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## A New Year, A New Kind of Resolution

In Ladies Bible Study, we talked about choosing a scripture to guide us into the New Year—almost like a spiritual resolution. One of the passages we read was Numbers 12:1 about Miriam and her anger and jealousy, how it rose up against Moses. That scripture unsettled me a bit, because it made me wonder if I ever carry those same attitudes in my own heart. Do I sometimes feel like I deserve more? Do I let pride or comparison slip in without noticing? Am I not as humble as Moses was?

Every New Year, I tend to circle back to the same resolutions: lose weight, save more money, get more organized... the usual list we all know too well. But as I sat with that scripture, I realized something. Maybe the resolutions I've been choosing all these years aren't the ones that truly shape my heart. Maybe the real work God wants to do in me has nothing to do with my scale or my bank account, and everything to do with my spirit.

That's why I think Lynda had a wonderful idea—choosing a verse as our “resolution.” A scripture that doesn't just challenge us, but transforms us. A scripture that calls us to grow in humility, grace, patience, or trust. A scripture that reminds us who we want to be in Christ, not just what we want to accomplish. Because at the end of the day, being a good Christian isn't about achieving goals—it's about becoming more like Jesus and that happens one surrendered moment at a time.

Maybe this year, instead of striving for perfection, I can strive for a softer heart. Instead of chasing accomplishments, I can chase God's presence. Instead of focusing on what I lack, I can focus on what He is forming in me.

*And maybe—just maybe—that will be the most meaningful resolution I've ever made.*

by Lora Shirey

### **Stepping Into a New Year with a Christ-Centered Heart**

As a continued thought to my opening statement, I thought I would outline something that not only I could use, but something we all might find meaningful.

A new year always invites us to pause, breathe, and look both backward and forward. We remember where God has carried us, and we open our hands to what He may place in our path next. As Christians, this turning of the calendar isn't just about resolutions—it's about renewal. It's about choosing, once again, to walk closely with Jesus.

Being a good Christian in the year ahead doesn't require perfection. It asks for something far more meaningful: a willing heart. A heart that seeks God in the quiet moments. A heart that chooses kindness when it's easier to turn away. A heart that forgives, even when the world tells us to hold on to hurt. A heart that remembers that our strength comes not from our own efforts, but from the One who makes all things new.

This year, may we practice the simple, steady rhythms of faith:

- Listening for God's voice in Scripture
- Showing grace in our relationships
- Serving with humility
- Praying with expectation
- Trusting God's timing, even when we don't understand it



And above all, may we reflect Christ's love in the ordinary moments—because that is where faith becomes real.

As we step into this new year, let's carry hope, gratitude, and a renewed desire to live in a way that honors the One who walks beside us every day. May God guide our steps, soften our hearts, and shape us into people who shine His light wherever we go.

## 30 Sayings of the Wise – Proverbs 22:17-27

I have an app on my phone called [Holy Bible](#), and each day it sends me a scripture for reflection. This morning's verse was Proverbs 22:4, a reminder about humility and reverence for God. As I continued reading the chapter, I came across the section titled *Thirty Sayings of the Wise*.

Many of you have read these before—some may have even studied or memorized them—but I thought they would make a wonderful addition to our newsletter each month. We could highlight a few of these sayings as a simple reminder of the Lord's wisdom and guidance. So here are a few to start:

### Saying 1

- <sup>17</sup> Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise;  
    apply your heart to what I teach,  
<sup>18</sup> for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart  
    and have all of them ready on your lips.  
<sup>19</sup> So that your trust may be in the LORD,  
    I teach you today, even you.  
<sup>20</sup> Have I not written thirty sayings for you,  
    sayings of counsel and knowledge,  
<sup>21</sup> teaching you to be honest and to speak the truth,  
    so that you bring back truthful reports  
    to those you serve?

