

Dear Friends in Christ:

“Be it resolved...” With those words resolutions on any number of issues are past at conventions, gatherings and meetings. As the New Year of 2023 begins we also make personal resolutions. We begin this year once again looking at the theme, “Our Neighbor’s Faith”. The phrase, “Be it resolved...” reminds me of our Methodist brothers and sisters. It has been said of their primary leader John Wesley that he was “rebel and church reformer”.

When the United Methodist Church celebrated its 200th birthday in 1984 it was not one of triumphalism, because they had solved or resolved all problems, but was a time of reevaluating the mission and ministry of Christians in the world. It was a defining moment to say “be it resolved”.

As we enter a new year it is incumbent on every religious organization to again take inventory of its mission. Many of the contributions of our Methodist neighbors help us ask how we will say, “be it resolved”.



March 02 commemorates the birthdays of John Wesley and his brother Charles Wesley, who were classified as “renewers of the church”. They were part of the leadership of the United Methodist Church. Charles’ greatest contribution was probably the over 5000 hymns he wrote, including two beloved favorites, “Love Divine all Loves Excelling“ and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing“. But it was John, clergyman from England, who in the 18th century organized small societies from the laboring classes who were not being reached by the church at that time.

The movement came to America where it spread by the preaching of “circuit riders“, mostly unmarried men who traveled on very little salary. Their mission was fourfold and spoke to the words, “be it resolved“.

These early Methodists emphasized: 1. definite experience of God’s grace 2. clear consciousness of their conversion 3. commitment to personal purity and integrity and 4. enthusiasm for spreading the gospel. During this time two movements arose that eventually became the Evangelical United Brethren Church. One was the United Brethren in Christ and the other the Evangelical Association. In 1946 they merged to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

This began a series of divisions and reunions resulting in mergers that both helped and hindered the church, as is the case in many denominations. But the resolve of the Methodists still holds a positive influence in Christendom. Wesley taught that God’s love and grace was available to all not just a select few.

That humanity has the capacity to choose good and God will save those who in repentance, faith and trust turn to him are additional teachings of Wesley. Wesley’s early life changing experience formed the basis for his teaching in these matters.

Affirming the Trinity, acknowledging salvation by grace, and calling the sacraments symbols and signs of God’s grace are among the many teachings of the Methodist Church. Unable to understand himself apart from God, man is responsible for his sins and through the work of redemption in Christ is recreated. With the Bible as the basic understanding for faith and life Methodists affirm and use the creeds regularly and though their worship has become more liturgical over the years it traditionally is considered very free and emotional.

*The biblical concern for justice its operation of hospitals, social centers, homes for youth and schools for those otherwise neglected is a large part of their outreach. This extension into society has always been a hallmark of Methodists. One is Christ, *Pastor Hal**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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If you are hospitalized, know someone who is, need pastoral assistance, a prayer request, home visit, private communion, or other pastoral service contact Pastor Hal at any of the above.

FIRST COMMUNION

Kallie Dillinger & Parker Thomsen



Name of Jesus

January 01, 2023

Luke 2: 15-21

“What’s in a Name?”

Baptism of our Lord

January 08, 2023

Matthew 3: 13-17

“Touched by the Spirit”

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

John 1: 29-42

“John the Baptist, Again?”

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023

Matthew 4: 12-23

“Proclaiming and Calling”

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

Matthew 5: 1-12

“Jesus’ First Sermon”



Early reminder that both parishes will hold their congregational meetings on February 05, 2023 after an abbreviated worship service. Again, as we do each year, we encourage, welcome and ask your participation as this is the one time we can both evaluate and plan for our ministry together.

CONFIRMATION

classes will resume on January 04, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Barum Lutheran Church



We will resume on January 09, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Big Elk Creek. Join us as we explore the scripture and engage in dialog and discussion.

Another Year for God

*Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,
in working or in waiting, another year with thee.*

*Another year of progress, another year of praise,
another year of proving thy presence all the days.*

*Another year of service, of witness for thy love;
another year of training for holier work above.*

*Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.*

—Frances Ridley Havergal gave us some of the most beloved hymn tunes. They include: “On our Way Rejoicing”, “Take My Life”, “Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”, and “O Savior, Precious Savior”. The reflection above can be sung to the tune of “On Our Way Rejoicing” ELW # 537. Mark it as your “Hymn for the Year”.