



New Year's Resolutions and Welcoming One Another

A highlight of the quiet days after Christmas each year is reading through the magazines that have piled up during the busy months of the fall. I love magazines and I love reading, and it always feels like a treat to explore a National Geographic or Martha Stewart.

Earlier today, as the cold weather kept our family cooped up, I made my way through Better Homes and Gardens. When my husband noticed what I was reading, he asked, "What is that magazine convincing you to change about our living room?" I am nothing if not predictable.

When I read magazines, especially at this time of setting resolutions for the year ahead, I often want to tinker with the throw pillows, plan painting projects for my spouse, or alphabetize the spices. At their best, magazines and even New Year's resolutions inspire us to try or do things that we want to do: Lose weight! Pray more! Organize the junk drawer!

At their worst, magazines and resolutions remind us of our failures and inadequacies. After all, if I'd put spices back properly *all the time*, I wouldn't need to reorganize them.

This year, I will probably make resolutions for my health and my home, but more importantly, I am making a resolution about my being. Months ago in a sermon, I shared the Theodore Roosevelt quote, "Comparison is the thief of joy." It's remained in my head and heart, and has centered me in the fact that no matter the color of my living or the condition of my closets, I am loved by God. This is what orients my whole life, not what I own or even what I do. As Romans 8 reminds us, nothing separates us from the love of God.

Reconnecting with God

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

One popular New Year's resolution is growing in faith. Over the next months, we will have dozens of visitors to our worship services. God is active here at Dilworth Lutheran. In our worship, in our homes and through our care for others, God is doing something good. As you see friends and new faces in worship, Bible studies or servant events over the coming months, please give your best in greeting and welcoming others. Together, we create a place of worship where people hear God's Word, especially for those in need of reconnecting with God.

Congregational Prayer Requests

- Please pray for those needing to reconnect with God and their spiritual lives.
- Please pray for our search for a new associate pastor, for our Call Committee, and that the Holy Spirit will lead the right candidate to our church.
- Our congregation recently completed the strategic goals we set in May of 2015. This spring, we will begin a new congregational vision and goal setting process. Please pray that God will guide this process.

4G ~ God, Gals, Goodies and Games

The Book of Revelation on January 30

Have you ever wondered about the end of the world? Have you ever wondered about what the Bible has to say about it? Led by Pastor Elizabeth, 4G will explore the themes of the book of Revelation on Tuesday night, January 30, at 7pm. Please bring your Bible!

Hosted by young Dilworth women, 4G is a time for women to come together around faith for laughter, support, prayer and God's Word. All Dilworth women are invited!

Please note this is a change from our original schedule.

Jan. 30th-*The End: Discussing Revelation* theme

Feb. 22nd-*Lenten Disciplines* theme

Mar. 20th-*Forgiveness* theme

April 24th-*Prayer How-To and Focusing our Lives on Love* theme

May 24th-*Body & Spirit* theme with self-care, spa night



DLC NEEDS YOU!

The church is looking for volunteers to assist with worship. We have different opportunities for you to help out every week. For the month of September, we are currently seeking individuals to aid with Ushering, Communion, Readers, Video Screen operators, and Hosting the post-worship fellowship.

Sign up sheet is located on the Usher stand in the gathering area. Thank you for your continued support. Peace be with you.

The nuts and bolts of our Endowment Fund

Churches tend to operate with three kinds of financial tools. Our yearly budget that pays salaries and keeps the lights on. Capital campaigns that allow us to take on bigger things like construction or a new boiler. And the Endowment Fund.

Dilworth Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund for Mission works with gifts that are designated beyond the day-to-day operation of the church. This Endowment Fund is used to fund special mission-related work above and beyond what we do now.

The key is that each year, only a little of the Endowment Fund is used, so the remainder is left to grow. And over time, as gifts are made to it and the principal grows, the Endowment Fund becomes a substantial way for the church to expand its mission in the world.

For more details how you can give above-and-beyond to the Endowment Fund or specify the Endowment Fund in your will or estate plan, contact an Endowment Committee member, the church office, or call InFaith Community Foundation at 800-365-4172 (where our Endowment Fund is held).

Hospitalizations

Please note that our church office no longer receives notifications of hospitalization. The pastors would be happy to stop in for a visit. Please call the church office with any information regarding hospitalizations.

Thank you and God bless.

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 28, 9:30am

Dilworth Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday morning, January 28, at 9:35am, in the Faith Life Center. Come and hear about the past year's ministry, and be a part of sharing goals for the year ahead. The Call Committee will also share an update on our search for a new associate pastor.



A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given from Heaven. John 3:27

Please note!

Ash Wednesday is February 14

Lenten Bible studies will begin then!

Youth will host Wednesday night dinners!



Mark your calendars!

The DLC ski trip is January 14, the bus will be leaving right after the 10:30 AM service. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Please sign up by January 10th, 2018.