### Saying 2

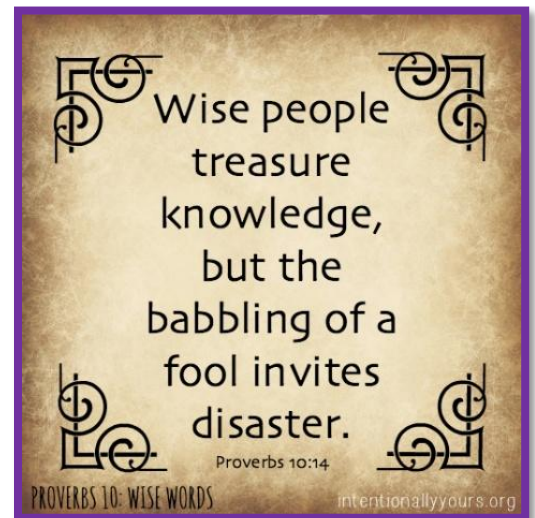
- <sup>22</sup> Do not exploit the poor because they are poor  
    and do not crush the needy in court,  
<sup>23</sup> for the LORD will take up their case  
    and will exact life for life.

### Saying 3

- <sup>24</sup> Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,  
    do not associate with one easily angered,  
<sup>25</sup> or you may learn their ways  
    and get yourself ensnared.

### Saying 4

- <sup>26</sup> Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge  
    or puts up security for debts;  
<sup>27</sup> if you lack the means to pay,  
    your very bed will be snatched from under you.



**Stay tuned – next month I will continue this addition in our February Newsletter**



Looking back, it was hard trying to find happy stories to tell. Escalating wars abroad and culture tensions at home made 2025 a turbulent and transformative year. Around the world, conflicts in places like Ukraine and Gaza continued to shape global headlines, while political upheaval and leadership changes marked many nations.

At home, political norms were tested, protests grew more frequent, and debates over national direction intensified. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence reshaped the technological landscape in ways few could ignore, influencing everything from business to daily life.

Hardline tariff and immigration policies also shifted the movement of goods and people across borders, contributing to a year defined by uncertainty, change, and rapid adaptation.

Terrorist Attack in New Orleans  
Palisades and Eaton Fires Blaze  
Donald Trump Inaugurated for Second Term  
DOGE Dismantles Government Agencies  
Mid-Air Collision Over the Potomac  
Immigration Crackdown  
Trump Tariffs  
US Air Strikes in Yemen  
Transition at the Vatican  
War in Gaza: Protests, Hostage Releases, Cease-Fire  
Russia-Ukraine War  
National Guard Deployed in Cities  
Minnesota Legislators Shot  
An Interstellar Visitor  
AI Arms Race  
Charlie Kirk Assassinated  
Operation Southern Spear – Small Boat in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific carrying drugs  
Global killings of Christians over faith  
Government Shutdown Breaks Records  
Louvre Jewel Heist Becomes Internet Sensation  
Epstein Files Released  
Sudan's Civil War Reaches Deadly Milestone  
School Shooting Shocks Brown University  
Bondi Beach Hanukkah Massacre

We hear a lot of bad news every day, which can make the world feel scary or sad. But remembering these **good things from 2025** helps us see that **good things still happen**. People are working hard to make the world better—for the planet, for children, for peace, and for the future.

### **1. Fewer Children Living in Poverty**

In 2025, the number of poor children around the world was the lowest it has ever been. Thanks to new government help and global support, millions of children got food, homes, and a chance to go to school. This shows that when countries work together, big problems can be solved.

### **2. Cancer Vaccine Shows Big Success**

Doctors and scientists created a new cancer vaccine that did well in the final stage of testing. This vaccine can help protect people from many kinds of cancer. It gave hope to millions, and it may be available to the public starting in 2026.

### **3. Huge Coral Reef Restored in the Ocean**

A large team of ocean experts finished fixing the biggest coral reef restoration project in the world. They brought back more than 500 hectares of coral using smart science and care. This is a big win for the planet and ocean life.

### **4. Two Countries Sign Peace Deal**

Two countries that had been fighting for many years finally signed a peace agreement in 2025. With help from other countries, they agreed to stop fighting and start working together. This shows that peace is possible, even after many years of conflict.

