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Newsletter of Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A new year brings with it (among other things) a change in the appointed lectionary readings for the year. Starting with last month's Advent season, we are now in Year A of the three-year cycle. This means that most of the gospel citations come from the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew's Gospel begins with a genealogy. Now for some, working one's way through a genealogy falls into rank with making their way through the holiness codes of Leviticus or the census results in Numbers. All three have their place and import, even if they may not hold our attention compared to some of the other divine dramas and comedies within our sacred texts. The fact that the Gospel of Matthew begins with this particular genealogy should warrant close attention.

It is beneficial to pay attention to biblical scholars' instruction that Matthew's intended audience was primarily first-century Jews. For them, a person's name was more than a moniker, it was their essence. *This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:* - Matthew 1:1 NLT. In the very first verse, Matthew identifies Jesus as the Messiah that these people had longed for. Jesus is the descendant of David who will restore the kingdom. That rule and kingdom might look dramatically different from their expectations, but that is a story for another day.

Matthew also employs the use of numbers in his narrative. We find evidence of this in the first chapter as well. The generations are divided into three sets of fourteen. In the Hebrew alphabet, numeric values are assigned to each letter. The consonants in the name David add up to a total of 14. This would not have escaped Matthew's audience's notice.

In verse 16, as scholar Edward Sri puts it, "the chorus resounds at the climax of the whole genealogy: Jesus is the 'Christ'" - *Jacob was the father of Joseph, who was the husband of Mary. Mary was the mother of Jesus, who is called Christ* 1:16 GWT.

A few verses later, Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah: *All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."* 3:22, 23 NRSV Sri writes "without their kingdom, without a Davidic king, and still suffering under foreign domination, some first-century Jews might have wondered... Was God still with his people? ...Matthew triumphantly proclaims that the royal child at the end of the genealogy is the answer to their hearts' deepest longings... he is Emmanuel – God with us. God is with his people again!"

After the Christmas story and the Epiphany of Our Lord, the lectionary turns to Jesus' baptism. Once again, Jesus' is identified as God's Son. *And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."* 3:17 NRSV As the season of Epiphany draws to a close at the end of February, we celebrate the Transfiguration and the words of heaven echo once more: *...suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"* 17:5 NRSV

So, what's in a name? In the case of Jesus Christ, precisely this: *She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins* 1:21 GWT.

Peace,
+ Pastor Craig

On Christmas Eve our world celebrates the birth of a baby who went on to overturn the entire world. And aren't we glad He did?! When that happened, the world refocused in a new direction: from a remote God that people dealt with through sacrifices and priests, to Jesus, who is IN each of us and WITH each of us at all times.

My custom is to wrap gifts on the family room floor in the basement of my house, and for a couple weeks the room is total chaos: wrapping all over the place, ribbon scraps, tags, tape, marking pens, scissors, boxes, gift-bags, wrapped and still-unwrapped gifts in "family-specific" piles - and the cat, who loves to knock stuff around: what a playground! And when she's done, she insists on being in my lap, which is not conducive to wrapping.

There's a lot of time to think while all this is going on, even as I continually dig through the rubble searching for missing scissors or tape or marking pens. Each gift is wrapped as I imagine the fun of the recipient opening it. Each gift is wrapped with gratitude and love for the person getting it. Each gift is wrapped with special decorating touches that the recipient might appreciate. Each gift is wrapped with the thought of the recipient using and enjoying it. (Even Ugly Sweaters!)

Do we have "fun" opening the gift God sent us at Christmas? Yes, absolutely, with the music, special programs, family get-togethers, and feasts we enjoy that contain and celebrate the Gift. In the process of opening a gift, however, all the fancy wrapping is ripped apart and the leftovers land on the living room floor, then end up in the trash. Tragically, so often God's gift to us goes out the door with the wrappings. (AKA throwing the Baby out with the bathwater?)

We cannot begin to fathom the love that God was feeling as He sent His Son as a baby to us. His people had been mostly in turmoil the entire time they had inhabited this earth, and God wanted nothing more than to have His people figure out that all they needed to do was accept His love and follow where it led. The baby Jesus was the ultimate "wrapping" around the greatest gift ever given: God's love and forgiveness.

We can relate to the special "decorating touches" when we think of the enormous number of ways God made people different from each other - how He "packaged" us. Male, female, tall, short, different skin colors, different eye color, different gifts, different abilities, different likes, different nationalities... differences that could go on being listed for a very long time. But the combination of those differences makes each of us an individual, and every single individual is loved by the one who created ("wrapped?") him or her..

