

Another Word January 2, 2024

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Happy New Year everyone!! Are you making resolutions this year? Let's face it, we all have tried. "Tried" being the operative word. Well, you know me, instead of making a resolution, I looked around to find out when this tradition first began.

I discovered that ancient records show that over 3,000 years ago, the Babylonians were the first to make resolutions. They made promises in order to find favor with their gods, and to start the year off right. The 2 main resolutions were to pay off debts, and to return any borrowed items. The tradition of breaking resolutions after just a few weeks probably originated shortly thereafter.

We will take down and put away our Christmas decorations after our service Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for your help, in advance!

We have the honor to host this years' Sanctity of Life community service. It will be held January 21 at 4:30. I will have more information later in the week.

Our scriptures for the next couple of weeks are:

Jan. 7- Psalm 29, and Mark 1: 4-11. Our serving Elder is Dale Campbell.

Jan. 14- Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18, and John 1:43-51. Our serving Elder is Lana Bell.

Please remember Alan Girard, Lennie Reich, Sandy Bally, and Lyle and Jeanne Easterday as we go to our God in prayer.

Gracious and loving God, as we begin a new year, may we learn from our past, but go forward with joy and hope, knowing that You are faithful to those who wait on You, and trust in You. Just knowing You are there lovingly guiding us through the months to come, gives us

strength to know there is nothing in life that we can't face. We pray, as we enter a new and challenging year that our Local, State, and National leaders will turn to You and be inspired to govern by Your truth and justice. And may our lives continue to be a reflection of Your light and love. In Jesus' perfect name we pray, Amen.

I had the idea of selecting a few Bible verses that can give us hope as we begin a new year. As I searched the internet, I ran across what is printed below. I give full credit to Christianity.com © 2024.

The beginning of a new year can bring many feelings - uncertainty, anxiousness, excitement, joy, and longing, just to name a few. There's no better place to turn for inspiration in the year ahead than the Bible! Begin the new year with encouraging Bible verses to strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and increase your hope!

Millions will start the year with resolutions and goals for change and better living - healthy eating, better financial planning, or better time management. What if your resolution was to know God better and walk in His plan for your life? God is the author of new beginnings and it's never too late for Him to change your life!

Scripture is full of amazing guidance for transforming your life with a fresh start. Because of the life Jesus lived and his sacrifice for us, the free gift of salvation and new life in him is ours. The Bible tells us that we are a new creation, Be inspired throughout the New Year as you meditate on the promises of God in the Bible.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Isaiah 43:18-19** - "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do

you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

**Jeremiah 29:11** - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

**Revelation 21:5** - And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

**Ephesians 4:22-24** - To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

**Isaiah 40:31** - But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**Lamentations 3:22-24** - The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

I hope you were as inspired as I in reading God's word to guide us into a new year. If you hold His word in your heart, every challenge of life will be easier with the assurance that God, through Jesus will be by your side.

In His Peace,

*Rich*