### **5. Clean Energy Grows in Poorer Countries**

Solar, wind, and waterpower became much more common in **developing countries** in 2025. With money and help from other countries, these cleaner energy options are now easier to use. This helps the environment and helps people live better lives.

### **6. New Hope for Alzheimer's Patients**

Scientists made a new drug in 2025 that helps people with early Alzheimer's disease. It doesn't cure the disease, but it helps slow it down and improves memory. This gives **families** more time and support to care for their loved ones.

### **7. Young People Change Climate Policy**

Young people around the world worked hard to get governments to take better care of the planet. Their protests, events, and clean-up drives made a big difference. Many countries listened to and changed their climate laws in 2025.

### **8. Biggest Animal Rescue Ever**

In early 2025, animal groups from around the world worked together to save over **7,000 animals** from illegal trade. Many of these animals were in danger of dying. Now, they live safely in protected wildlife centers.





## Ladies Bible Study.

Lead each Tuesday by Lynda Williams at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Join us as we gather for coffee, fellowship, prayer and study. We would love to study God's word with you!

*Our current study "The Promises of God"*

### GOD'S PROMISES

**God will love you forever!**  
"Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever." Psalms 136:1

**God will never leave you!**  
"...I will never leave you, I will never desert you." Hebrews 13:5

**God will comfort you!**  
"The LORD will comfort his people. He will show his tender love to those who are suffering." Isaiah 49:13

**God will help you!**  
"Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD. He is the Maker of heaven & earth." Psalms 121:1-2

**God is always faithful!**  
"What the LORD says is right and true. He is faithful in everything he does." Psalms 33:4

**God will keep you safe!**  
"The LORD is good. When people are in trouble, they can go to him for safety." Nahum 1:7

**God keeps his promises!**  
"...the LORD your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant for all time to come." Deuteronomy 7:9

Sunday School is taking a short break, but Church is still on! Enjoy that extra hour of sleep and join us for worship. We'll share an update soon about when Sunday School will resume.



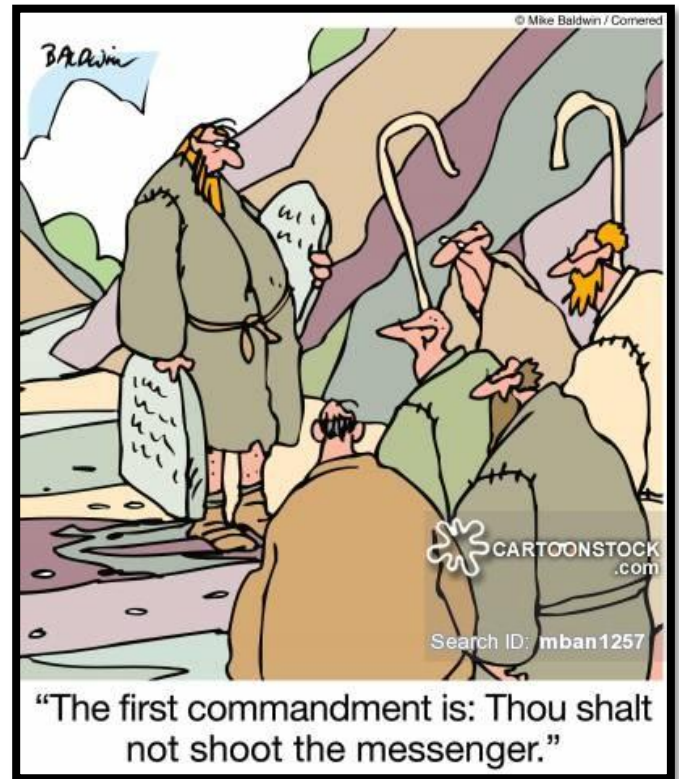
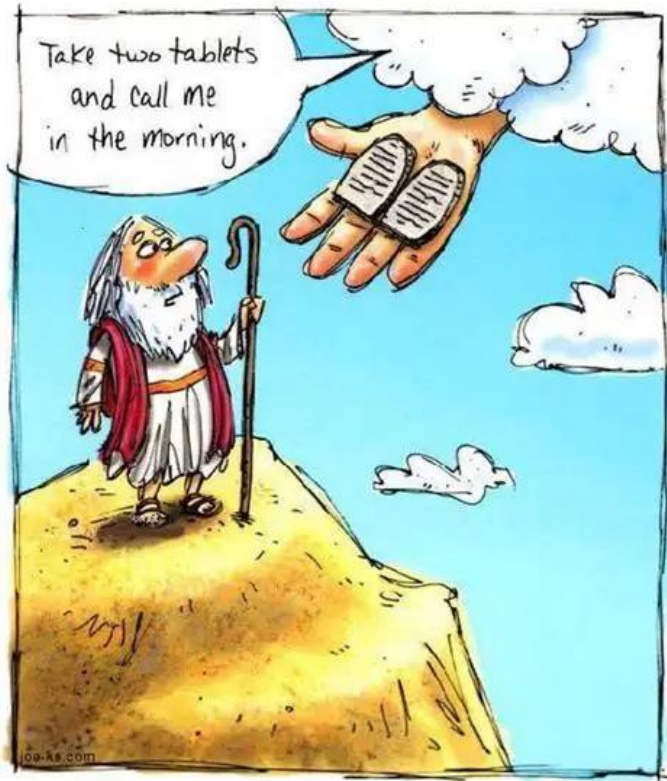


WARNING: this is a hard trivia but test your knowledge!

Take the quiz and no peeking because answers are on page 10

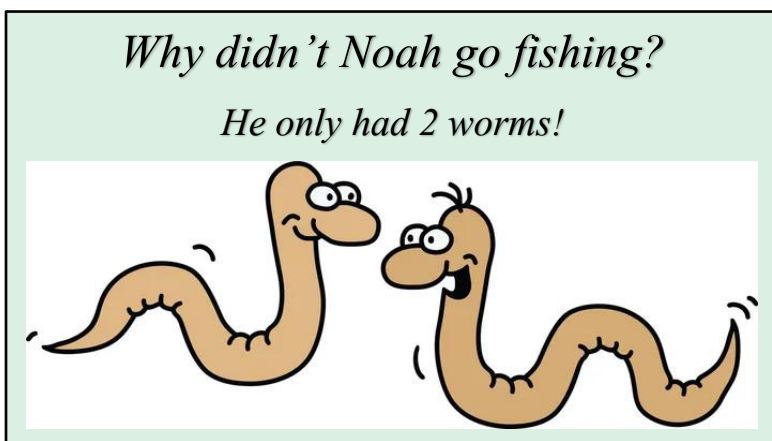


1. `The wind bloweth where it listeth,` said Jesus to:
2. What "ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters"?
3. What was the name of the high priest's servant whose ear was cut off by Simon Peter?
4. What did a woman do to Jesus in the house of Simon the leper at Bethany?
5. In what city did Mary, Martha, and Lazarus live?
6. `Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days` of what king?
7. Which of the following disciples never saw a vision of the kingdom of God coming with power before they tasted of death?
8. What Pharisee gave a feast that Jesus attended?
9. What was the name of the angel of the Lord who appeared unto Zacharias?
10. Who ran to Jesus` empty tomb along with John?
11. Where did Mary bring her newborn son Jesus "when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished"?
12. Who asked Jesus if they could be permitted to call down fire from heaven upon the Samaritans?
13. Who rolled the stone closing Jesus` tomb?
14. Who said, `Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water`?
15. How old was Jesus when he tarried behind in Jerusalem after having attended the Passover feast with Mary and Joseph?
16. The disciples were on a ship when a great tempest arose and covered it with waves. What was Jesus doing at this time?
17. Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. What was thirty pieces of silver equivalent to in the O.T.?
18. In what town was Jesus born?
19. What was the name of the member of the Sanhedrin who was a secret disciple of Jesus and who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus?
20. When Jesus descended from the mount of transfiguration, he was greeted by:



The Bible presents laughter as a gift from God, emphasizing its role in joy and celebration.

