



A New Year...Setting Our Feet on the Path of Christ

Dear Friends in Christ,

As 2026 begins, many of us are still living in the midst of Christmas decorations, unfinished goodies, and tiny tatters of wrapping paper and ribbon; flotsam and jetsam of the season that work their way into the most unusual places.

Contemplating a whole new calendar year may feel daunting while we are still cleaning up from the one just finished.

I'm finding my own creative well a little dry this year too, as I try to come up with something inspirational to share with you for this month's Courier.

Thankfully, one of the gifts of being the church is that the Holy Spirit has often given the words you hope to hear into the prayers of other saints. This year, the following prayer came up on my Facebook feed from the ELCA Bishop of South Dakota. It spoke to me. It felt like a good place to start the New Year. I share it with you...

A New Years Prayer for the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, applicable to churches everywhere

Holy and gracious God,

As we step into a new year, we place (your whole church) into your loving care.

*Thank you for the faithfulness of your people,
for congregations large and small,
for pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and volunteers,
for children and elders, seekers and saints,
for all who show up, again and again, to love as Christ loves.*

January 01

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8 (1) Galatians 4:4-7
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

January 02

Psalm 20
Genesis 12:1-7
Hebrews 11:1-12

January 03

Psalm 72
Genesis 28:10-22
Hebrews 11:13-22

January 04

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8 (1) Galatians 4:4-7
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

January 05

Psalm 72
Joshua 1:1-9
Hebrews 11:32-12:2

January 06

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (11)
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 07

Psalm 72
1 Kings 10:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21

January 08

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 3:1-9
Acts 9:1-9

January 09

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a
Acts 9:10-19a

*Where we are tired, renew us.
Where we are divided, heal us.
Where we are afraid, give us courage.
When we are tempted to protect ourselves instead of our neighbors,
turn us back to the way
of Jesus.*

*Teach us to listen deeply,
to you,
to one another,
and especially to voices we are not used to hearing.*

*Give us wisdom to know when to speak,
humility to know when to be silent,
and love strong enough to hold differences without breaking communion.*

*Bless our rural communities and our cities, our schools,
camps, and partner ministries,
those who are flourishing and those who are struggling,
those who feel hopeful and those who wonder if hope is still possible.*

*Make us a church that is brave enough to tell the truth,
gentle enough to walk with pain,
and bold enough to trust that your Spirit is still doing a new thing among us.*

*As we begin this year,
set our feet on the path of Christ,
bind us together in grace,
and send us out, again and again,
for the sake of the Gospel and the healing of the world.*

*We pray in the name of Jesus,
the One who was, and is, and is to come.*

Amen.

Grace and peace to you as we seek to walk the path of Christ together in 2026!

Pastor Craig

Oreo Cookie Balls



INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound chocolate sandwich cookies, crushed
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 pound vanilla-flavored candy coating, melted

INSTRUCTIONS

Place the creme cookies in a gallon-sized bag and remove all the air. Using your hands or a rolling pin, crush the cookies to a fine powder. You can also use a food processor.

Transfer the cookie crumbs to a large mixing bowl and add in the softened cream cheese. Mix well.

Line a tray or baking sheet with parchment paper. Form the dough into small (1-inch) balls and place on the baking sheet. Freeze the Oreo balls for 20 to 30 minutes.

Dip the balls into the melted candy coating. Allow the balls to cool on a wax-paper surface. Refrigerate until ready to eat.

January 10

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 7:3-17
Acts 9:19b-31

January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29 (3)
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 12

Psalm 89:5-37
Genesis 35:1-15
Acts 10:44-48

January 13

Psalm 89:5-37
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Acts 8:4-13

January 14

Psalm 89:5-37
Isaiah 51:1-16
Matthew 12:15-21

January 15

Psalm 40:1-11
Isaiah 22:15-25
Galatians 1:6-12

January 16

Psalm 40:1-11
Genesis 27:30-38
Acts 1:1-5

January 17

Psalm 40:1-11
1 Kings 19:19-21
Luke 5:1-11

January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11 (8)
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 19

Psalm 40:6-17
Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28
Acts 8:26-40

January 20

Psalm 40:6-17
Isaiah 53:1-12
Hebrews 10:1-4



- 1 Norman Colvin
- 4 John Schaber
- 7 Kimberly Pearson
- 10 Tom Colvin
- 16 Lonnie Harms
- 18 David Staehely
- 25 Sharon Garrick
- 27 Ilene Marnella
- 28 Jeff Groner