Does God "wrap us" with the thought of us returning the joy of His gift by making Him a part of our lives? Again, absolutely! What so often happens, however, is sort of like what happens when we see that new sweater or pj's or shirt in the box. We say, "Oh, how nice." Then we fold it up and stick it in a drawer, to be pulled out only when the giver is coming to visit. The gift was given in such love, even that ugly sweater, but we often show our indifference to it by stashing it away and dragging it out only when it counts. We need to remember that God gave us our very lives and is with us at all times. He sees how we treat the gift of love and salvation that cost Him His life.

Make 2020 a year where you open and then USE that glorious gift given to us so many years ago! Take Him along in your busy lives, and let Him be your strength and peace always.

Anna Taylor



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Following discussions around our current **Sunday school schedule**, we are making some adjustments to the format.

Children will continue to be welcomed each Sunday at 9 AM. Some of the remaining sessions will be centered around well-known Biblical figures such as Moses, David, Jonah, and Jesus. Other Sundays will be less structured featuring a Bible story chosen by the children.

Biblical figures will be presented on: January 12 & 26th; February 9th & 16th; March 1st, 15th & 22nd; April 5th & 26th, May 10th & 17th.

May 17th will be the final Sunday school for this academic year.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 AT NOON

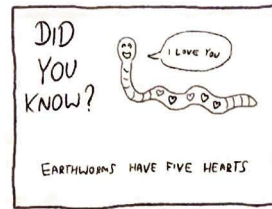
FOLLOWING WORSHIP And POTLUCK DINNER

Annual meeting topics:

- Communion schedule
- Legacy Endowment, available option in addition to Mission Endowment
- E-giving
- Maintenance—the well, furnace maintenance agreement, painting
- Social media—cost and how to maintain a website — is there a need?
- Carpooling— need a ride?
- Officer elections: Secretary, Elder, Trustee
- Budget
- Constitution revision

We are thankful and blessed by your offerings—in time, talent, and treasure. The general fund showed a slight deficit at year's end.

Cameron Emmanuel shares the same challenges as many other small congregations. Without the luxury of an abundance of helping hands and monies, we face decisions regarding a “bare-bones” budget and the ministries we are called to provide in order to carry on God's work and fulfill the great commission. Your support and input are needed and welcomed. God's Work—Our Hands



- Cameron's **WELCA** holds their business meeting the first Sunday of the month at 9 am prior to worship service. The 2020 officers are now Sandy Lawrence, President; Ann Parks, Vice Pres; Ann Taylor, Secretary; Mary Abitz, Treasurer
- The ladies meet the 1st and 3rd (and 5th) Wednesdays to work on projects and quilts between 9 am and 3 pm. Come join in.
- The **2020 Bazaar date** was set as October 17, as Oct 10 & 24 are UI home football games, and Oct 31 is Halloween.
- In researching, it appears the first Bazaar was held in 1921 and the cost was 75 cents.
- At their January meeting the women discussed purchasing knives for the kitchen and a “pink” tool kit for the church ... with the rationale that a “pink” tool is less likely to disappear.
- Resources which may be of interest: Website—www.womenoftheelca.org; Café—www.boldcafe.org—a web based e-magazine designed for younger women; Gather—www.gathermagazine.org—a monthly paid subscription magazine by mail or digital includes articles and bible study. And www.facebook.com/EWAIDSWO
- Russell Brammer, Amy Perry, and Mary Abitz will continue for their 2nd year on church council as President, Treasurer and Trustee. Two year terms are up for Elder Ann Taylor, Secretary Ann Parks, and Trustee Earl Lawrence.
- Pastor requested 4 days of vacation be carried forward to 2020
- In order to hand out the church's 2019 annual report on January 19th, all committee reports need to be handed in by Wednesday, Jan 15. Gold star to Joanne for getting the Worship report in already!
- Pastor Bob Kenyon will retire this year. His last service at Ritzville will be August 30.
- You can't always have a good day. But you can always face a bad day with good attitude.



PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR....

Janet Boyer will be representing our church and synod on an upcoming trip to Tanzania this fall. Janet and Doug are hosting a fundraiser. The date for the event will more than likely be **February 16**, but stay tuned for further announcements in church or in the bulletin as the plans are firmed up.

It will be a free will offering luncheon following church; again the menu is in the works. There will be items for sale; many of the items are made by Janet and Doug. Janet hopes to have their Chef son Todd on site to help with cooking and menu planning.

Thank you all for you continued prayers and support as Janet moves forward in this calling.

