



1Thessalonians 5:13-15

## Rise and Shine

*13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.*

Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church,

Pastor Joel Baker

January 2015

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### ***...from the Pastor's Office***

As we look toward another new year are we asking ourselves how we can become a more effective Church in walking closer to Jesus/loving Him, in being used by the Holy Spirit to promote the Gospel/love our neighbor, and in showing love to one another?

Most of you have belonged to the Lord for many years now and know from experience how your whole life is improved in its quality, depth, and benevolence as you draw closer to Jesus who walks with you through all of life, even the trials and temptations you face. You know how to draw closer to Him-it's a matter of taking the time, making it a priority, to do so. We have Bible study opportunities at Church and resources available for your use to help in that way also.

We always need to be looking for opportunities to increase our presence in our community, to find outreaches for the Gospel's saving message to reach into the hearts of others whether it's through the radio ministry, banners or signs on or by the Church building, gift baskets to new neighbors, or partnering with/coming along side of like-minded, Bible-believing ministries already in existence to support them in their efforts through prayer, financial contributions (even adding them to our missions support budget), or volunteering to be a part of the ministry work itself. Maybe creatively, within Biblical boundaries, looking for ways to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors. Besides learning about what to do and how to do so, we should be putting our feet, hands, and mouth to use in carrying those things out in a loving, Biblical context-which could mean telling the truth in love even to those who m

Lastly, there is the matter of showing love to one another at Church-PALC. How are you doing in that area? It has come to my attention recently that many of us aren't doing as well as we thought in this part of our ministry.

1Thessalonians 5:13-15 (NASB) 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

I am reading a book that is now unfortunately out of print, published by Augsburg in 1976 called Bright Valley of Love by Edna Hong. Briefly, it's a true story about an orphanage in Germany during WWII where many "outcast" children reside who have various handicaps but all are prone to some type of epileptic seizures. The Pastors and Sisters who take care of these special children give them joy and hope, even if they have multiple handicaps along with their seizures. These faithful servants, ministering in Jesus' Name, are able to understand that everyone, including themselves are "cracked", have faults and disabilities, some seen and some not visible to others, although the outworking of those hidden faults and disabilities can be seen or experienced by others. One young man can understand, in his interaction with the Pastor, that this man can look into his eyes and see his heart, looking beyond his deformed body to see his real self. I would say that's a good suggestion for all of us-that we look past the apparent faults of one another into the heart of each person that Jesus is shaping to look more and more like Himself. To recognize the value of each person to the Lord as fitting into a unique part of the Body of Christ, where the Lord has placed him or her to let their light shine for Him. To be an encouragement to one another with genuine appreciation and praise and when, on those small number of times where correction is needed, to be done in love and understanding in a private setting. We are, ALL OF US, always to display God's grace to one another as we have been shown much grace, understanding, and forgiveness by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even overlooking faults to see the real person, to see their heart.

Blessings/Shalom2u Pastor Joel

# January 2015 at PALC

## ***Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 New Year's Day***

Friday, January 2

Saturday, January 3

### **4 Sunday**

NO Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

11:30 Nominations for the Board of Trustees

11:40am Coffee Fellowship

### **7 Wednesday**

10am **Senior Activity** - Brunch & Farewell for Floyd and Eldon Niskanen. Included in the program is an "Old Fashioned" hymn sing.

EVERYONE is invited to ATTEND!

**The BRUNCH will take the place of the Men's Breakfast and the Ladies' Bible study**

6:30pm Bible study

8:00pm Choir

### **8 Thursday**

6:30pm Read Through the Bible

A discussion of Revelation 21-22 will conclude this four + year long project of reading through the Bible just a chapter each day. It has included a weekly discussion. What's next?

### **11 Sunday**

9:30am Sunday School

10:30 Worship Service

11:30 Prayer time in Sanctuary

11:30 Coffee Fellowship

### **13 Tuesday**

5:30pm Mission Committee

6:30pm Board of Trustee

### **14 Wednesday**

9:15am Ladies' Bible study

9:30am Men's Bible study

6:30pm Bible study for all ages

8:00pm Choir

15 Thursday

6:30pm

17 Saturday

9:00 – 11am Women and Girls' Bible Study

18 Sunday

9:00am Sunday School

10:30am Worship w/Communion

11:35am Coffee Fellowship

12:30pm Book Club at the church

Please bring your own lunch.