Service Helpers for January 2026

January 4

Reader: Dan Harms

Ushers: Dan and Lonnie Harms

Donuts: Marie Gunther

January 11

Reader: Kenton Wolfe

Usher: Kenton Wolfe

Coffee Host Michelle Ripple

January 18

Reader: Dean Pinto

Ushers: Lynn Bloomfield and Ilene Marnella

Coffee Host: Barb Bannister

January 25

Reader: Lynn Ries

Usher: Lynn and John Ries

Coffee Host Joy Schulz

January 21

Psalm 40:6-17
Isaiah 48:12-21
Matthew 9:14-17

January 22

Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 1:1-20
Galatians 1:11-24

January 23

Psalm 27:1-6 1
Samuel 9:27-10:8
Galatians 2:1-10

January 24

Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Luke 5:27-32

January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 26

Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 6:11-24
Ephesians 5:6-14

January 27

Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 7:12-22
Philippians 2:12-18

January 28

Psalm 27:7-14
Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13,
21-26
Luke 1:67-79

January 29

Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 16:18-20
1 Peter 3:8-12

January 30

Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4
1 Timothy 5:17-24

January 31

Psalm 15
Micah 3:1-4
John 13:31-35



- Those with memory care issues and those who care for them.
- Those receiving radiation or chemotherapy.
- Those who are in hospice care.
- Our loved ones serving in the armed forces, especially those serving overseas.

Prayers for	Requested by
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider
Bankhead Family	Wyatt Akin
Benjamin Bliven	George Will
Belinda Kjensrud	Kim Mackiln
Beth Brandt	Mary W.
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe
Bishop Emeritus Paul	PC
Bob Boonstra Family	PC
Brenden Blum Family	PC
Brooke	Heather W
Bruce Baker's Family	PC
Bud Richard and Family	Kimberly Macklin
Burt Aus	Judi Aus
Carol Smith	Helen D
Casey Jordaine	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Chad Roberson	PC
Charles G.	PC
Colin Brown	Heather W
Cindy Caufield	Susan W
Cindy Miles	PC
Cora	Jackie Kimbal
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber
Dennis Ormseth	Mary W.
Diane Schaber	PC
Dixie Scheehean	PC
Don Bassom Family	Dixie S.
Dyrdaahl Family	PC
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Eric Wechter	PC
Ernie Peter	PC
Evie and Ron Berg	PC
Gary Erb Family	Barb B.
Gregory R	Kimberly Pearson
Heide Hendrick	PC

Prayers for	Requested by
Helen David	Barb Bannister
Hollinger Family, Ellie	Kimberly Macklin
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.
Jamie Mehus Family	PC
Jan G	PC
Jean Ruter	Mary W.
Jo Miller	Kimberly Macklin
Joanna Painter	Dixie
John Schaber	PC
Joyce Colvin	PC
Judi Aus	PC
Keven Christiansen	PC
Kim	Lisa
Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
Kristin Hosie	Tom Peter
Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Laurie Boyce	PC
Linda Bradley	Lonnie Harms
Linda Fender	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Lorie Beyers	Kim Beyers
Lorrie D	PC
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Marlene McDonald	Amy Elliott
Marsha's Family	Julie Parelli-Minetti
Mary Wolfe	PC
Matt H	PC
Melody Sledz	Mary W.
Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Nancy Bayer Family	Dixie S.
Noe Valenzuela Valles-	Kiera Will
Oscar D	Sam D

Prayers for	Requested by
Phyllis Murray, family of	Marie G.
Piper	Heather W
Richard Dyrdaahl	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Robert	Jordain
Roy Steven	Joyce
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Steve Grider	Doris Grider
Tammara Davidson	PC
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi
Virgil Pettit Family	PC
Wendy & Family	PC
William Wood	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Yvonne, Family of	Julie Parelli-Minetti

January

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group	2	3
4 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	5 6:30 pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness Team	6 6 pm AA	7	8 6-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group	9	10 5:15 pm AA Speaker Night
11 10 am Worship 11:15 a.m Council Meeting 7 pm AA	12	13 6 pm AA	15 3:30 - 5 pm Food Share, Rivenes Park, Hubbard	16 6-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group	17	18
18 10 am Worship 11:15 am Endowment Team 7 pm AA	19 6 pm AA	20 6 pm AA	21 A.M. Maplewood Grange Does Backpack Buddies 3:30 - 5 pm Food Share, Pythian Hall, Aurora	22 6-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group	23 Aurora Presbyterian Study Retreat at CLC	25 Aurora Presbyterian Study Retreat at CLC
25 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	26 3-4:30 pm North Marion Services Team 6 pm AA	27 3:30 - 5 pm Food Share, Rivenes Park, Hubbard	28 3:30 - 5 pm Food Share, Rivenes Park, Hubbard	29 10 am CLC Backpack Buddies 6-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group	30	

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COURIER



January 2026

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA

