

NEW CREATION NEWS

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news...Isaiah 52:7a

January 2023 - Issue 1

Worship: Sun. 10am
Office hours: M-Th 10am-2pm
Community Meal: Wed. 5-6pm

New Creation Family,

What gift can I bring the Lord? The Magi brought expensive gifts. Does that mean the Lord wants my money? In the Little drummer Boy song, he offers his gift of music. Does the Lord want my talents? Other stories and songs say that the Lord wants our heart. Have I given it already, or do I need to keep working on this? Do I have to give it all, or can I hold a little bit back? Many questions come up when we read the story of the wisemen. Is it passage all about what we are doing? Or is the Lord pointing to something else?

⁹After [the Magi] had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:9-11

Let's take a little closer look at the Magi's gifts:



Gold is associated with kings and kingdoms here on earth. This gift reminds us that Jesus is fully human and reigns as king, just not in the way we anticipated.

Frankincense is a fragrant resin used in worshipping God. This gift reminds us that Jesus is fully God, unexpectedly born in the flesh.

Myrrh is a perfume used in preparing bodies for burial. This unusual gift for a baby points us to the death he would endure for our sake on the cross.

Of course, the Lord values your tithes and offerings. He works through them in amazing ways to care for people and spread the gospel. And yes, the Lord does rejoice in receiving your many talents and your heartfelt devotion. The Magi's gifts don't point us to what we bring to Christ, however. They point us to who Jesus truly is and what he gives to you: Himself. These gifts speak to the fact that what Jesus wants is you, free from sin, death and the devil. What Jesus desires is you, made a part of the family of God now and forever. Not only does he take your best gifts, but he also takes your worst failures, shames, doubts and fears unto himself in the waters of Baptism, bringing you from death to new life.

No longer do you need to wonder what the Lord wants from you, or how to please him. You're free to live - give your money, share your gifts and offer your heart - without holding anything back. Not to get a reward. Not to earn brownie points or be pardoned of sin. Just simply because it was who you were made to be in Christ Jesus! What a wonderful gift.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Sarah

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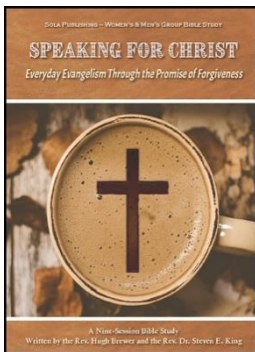
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LCMC 3 Days of Prayer - Each year LCMC invites congregations to begin the new year in prayer. There are many ways to take part:

- Prayer guides available in the Fellowship Hall
- Download the LCMC app and "opt in" to receive prayer messages.
- Worship/prayer service Thursday, Jan. 5th @ 6pm.

Family Photos - The church office is updating our picture directory! Please email an updated family photo to garden@newcreationperham.com or drop a picture off in the office to help with this project. Thank you!

Winter Bible Study - A Sunday Morning Bible Study begins Sunday, January 8th! Study starts at 9:15am before worship and meets in the NCLC Library.



"Speaking for Christ" is a 9 lesson Bible study on evangelism and what it means to share the message of Jesus in our everyday life. This study is great for all levels of Bible knowledge from beginner to seasoned and everything in between! There is no cost. Come to one or all the sessions!

Camperships - Is your child attending a Bible camp, Christian retreat, or mission trip this year? New Creation would love to support your family. We're offering a scholarship for up to \$200/child. Simply fill out the Campership Application found on the Fellowship Hall Welcome Desk and turn it in at least 6 weeks before the event. Questions? Talk to Pastor Sarah.



Recurring Meetings:

Women's Bible Study

1st Tuesday @ 1pm
January 3rd

Creation Camp

1st Wednesday @ 3:30
January 4th

Confirmation

Wednesdays @ 4pm
January 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

1st Saturday @ 10am
January 7th

Mission Meeting

2nd Sunday @ 11am
January 8th

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday @ 6:30pm
January 10th

Sweet Hour of Prayer

2nd & 4th Thurs @ 10am
January 12th & 26th

Monthly Potluck

Last Sunday @ 11am
January 29th

Upcoming Events:

LCMC 3 Days of Prayer

January 3rd - 5th
Worship & Prayer Jan 5th @ 6pm

Winter Bible Study

Sundays @ 9:15am
Begins Sunday, January 8th

Annual Meeting

January 22nd after Sunday worship

AD Convocation of the Cross

February 5th - 7th
Bloomington, MN

Confirmation Retreat

March 3rd - 5th
Luther Crest Bible Camp
Alexandria, MN

Full Calendar of Events at:
www.newcreationperham.org