



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

December 27, 2020

A Word from Our Pastor

As we close out 2020, it will definitely go down as a year to remember...the COVID-19 Virus that caused a worldwide pandemic, the shutdown of the US Economy, nation-wide quarantine, masks, social distancing, even the shutting down of in-person worship services. The church had to do things they've never thought of doing before... Facebook/You tube LIVE services, on-line giving, Facebook prayer meetings, and Zoom meetings for deacons, staff and ABF's. I don't know about you, I'm ready for 2021 to arrive. I'm looking for a year of new beginnings. New is great don't you think? New sounds like potential and opportunity...unless we think about it too much. Then it sounds like change and the unknown. I've promised myself that instead of fearing the unknown I will chose to hope in the known. As believers we can place our hope in the fact that God is the author of new. James 1:17 ESV says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." New is one of God's promises to us (2 Corinthians 5:17), and we know that all of his promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). So as believers, our hope ultimately rests in the promise that Christ will come back for us one day and make all things new (Revelation 21:5).

So, as we prepare for the New Year...what should we be thinking about? Let me give you a few things to consider. According to USA.gov the top ten resolutions that Americans make every New Year's Day are the following:

1. Lose Weight
2. Manage Debt/Save Money
3. Get Physically Fit
4. Eat Healthy
5. Learn Something New
6. Drink Less Alcohol
7. Quit Smoking
8. Reduce Stress
9. Take A Trip Somewhere
10. Volunteer To Help Others

Those are all very good resolutions. The problem is 4-out-of-5 people who make them will break them. One-third of people who make resolutions won't get past the end of January before they break them. That is why I believe what we need is not a New Year's RESOLUTION, but a New Year's REVOLUTION. What does God say to us? He does have plenty to say about how we can maximize every year He gives us to reach our God-given potential to be what we ought to be, do what we ought to do and become what we ought to become.

Philippians 3:12-14 ESV

"¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

The Radtkes and the Straders would like to thank our dear church family for all the ways that you've shown love towards us this past year and for the gracious "love gift" you blessed us with this past Sunday! When we think of you, we are reminded to pray for you as did the apostle Paul, "¹⁴For this reason I [we] bow my [our] knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us" (Ephesians 3:14-20 ESV)

Our prayer is that you had a Christ filled Christmas and will have a blessed start to the New Year!

With all our love and appreciation,

Pastor Doug and Lisa,

Pastor Noah, Erica, Jack, Ben and baby#3 (coming early March 2021)

Weekly Goal: \$8,135

Giving This Week: \$14,410

Giving

Many have already asked how our church will continue to meet our financial obligations (utilities, insurance, payroll, and missionary support) during this challenging season. You may provide in your tithes and offerings by one of the following methods:

- If using the U.S. Postal system: Make checks out to "Milan Baptist Church" and mail to P.O. Box 147 Milan, MI 48160. Submit [online](#). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at www.milanbaptist.org. Contact the church if you have any questions.



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Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension and for our elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- All those who have lost loved ones
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Please be in prayer for Gary Cox, friend of Keuhn and Hasselbring families, will be at UM Hospital on December 28 for surgery due to bladder cancer.
- Betty Stralnic & Family, following the home going of Gus Stralnic (long-time missionaries) and Betty's pending pacemaker surgery
- Pray with Kanna and Julie Vladaj for baby daughter Nora, home now but still struggling with some digestive issues
- Arthur Avery, recovering from infection at a rehab facility
- Jamie Scott, tumor growing on her pituitary gland. Going through tests to see which type, could lose her eye sight
- Lee Hayward, in a care facility
- Noah's cousin, Tiffany, awaiting next steps
- Cliff Kuhn, healing of his incision (continue to heal well)
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer (PRAISE: Carolyn's cancer in liver is gone)
- Elli Robins, in "maintenance" stage
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenчук, Stralnic, Van Orman, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

Ministries/Services

We will be LIVE and in-person at 10 a.m.

Other Ministry Meetings:

- **Men's Bible Study on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. See you in January!**
- **SeniorLife Community Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (Worship Only) See you in January!**
- **Church Library (Sundays & Wednesdays) following services**
- **Kids Worship (K-Grade 6) Sunday mornings (Pre-K Coming soon!)**
- **Special Prayer Gatherings on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**
 - **Room 207**

HEBREWS 4:12

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."



"ONLY 1 IN 6 ADULTS READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY."

The Word of God is living and effective. It has the power to convict, shape, and inspire us—if we read it. But so often, obstacles like confusion and busyness keep us from reading the Bible and experiencing the life-transforming power of God through it.

Through the Bible in a Year		
Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
December 27	Zechariah 1-4	Revelation 18
December 28	Zechariah 5-8	Revelation 19
December 29	Zechariah 9-12	Revelation 20
December 30	Zechariah 13-14	Revelation 21
December 31	Malachi 1-4	Revelation 22
January 1	Genesis 1-3	Matthew 1
January 2	Genesis 4-6	Matthew 2
January 3	Genesis 7-9	Matthew 3

Birthdays	Anniversaries
December 27 – Shelane Zion	December 27 – Bill & Sharon Cassell
December 29 – Becky Barton, Ed Mortenson, & Evonne Borso	December 29 – Merle & Linda Jaarda
December 25 – Dee Kassuba & Starr Tiekling	January 1 – Doug & Karen McDowell
December 27 – Shelane Zion	January 2 – Steve & Jacqueline Luurtsema

Human Sanctity of Life

We will be celebrating Human Sanctity of Life Day on January 17. As we did last year, we are looking to make a donation to Family Life Services in honor of this day. Beginning January 3, we will be taking the following donations:

1. Monetary (please indicate Family Life Services on your envelopes).
2. Wipes
3. Diapers (size 3 or larger)

All donations can be brought to the MAC and placed in the bins available January 3.

Call 2 Prayer

"Call 2 Prayer" Prayer Meeting, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. **There will be NO Call 2 Prayer on December 24 or 31.**