



Of Possible Futures

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Matthew 7:13-14

As we approach a new year, people contemplate their past year and look at how they can improve their next year. Personally, I don't make resolutions so that way I'm not disappointed when I don't do them. For those of you who aren't cynics, this point of reflection is part of growth and personal development.

In the Deuteronomy passage, Moses is addressing Israel before his death and before Israel enters the Promise Land. They watched the Exodus generation die due to their disobedience, minus Caleb and Joshua. They know what blessings come from obedience and what disaster comes from rejecting God and His statutes. Moses urges them to choose life and blessing through obedience. He just reminded them of God's law. Also, before this Moses gives a grim prophecy.

Moses predicts Israel's falling away and the calamity that will befall them. We read about the conquest and exile of Assyria and Babylon in 2 Kings and both Chronicles. Sadly,

the human condition is to choose rebellion to God over allegiance to Him. In the Matthew passage, Jesus predicts that few will enter through the gates to paradise. He remarks how the gates to destruction are wide, meaning many will follow that path. Jesus gives warning and a choice as He concludes the Sermon on the Mount.

We may look at Israel and the disciples and shake our heads at them. We think, "how stupid can you be?" We have the privilege of hindsight. The ugly truth is we are no different. In the moments of decision, we are guilty of choosing the path of death and destruction often enough. As much as we may want to say we are better, often we are not.

The choice lies before us not only now, but every day. Every decision we choose life or death, obedience or rebellion. The only way we can possibly do this is if we are walking with Jesus. If we have that personal relationship with Jesus, that means we have the Holy Spirit within us,

calling us to obedience to the Father. The whole divine Trinity is at work helping us to do what is right and good in this world. We are not alone in this fight. It is a winnable fight because we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

So here we are. A new year with new prospects. A new year doesn't erase what has happened. It does give us hope for what is to come and to become better than we are. If you are reading this and you are a follower of Jesus, fight the good fight and run the race to win. If you are reading this and you aren't a follower of Jesus, may I personally invite you to know who He is and the hope that comes from following Him. Today the world begins again.

Submitted by,
Pastor Mike Neumann

Gratitude
turns what we have
into enough

A YEAR OF GRATITUDE!

What are you thankful for in this past year? We explore gratitude this Sunday. Join us as we celebrate the year God has given us.

DONATING STOCKS!

Anyone thinking about doing a year end stock donation to TLC should begin now. This allows you to receive the full deductible value of the donation without paying taxes on the sale of those funds. You can contact the church office, an elder, or put your name & contact info. on a piece of paper and drop it in the office dropbox. Donations can be anonymous if desired.

TLC MEMBERSHIP CLASS

The next class begins Jan.12th and runs for 3 weeks with a makeup class on Feb. 2nd. This class will follow the Sunday worship service and will take place in the Jordan Rm. located next to the Fellowship Hall. Please email Sarah in the ministry office to sign up. sarah@crosslakeefc.org

KIDS Club

We will resume on Wed., Jan. 8th

Experienced
People in
Christ

EPIC

• **Sat., Jan. 11th 10:00 AM**

Join the group at Manhattan's for brunch and fellowship time! Please register by Jan. 8th so we can confirm the reservation.

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE
www.crosslakeefc.org/epic



Right Now Media is a global streaming library of more than 25,000 Christian Bible study resources for church leaders to share with their people and small groups. It is one of the best kept secrets for churches!

The Log Church subscribes to this monthly service and so it is **FREE OF CHARGE** to our church family to utilize. To get started, all you need to do is create an account (profile) online by going to this link:

rightnowmedia.org

ANNUAL STAFF LOVE OFFERING



You can give to our annual love offering to the staff until the end of the year by simply noting "staff offering" in the memo or in notes with online giving. Here is a list of our current staff:

- Troy Nelson, Pastor
- Mike Neumann, Pastor
- Sarah Dawdy, Office Manager
- Jaqlyn Darling, Adm. Assistant
- Nate & Alyssa Readell, Worship
- Kathryn Neumann, Worship
- Karen van Rooyen, Children's & Women's Ministry
- Mary Amiot, Finance & Marketing
- John Lindahl, Custodian/Maint.
- Logan Olson, Audio Visual Tech.
- * Charlie Kluck, Live Stream Tech.
- Nancy Gibbons, Nursery Director

If you have relocated during this past year, please confirm the ministry office has your most current contact information. Giving statements will be mailed out mid-January.

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT Jan. 1st

THERE WILL BE NO
ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK.

YOUTH GROUP SAT., JAN. 4TH Game Night: 2-9:30 PM



Dinner will be provided. Bring a snack to share. This can help with that winter slump we feel as the days are short and the weather is cold.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Mon., 1/6, 6:30 AM
Men's Growth Group
Leader: Pete Zepelak (612-296-3498)

Mon., 1/6, 9:00 AM
ZOOM Women Bible Study
Leader: Marsha Morford (218-251-5040)

Tues., 1/7, 9:30 AM
Tues. Women's Morning Bible Study
Leader: Sue Hagberg (218-310-6791)

Tues., 1/7, 10:30 AM
Tues. Women's Morning Bible Study
Leader: Jeanne Schultz (218-232-8397)

Wed., 1/8, 6:30 PM
Men's Bible Study
Leader: Tim Terrill (507-923-7167)

Wed., 1/8, 6:30 PM
Women's Wed. Night Bible Study
Leader: Janet Mayer (218-232-6510)

Thurs., 1/9, 6:00 PM
BSF Men & Women

Sat., 1/11, 7:00 AM
Men's Prayer & Pickleball
Leader: Brian Smith (218-481-2054)

Tues., 1/14, 6:30 AM
Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Leader: David VanNingen (712-470-1182)

GOT MAIL?

If you are a member of TLC and have a church mailbox, please check to see if you have mail waiting for you.