TRADITIONS

NORTHWEST INTERMOUNTAIN SYNOD E-NEWS

My family has a rather unique Black Friday tradition. We wake up, in homes all over eastern Washington, and we bundle up in layers and climb into our cars several hours before dawn. We scrape ice off windshields, we load blankets, sweatshirts, pillows into the trunks of our cars. Probably most of us stop by McDonald's for breakfast on our way out of town. And then, accompanied by the faintest sliver of light in the east, we head for the family homestead near Colton, in order to process several hundred pounds of pork into "Grandpa Becker sausage". Many of you have similar traditions — **you may call it sausage**, you may call it "wurst", or you may call it something else — but the act of processing an animal into a freezer full of delicious sausage is something that is more common in our region than I ever realized.

We use a cast-iron, hand cranked stuffer that is older than anyone in the room. It might have been brought over on a boat with an immigrant ancestor from Germany, but I'm not sure. It may have been purchased here. Suffice to say, members of my family have been making sausage with this stuffer for a long time.

Those of us who were kids when the tradition started are now the ones who do the work of seasoning, grinding, stuffing, linking, and smoking the sausage — guided by our elders who manage (mostly) to keep their belief that we're doing it wrong to themselves. About mid-morning we fry up samples of meat & enjoy the flavor of our hard work. Once all the sausage is stuffed and linked, we feast on fresh sausage patties and kohlrabi (and maybe a beer or two), before tucking the sausage into the smoker.

Every year we take a group photo with everyone who was there that day. If you look at the pictures from over the years, they aren't all the same. People are older than when we started this tradition; hair is grayer, kids are taller, we've lost beloved family members, and gained others. My uncle and grandmother are no longer in the group picture, but his year (for the first time!) my nephew was — having spent a happy morning wandering around the barnyard with his older cousin, he is snuggled into his daddy's arms. It's hard to remember that he hasn't always been part of the day, as difficult as remembering that some who have always been part of the day are no longer.

But change is how we get to where we're going. This whole beloved tradition of making sausage wouldn't work if I stubbornly insisted that I get to play in the frozen crick bed like I did when I was younger instead of doing my fair share of the work. And the tradition wouldn't survive if our elders insisted that they are the only ones who can do the work, and the way they do the work is the only correct way to do it. There must be give and take. Ebb and flow. Losing and finding. This tradition looks nothing like it once did. But it is still our tradition. It is still beloved. There is still a place for everyone who seeks one. There is always enough food. There is always enough laughter. And at the end, everyone crowds into the picture, grateful for another year together.

We are looking ahead to 2020. There have been births. There have been deaths. There are people here with us now that weren't with us in 2019. There are people we couldn't imagine life without who are no longer with us. I'm not sure any of us could have predicted how 2019 would go. I'm not sure any of us want to hazard a guess about 2020. But I will tell you, change will come. New faces arrive. Beloved faces depart. But through it all, we are God's People, blessed to do the work of God's Kingdom, together. **Our role in this work won't always look the same. But it will always be God's work. And it will always bring blessing.**

Blessings to you all! Bishop Kristen Kuempel



January Birthdays

- 1 Doug Silflow
- 6 Loeda Reil
- 7 Emerson Lee Schneider
- 11 Cecil Brammer
Jim Silflow
- 12 Spencer Preece
Max Schaefer
- 13 Kara Weiss
- 20 Scott Feldmann
- 22 Caisen Brown
Ryan Lawrence
- 25 Emma Ann Proctor
- 28 Joanne Gertje

January Anniversaries

- 1/1/97 Ted/Peggy Dennler
- 1/6/67 Horst/Loeda Reil



January Baptismal Dates

- 1 Liane Dennler
Roz Dennler
Silas Parks
- 7 Lorie Glenn
- 8 Anna Bruce
Gunnar Bruce
Isabell Bruce
John Liedkie
Lindsey Liedkie
- 10 Doug Taylor
- 12 Chris Blair
Dillon Blair
Logan Blair
Robert Blair
- 15 Hermina Meyer
- 17 Richard Witt
- 22 Scott Feldmann
- 23 Aubrey Patterson
Brayden Patterson
Jami Silflow
- 25 Loeda Reil
- 29 Troy Patterson

February Birthdays

- 1 Jessica Clemenhagen
- 3 Eiven Showalter
- 4 Doris Ann Silflow
Tiffany McFetridge
- 5 Laura McConnell
- 9 Oakley Kate Blood
Ed Pea
John Schmidt
Jack Douglas Silflow
- 10 Dillon Blair
Beth Bogar
- 12 Dorothy Brown
- 14 Sharon Harris
- 15 Dylan Matthew Keane
- 16 Irene Thornton
- 18 Jed Dennler
Ava Gretchen Waham
- 21 Dave Perry
- 23 Emmett Roy
Clemenhagen
Ginny Roetscisoender
- 24 Marge Silflow
- 26 Shari Pea
- 28 Harley Heimgartner

February Anniversaries

- 2/4/05 Scott/Angela
Feldmann
- 2/14/ Kai/ Anna Eiselein

February Baptismal Dates

- 3 Cecil Brammer
- 6 Michelle (Taylor) Blood
- 7 Christel Breckon
- 13 Max Schaefer
- 15 Alyssa Heier
- 26 Cody Bogar Jr.
Makenzie Proctor
- 28 Doris Ann Silflow

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 "God loves you as if you  
 were the only one  
 in the world to love.  
 And he loves everybody  
 the way he loves you."