21 Wednesday

9:15am Ladies' Bible study

9:30am Men's Bible study

6:30pm Bible study for all ages

8:00pm Choir

22 Thursday

6:30pm

24 Saturday

1:00pm Annual Meeting of the PALC

25 Sunday

9:00am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

11:35am Abbreviated Communion

11:35am Coffee Fellowship

28 Wednesday

9:15am Ladies' Bible study

9:30am Men's Bible study

6:30pm Bible study for all ages

8:00pm Choir

29 Thursday

6:30pm

## Celebrate Our Congregation

### January Birthdays

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Denise Carlson | 01/01 |
| Kevin Wempen   | 01/04 |
| Oskar Aho      | 01/06 |
| Amy Caviness   | 01/11 |
| Martha Koski   | 01/13 |
| George Pelto   | 01/16 |
| Joan O'Brien   | 01/20 |
| Bette Hietala  | 01/20 |
| Reuben Aho     | 01/21 |
| Lloyd Walters  | 01/23 |

### Called Home

Jim Besonen, age 81, went home to be with the Lord on December 11, 2014. He is survived by his wife Lorraine; his children Carla (Mark) Fredrickson; Cindy (Phil) Read; and Jim (Stephanie); 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; and a host of family and friends.

Members of  
PALC: set aside  
Saturday, January 24 to  
attend the 1 p.m. Annual  
Meeting of our  
Congregation.

## Timely Prayer Requests from Dr. Uuras Saanivaara

From Pastor Lee of the AFLC:

Someone asked for your father's prayer requests to be included in the church newsletter. They come from the book *Sinun Sanasi on Totuus (Your Word is Truth, USA copyright1982)*, and here they are:



Dr. Uuras and Mrs. Sirkeka

1. That God would convert/turn the hearts and minds of our church theologians, pastors, church workers and teachers of religion to believe in the Bible as God's Word, to know Christ as their own redeemer and Lord and to proclaim God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. That God would influence our people and give them a disgust and fear in regard to alcohol and replace it with irresistible thirst for the Water of Life, the water which Jesus permits and gives.

3. That God's Holy Spirit through revival [would] convert hearts and minds and develop doctrine that changes from being critical about God, from materialism, from Mammon, of the flesh following irresponsible thoughts and desires. But instead seek His kingdom and righteousness and that He would reform our belief in the burning of the Spirit for evangelism for our people ... evangelism for people who are currently in darkness.

## A Word About Thrivent and a Word From Thrivent

First – Thrivent Financial did match the funds raised at our Praise and Thanksgiving service in November. The offering was generous and Thrivent matched it with their maximum of \$750. All funds are to be used for expenses for the Spring Youth Rally hosted by PALC.

Second – 2015 will mark a change in Thrivent's matching fund procedure. Matching funds is to be phased out across the country in 2015. For this year 2015, will continue with the matching but each Chapter will be given less dollars.

Third – Matching Funds has been replaced by a program called Action Teams. I have copied an explanation which follows.

Fourth – This in no way effects Choice Dollars© As a Lutheran congregation we receive more benefit from Choice Dollars© the more fraternal memberships within the congregation.

## Thrivent Action Teams

### Take Action On A Cause You Care About!

It starts with an idea. Is there an unmet need that you want to impact? Why not bring a team together and take action - a one-time fundraiser,

service activity or education event that can be completed within 90 days.

We'll help you get started, it's easy! It's called a Thrivent Action Team and it's a benefit of your membership.

#### What Resources Are Available?

When you apply to lead a team, Thrivent will send you a Thrivent Action Team Kit to help kick-start your project. Customize your kit with the following resources:

Promotional banner

Invitations and thank you cards

Live Generously t-shirts

Seed money for project expenses: \$250

Community Impact Card

More tools to help get you started can be found on the [Resources](#) page!

#### What Are The Guidelines?

Thrivent Action Teams are all about activating you, our members, to live out our mission on the ground in your own way - around the needs in your local community. Here are some simple guidelines to consider when planning your projects:

**Involve others.** It's about your friends, family and your community coming together to serve to have a greater impact.

**Not a gift or grant.** Use the seed money to purchase project supplies and promotional materials to make your project a success!

**One Action Team, one project.** Multiple Thrivent Action Teams cannot be used for the same project – you can support the same cause, but use your creativity to generate new project ideas to attract more volunteers and have an even greater impact!

**Report.** Share your stories, photos and participant info with us after your event – this must be completed before applying to lead your next Thrivent Action Team!

#### How Often Am I Eligible?

Each [Thrivent member](#) is eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year.

#### Choose Your Project

Need a project idea? Check out the [101 Thrivent Action Team Ideas](#) on the Resources page to get your creativity going!

Apply Now!

Complete the [online application](#).



# December Activities



## Caroling at North Ridge Care Center

