

A New Year Challenge

Whether you're into making new year resolutions or not, the idea behind it is sound. We know we're failing in some area of life, so we resolve to do better in that area. If we're serious about it, we might find someone to hold us accountable to our new goals and maybe set up some plan of attack to reach the goals. Whatever that goal or challenge is, we know very well that we'll feel better and we'll benefit by accomplishing it or at least making strides toward that end.

Here's one that isn't generally on any Top 10 Resolutions of the Year list.

Go to church. And if you're going every other Sunday right now, strive to go 3 out of 4 Sundays. If you're going every weekend right now, challenge yourself to begin a bible study this year (right after you read this, you'll find specific bible studies that you could try as a start).

You know it's good for you. You know you'll be the better for it. No, going to church and attending a bible study is not going to get you to heaven. Nor is going to church or bible study simply a way for us to give to God or show him how devoted we are to him. It is that, to an extent, but more important than that is to receive what he can't wait to give to us. Gifts of the spiritual kind, like forgiveness in Christ Jesus, peace that transcends understanding, and a new life on earth as we wait for an even better one to come.



It won't be easy. Kids make it a challenge...it takes work to get them ready to go and to Sunday School and church on time. Maybe you don't see any results coming from being at church and that makes you feel it's not worth it. Those explanations are just excuses...the same kinds of excuses we make when we fail at our best intentions to hold to a resolution.

Don't wait until the baby or toddler will sit still in a couple years. Don't wait until there are no viruses or people getting sick. Don't wait until your life is less hectic. You'll be waiting forever. Just go to church. And do it with the realization that life will not magically get better because you do. You'll still have problems, but you'll be better equipped to deal with them. Regular time spent in God's house and in God's Word is part of a process of spiritual growth...God-willing, a life-long process of growth through which you will be blessed.

Congregational News



Membership News At the last Council meeting, Richard and Susan Fedorski were released from membership at their request. Also, Rick and Brittany Hansen with their four children were transferred to Peace Lutheran in Hartford at their request. We wish them the best in their new church home.

Sunday Bible Class / Sunday School Thanks to the Sunday School children and all who helped with the Christmas Eve Service a couple weeks ago. They did a super job and all who attended heard how the birth of Jesus drives out any kind of fear from our hearts. After a few week break for the Christmas / New Year's holidays, everything resumes on January 8th. The children will be studying lessons from Genesis that show the background of the salvation story, how Sunday School and Adult Bible class resumes January 8th after the Christmas / New Year's holidays. Even though we don't have a Christmas Eve service to work toward, Sunday School is important as faith is built and strengthened from hearing the message of the Gospel in God's Word.

Greeter Signup Greeters are always needed to welcome people on Sunday mornings and Thursday nights when they come to church. There's no experience necessary, just a willingness to serve in this important way. Go to our website (zionallenton.org) to sign up for the dates you'd like to serve. Thank you!

Organ Fund The Council designated some undesignated memorial fund monies to the organ fund, including some from the Betty Nickel and Allen Schaefer memorials. That moves us even closer to what we'll need to purchase a new organ. An organ fund was established several years ago when we were told that our present organ was nearing the end of the typical life span of an electric organ. We've been increasingly noticing some strange things that it's doing and it's becoming more difficult for our service technician to find parts when needed since they no longer make them.



Annual Meeting January 30th is our annual meeting.

KML Sunday On January 12 / 15, Pastor Randy Hughes of Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School will serve as our guest preacher during worship. As one of 28 congregations who have banded together to support KML, it's a good thing to remember and strengthen that connection whenever possible. Pastor Hughes serves as instructor and campus pastor at KML.

News, Notes & Invitations

Singles Events If you are a single, unmarried, divorced, or widowed WELS or ELS adult, you are invited to join WELS/ELS Singles for their upcoming winter events! Join us for pizza and wine at Rio Lobo (E6485 CR-F Weyauwega) at 5:30 p.m. on **Saturday, January 14th**, 2023. Come in from the cold for a tour of Sprecher Brewery (701 Glendale Ave., Glendale) on **Saturday, February 18th** at 2 p.m. Cost of the tour is \$12, payable at the door. For questions about either event, contact Rachel Fritz at rachelfritz@yahoo.com.

Not able to make it to these events, but want to stay in touch regarding future opportunities? Check us out on Facebook at: WELS & ELS Singles | Facebook

Struggling with Depression? On the third Saturday morning of each month, through June 17, a group of WELS members who struggle with

depression are invited to join a ZOOM meeting for encouragement and support. The meetings are led by a pastor who is familiar with the struggle. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. (central time). To participate or learn more about the group, e-mail specialministries@wels.net.

OWLS Meeting The January meeting of Flyway OWLS (Chapter 77) will be held on **January 10th** beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at St. Peter's, Fond du Lac. Speakers for January are Larry Poch and Troy Keesling of Lighthouse Harbor Associates (Thrivent) of Fond du Lac. They will present a program concerning the topic "Will taxes affect your retirement".



Pans and Percussion Concert On **Saturday, January 14th**, at 6:30 PM, enjoy a pans and percussion concert featuring the ensembles of Wisconsin Lutheran and Kettle Moraine Lutheran High Schools. The concert will be held in KML's PAC auditorium and also livestreamed at kmlhs.org/stream.

Men of His Word Conference The fourteenth annual Men of His Word conference is set for **Saturday, February 18th**, from 7:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center (1 N. Main St., Oshkosh). Spend a day worshiping God and bonding with your fellow brothers in Christ! This year's theme is "MAN UP: in a man down world." Registration is now open. For details, including early-bird rates, go to www.menofhisword.org.



Wine Tasting Night Out Christian Life Resources invites you to its 8th Annual Wine Tasting Night Out to be held **Thursday, February 23rd from 6-8 p.m. at the Chandelier Ballroom** (150 Jefferson Avenue, Hartford) .

Because of the immense support for this event and its overwhelming popularity, we're moving it to the Great Hall! Join us once again for an evening of wine and craft beer paired with gourmet appetizers and desserts. We will have both a wine pull and a whiskey pull, and a silent auction with fabulous prizes, including an ocean-side stay in Maui, Hawaii, all benefiting the ministry of Christian Life Resources! We are very excited

to bring you the biggest and best event yet!

For more information regarding tickets or the event itself, go to www.christianliferesources.com.

Pathways to Christ Women's Retreat please join us for the 22nd Pathways to Christ Retreat on **March 3-5** at LaSure's Hall in Oshkosh. The 2023 theme is "*Be Strong in the Lord*", based on Ephesian 6:10 and surrounding verses. We'll be opening on Friday evening with the first ever Pathways Style Show. On Saturday morning, Rev. Joel Russow from



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will lead us as we look at *Protecting Your Head and Your Heart: the helmet and breastplate* and Rev. Mike Berg of

Wisconsin Lutheran College will help us as we look at *Defending Yourself: the sword and shield*. On Saturday afternoon Cate Free helps us prepare for what steps come next as we consider *Your faithful accessories: a belt and shoes*.

The evening will conclude with a concert featuring Stephen Bautista during an evening banquet. On Sunday Pastor Leon Ehlert will share with us a Bible Study based on the hymn *O Church Arise* and then lead us in worship. Additional information, along with registration forms, can be downloaded from our website: <http://pathwaystochrist.org>. If you don't have internet access, your church office can provide you with a brochure.

Social Media Would you like to help us spread the word about our church



on social media? Go to facebook and search "Zion Lutheran Church, Allenton, WI and "like us." Not only will you help to connect Zion to other social media users, you'll also be treated to some great historical photos of Zion, be reminded of what's going on at church, etc... Like us!

Praise Concert & Sing Along Come join the KML Echoes, KML Chapel Band, and [Unworthy](#) for a free praise concert and sing along on **Wednesday, January 25th, at 6:30 PM** in the KML PAC auditorium. This is a free concert - no tickets needed! Warm your hearts with the joy of the Gospel as we sing praises to our Savior together! There will be a free will

offering at the event to support the Echoes for their band/choir trip to Memphis and Nashville.

Help Wanted! The Washington County Senior Dining Home Delivered Meal program needs volunteer drivers in West Bend on Thursdays. Volunteers would give approximately 1-1 ½ hours to take noon meals to homebound persons. Drivers can have their mileage reimbursed. If you can help, please call the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Washington County at 262.335.4497 or 1.877.306.3030.



Travel with Tom's Tom's Christian Tours exists to provide quality travel experiences in a Christian atmosphere. A list of upcoming 2023-2024 tours includes Alaska, Smoky Mountains Music Tour, Nova Scotia in Autumn, Branson and the Ozarks, The Footsteps of Paul in Turkey & Greece, The Amish of Lancaster County, the LWMS Convention in La Crosse, Southern Hospitality in Texas & Louisiana. Several tours have already sold out for 2023, so if you're interested, check www.tomschristiantours.com.

WELS Night with the Herd The Wisconsin Herd are excited to be hosting our annual WELS Night on **Saturday January 28th, 2023!** There will be some in-game promotions to celebrate WELS and we wanted to invite your congregation out to enjoy the game together. All congregations are invited to take a photo together on court after the game to commemorate the experience together. For more information or to purchase tickets, please go to <https://fevo.me/welsherd>

Calling All Teachers Have you ever considered teaching in our WELS school system? Are you a former teacher who would be interested in teaching in a private Christian school? The WELS has a teacher shortage presently and is looking for non-WELS trained teachers who maybe have not taught for some years, have taken time off to raise a family, or who are looking for a new environment for teaching. Contact Pastor Bode if you are interested.

Full or Part Time Positions at KML: Start at 3:00 PM (flexible), general

cleaning of classrooms, bathrooms and hallways, 2-5 days a week, 4-8 hours per day, occasional weekend shift. Full time position includes health and dental insurance, retirement plan, and paid vacation. Hourly wage starting at \$15.00/hour. Contact Director of Operations, Mr. Jody Hansen (262.677.4051 x4004; jody.hansen@kmlhs.org) for more information.

Life Resources

Where will go when you're looking for solidly biblical, even soundly Lutheran, resources on life and family issues, and opportunities to make a difference in our world?

In this post-Dobbs world, the pro-life community is being challenged to step up to the plate. We can help you do that and more!

Please consider Christian Life Resources; our daughter ministry, New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers; and our Life Challenges podcast. We have a lot to offer the people who use and visit your website, and it might be good for both the inreach and outreach of your congregation.

Christian Life Resources ministry is affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. In partnership with fellow members of the WELS and those who cannot speak for themselves and put our faith into action with CLR-affiliated pregnancy care centers and the Christ-centered home for mothers, New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers.



CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES
— FOR LIFE • FOR FAMILY —

Our team at CLR has developed a multitude of valuable resources from a Christian perspective on a wide spectrum of life and family issues that could benefit the members of your congregation – and visitors to your site: a weekly podcast on current life issues, a Question and Answer section, e-mail services focused on life issues, *Pro-Life 101* - Comprehensive fact sheets focusing on issues from life's beginning to life's end and free Christian Medical Directives. For a host of resources, check out www.christianliferesources.com.



Magi-Wise Men from the east followed the star to Bethlehem. They went to worship the “King of the Jews” ... Jesus.

“Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.”

Matthew 2:11

The magi gave the best they had as gifts to Jesus. What can you give to Him?

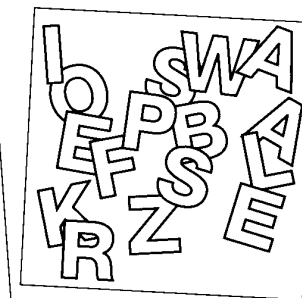
Find the letters in each pile that are not covered by another. Unscramble them to find something to give to Jesus. Check your answers in your Bible.



Psalm 100:4



John 13:34



Exodus 15:2