-St Augustine



2020 service opportunities are available.

Needs include:

- Sunday School leader for
  - Jan 26 (Ruth/Naomi/Boaz)
  - Feb 16 (King David/Solomon)
  - March 15 (Jesus)
- Altar flowers for:
  - Feb 2 & 9
  - Mar 29
  - May 31
  - June 14 & 21
  - Aug 9 & 23
  - Sept 13 & 27
  - Oct 4
  - Nov 8, 15 & 29
  - Dec 13, 25 & 27
- Birthday Coffee hour hostess for
  - May 10, Aug 9, Nov 8, Dec 13
- Wednesday Workday hostesses on
  - Feb 5, Feb 19, Sept 2, Sept 16
  - Oct 7, Oct 21 and Nov 4
- Easter Breakfast chairman
- Evening Bible studies are the first Monday of every month
- Afternoon Bible study is the 2nd Tuesday of each month
- Opportunities are available each Sunday to serve as a Reader, Usher, Greeter or Communion Assistant.

**Never regret a day in your life:**

*Good days give happiness,*

*Bad days give experience,*

*Worst days give lessons,*

*And best days give memories*

**January & February Calendar**  
**Every Sunday: 9 AM Sunday School**  
**10 AM Worship**

**Mon, Jan 6** **EPIPHANY**  
 7 pm WELCA Bible Study  
**Tues, Jan 7** 10 am Food Pantry Truck Juliaetta  
**Wed, Jan 8** 7 pm Choir practice

**Sun, Jan 12** **BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
 11 am January Birthday Coffee Hour: Ann T hostess  
 11 am Education Committee  
**Tues, Jan 14** 1:30 pm WELCA Bible Study  
 7:30 pm Church Council  
**Wed, Jan 15** 7 pm Choir practice

**Mon, Jan 20** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
**Wed, Jan 22** 9 am WELCA workday; Hostess: Ann Parks  
 7 pm Choir practice

**Sun, Jan 26** **11:00 Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
 following potluck after worship  
**Mon, Jan 27** 4:30 pm Worship Committee  
**Wed, Jan 29** 7 pm Choir practice

**Sun, Feb 2** 9 am WELCA Business Meeting  
 10 am Holy Communion & Souper Bowl of Caring  
**Mon, Feb 3** 7 pm WELCA Bible Study  
**Tues, Feb 4** 10 am Food Pantry Truck, Juliaetta  
**Wed, Feb 5** 9 am WELCA Workday; Hostess: \_\_\_\_\_  
 7 pm Choir practice

**Sun, Feb 9** 11 am Birthday coffee hour; hostess:  
 11 am Education Committee  
**Tues, Feb 11** 1:30 pm WELCA Bible Study  
 7:30 pm Church Council  
**Wed, Feb 12** 7:00 Choir practice

**Mon, Feb 17** **President's Day holiday**  
**Wed, Feb 19** 9 am WELCA workday' hostess: \_\_\_\_\_  
 7 pm Choir practice

**Sun, Feb 23** **TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**  
**Mon, Feb 24** 4:30 pm Worship Committee  
**Wed, Feb 26** **ASH WEDNESDAY**  
 7 pm Worship/Holy Communion

**JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**JANUARY 12**

Flowers: Heidi Schaefer  
 Greeter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reader: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ushers: Max & Ben Schaefer  
 Communion Asst: Russ Brammer

**JANUARY 19**

Flowers: Sandy Lawrence  
 Greeter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reader: Ann Parks  
 Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_

**JANUARY 26**

Flowers: Joanne Gertje  
 Greeter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reader: Joanne Gertje  
 Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Communion Asst:

**FEBRUARY FLOWERS:**

Feb 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Feb 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Feb 16: Janet Dudunake  
 Feb 23: Shelby Silflow



**THIS YEAR:**

*Break a bad habit,  
 Learn a new skill,  
 Do a good deed,  
 Visit a new place,  
 Read a difficult book,  
 Write something important,  
 Try a new food,  
 Do something good for  
 someone who cannot  
 thank you  
 Take an important risk.*