



## READING RESOLUTIONS

Every January, many Christians resolve to read the entire Bible in one year. That's a worthy goal, but God doesn't require us to read a certain number of verses or chapters per day. Instead, he tells us to simply be in his Word — and thus be with him — so he can grow our faith, light our path and assure us of his love and forgiveness. God's Word is a precious gift, but we need to “unwrap” it!

F.B. Meyer offers this helpful advice for a new year of discovering (and rediscovering!) Scripture: “Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed ... entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate ... your life.”

## LESSONS IN WISE FAITH

“The Magi teach us true faith,” said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were “off the mark,” coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a “royal palace.” Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight “so utterly out of keeping with a king” — a poor young woman and child, in a “poor hut” — that one might expect them to head straight home. “But,” declares Luther, “with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart,” bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

—Based on Luther's sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), Luther's Works

## DNOW WEEKEND

Youth, have you signed up for the DNow weekend, January 17-18? **(If you register today December 31 it costs \$30!)** After December 31 the cost is \$45. Go to [rmd.me/v9tuXrBpDuL](https://rmd.me/v9tuXrBpDuL) to register.

## FEDERAL LAW

Please note: **Federal law** requires that all donations given to the church for tax purposes must be submitted by December 31.

## OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will close Wednesday, January 1, in observance of New Years Day.

## NO REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES ON NEW YEAR'S DAY!!

## LOCK-IT AND CLOCK-IT ESCAPE ROOM

Come join us for a night of challenging your smarts as well as your perseverance in our Escape Room. A team cannot have more than 8 people in it and any team of less than 6 we reserve the right to fill the remaining slots. It is \$15 per person. There are two different rooms for double fun. Can you escape the Cursed Daycare or find a way to celebrate during the New Years Bash?

The winning team with the best time and using the fewest clues will win dinner and a movie for each team member at JDogs and Northgate Cinema.

Thank you for participating. All proceeds will go to offset our youth summer camp.

**Here is the link in straight form too:**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C4EA4AD2FA0FC1-lockit>**

## MISSION LUNCH – SIGN UP BY THURSDAY!

There will be a Mission Lunch for our youth next Sunday, January 5, immediately following the 11 o'clock worship service. Beef tips with gravy, white rice, ranch green beans, rolls, and apple crisp with vanilla ice cream are on the menu. The cost is \$8 per plate. Please let us know by Thursday if you plan to eat.

## METHODIST WOMEN

The Methodist Women will meet Monday, January 6, at 2 p.m. in the Sunshine Room.

## BACKPACKS OF HOPE

We are collecting Pop Tarts for Backpacks of Hope this month. Betheden Prayer Group will pack on Tuesday, January 7.

## EQUIP CONFERENCE

Is the Bible intimidating? Do you struggle with reading it and getting anything out of it? We are going to have a one-day conference Saturday, January 11, to learn some basics for studying your Bible and life change. It will be at the Lake and cost \$15 to cover lunch out there. You need to pre-register by January 8.

## WESLEY STUDY GROUP

The Wesley Study Group will meet Thursday, January 9, at 9 a.m.

## UPWARD

UPWARD practices will be in the CLC Thursday, January 9, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

UPWARD cannot work if we don't have volunteers to help coach and referee the games. Please contact Newlie I to see if you can help!!!