***Laughter is a sign of joy: Proverbs 17:22 "A cheerful heart is good medicine," highlighting how laughter can heal and uplift us.***



"I know he said two of each, but I'm telling you bring back three of each and I'll fire up the grill."



# Reformation Lutheran Church has invited us to join them for their Annual Winter Dinner!

Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm  
HBIC, Hope Born in Christ Church  
2600 Marietta Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601

RLC will provide the entrée

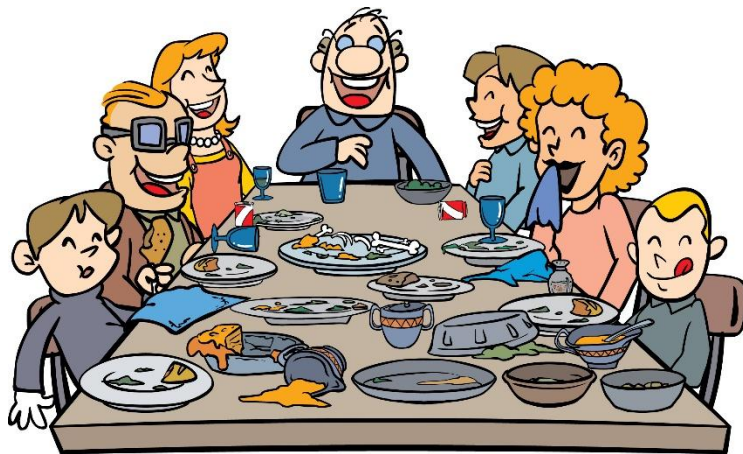
You have a choice of either Stuffed Chicken Breast or a Smoked Pork Chop  
The rest of the meal is covered dish.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex

It would be great to have the congregations get together and enjoy an evening  
of food, friendship and fellowship!

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“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this  
have entertained angels without realizing it!” *Hebrews 13:2*



## Fellowship Through Meals

Sharing a meal fosters community and strengthens bonds between believers. The Bible often portrays meals as opportunities for fellowship, where Jesus and others gathered to share not only food, but also love and spiritual growth. Eating together allows us to grow closer to one another and to God.



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1/2 Pastor Robert Zimmerman  
1/8 Sarah Tebie  
1/8 Dottie Jones  
1/12 Shiloh Tebie

1/13 Margaret Rogers  
1/14 Connie Appleby  
1/15 Jennifer Ryan  
1/18 Stephen Appleby



## *Prayer List & Ongoing Prayer*

*As a church family, we hold one another close in prayer. Please continue to lift up those who are healing, grieving, searching for direction, or carrying burdens they haven't spoken aloud. So please continue to pray for all our church members and our church.*

*Also pray for the sick, the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the depressed, the lonely, the abused, and all who have lost everything through war, floods, fires, or other devastating circumstances.*

*Your prayers matter. They bring comfort, strength, and hope in ways we may never fully see.*

*Let's remain faithful in praying for one another throughout the week, trusting that God hears every whisper and meets every need according to His perfect love.*

## **Answers to Bible Trivia on page 7**

1. Nicodemus, [John 3:4-8](#)
2. A herd of swine, [Matthew 8:32](#)
3. Malchus, [John 18:10](#)
4. Anoint him with oil, [Matthew 26:6-7](#)
5. Bethany, [John 11:1](#)
6. Herod, [Matthew 2:1](#)
7. Andrew, [Mark 9:1-2](#)
8. Simon, [Luke 7:36-50](#)
9. Gabriel, [Luke 1:19](#)
10. Peter, [John 20:3-4](#)

11. Jerusalem, [Luke 2:22](#)
12. James & John, [Luke 9:52-54](#)
13. Joseph, [Matthew 27:59-60](#)
14. Peter, [Matthew 14:28](#)
15. 12 Years Old, [Luke 2:41-43](#)
16. Sleeping, [Matthew 8:24](#)
17. The price of a slave, [Exodus 21:32](#)
18. Bethlehem, [Matthew 2:1](#)
19. Joseph of Arimathea, [Mark 15:42-45](#)
20. A man who sought healing for his epileptic son, [Mark 9:1-18](#)