God said, "Let there be light." _ _ _ _ ○
- God gathered the waters under the sky into one place. ○ _ _ _ _
- God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky." _ _ _ _ ○
- God created plants and trees. _ _ _ _ ○
- God separated the light from the darkness. ○ _ _ _ _
- God made the water teem with living creatures. _ _ _ _ _
- God made the sun and moon. _ _ _ _ ○
- God made birds fly above the earth. _ _ _ _ _
- God made stars. ○ _ _ _ _
- God created mankind in his own image. _ _ _ _ _

God _aw all tha_ he _ad ma_e, an_ _t was ve_y g_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fourth, sixth, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Happy New Year 🎉 Happy New Year 🎉 Happy New Year 🎉



God is
LOVE





Christian Symbol: OPEN BOOK — A book symbolizes the Bible, the written Word of God. When shown open, a book represents truth or revelation. Apostles and saints are often pictured holding an open book, understood as the New Testament writings of the early Christian church.

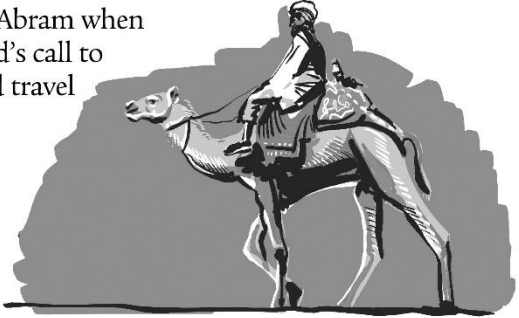
Pursue Jesus — and your passions - If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him. As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year! —*Janna Firestone*



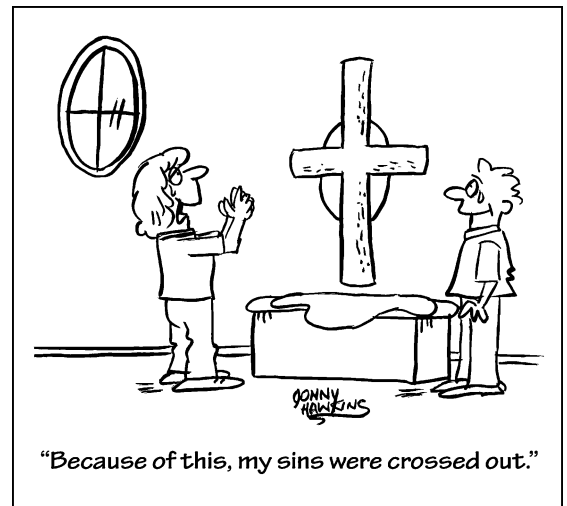
Bible Quiz

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100



Answer: C (See Genesis 12:4.)



On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star. How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, “It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven’s ‘Hymn to Joy’ is joyous. If a man were to say, ‘It is not joyous to me,’ he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself.”

