

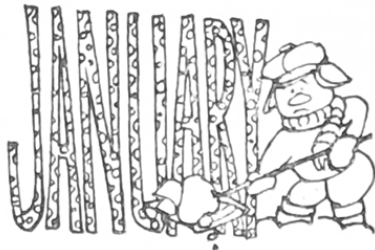


ASCENSIONNEWS

January 2025

Volume 54 Issue 1

"60th anniversary look back"



ASCENSIONNEWS
Ascension Lutheran Church
4900 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri

Harold H. Luke, Pastor
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January, 1977

PREDICTIONS

Man has always tried to predict the future, to pull back the veil that hides from us the way things will be next week, next month, next year.

Many of man's predictions have turned out to be false. Here are a few of them:

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella appointed a panel of Spanish sages to study Columbus' plans for a voyage to the Indies. They predicted that it couldn't possibly succeed. So many centuries after the creation, they said, there just couldn't be any more unexplored lands.

In the 19th century, when the railroad was invented, experts confirmed that people could not breathe on anything traveling at a speed of 30 miles per hour, and predicted that trains would kill all their passengers.

Shortly before the Wright brothers became famous a scientist wrote: "...no possible combination of known substances, known forms of machinery and known forms of force can be united in a practical flying machine." Just a week before the Wrights made their first flight an editorial in the *New York Times* suggested to one of their competitors that he might better turn his talents to "more useful employment."

Late in the 19th century, French historian Emile Faguet predicted a bland 20th century. "The chances are that from now on history will be less filled with vicissitudes, less colorful, and less dramatic," he wrote. "The great conqueror, the great reformer, and the great statesman will become increasingly rare," he concluded. Since then have come Lenin, Mussolini, Stalin, Hitler, Wilson, Gandhi, Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, General MacArthur, two world wars, many smaller wars, race riots, and other vicissitudes.

I suppose it would take a large library merely to list the predictions of men which have turned out to be false.

And yet, as we enter a new year, I, too, want to make some predictions. However, these "predictions" have an advantage over the predictions like those above, because I have an "inside source." No, not a special revelation from on High. But I do have God's Holy Word, the Bible, and on the basis of that I can make the following "predictions" for 1977:

- + During the next year, mankind will continue to sin, to rebel against God and His Law, to reject his Maker who wants all His human creatures to acknowledge Him as their God.
- + During the next year, God will continue to love all mankind, and through His Son Jesus Christ, will continue to forgive all of man's sins.
- + During the next year, God's providential care will continue to uphold us, guiding our lives, protecting us in danger, guarding us from evil.
- + During the next year, disappointments, heartaches, and tragedies will occur, but the sustaining, loving presence of Christ, known by faith in Him, will enable many to be "more than conquerors" over all of life's circumstances.
- + During the next year, a great many people (the exact number is known only to God) will be moved by the Holy Spirit to give their lives to Christ and to make Him their Lord. These are the ones who will know that the above predictions are true, for they will experience His grace and mercy.
- + During the next year, a great many people (the exact number is known only to God) will reject His merciful offer of forgiveness and either return to or continue on in their race down the boulevard that leads to eternal destruction.
- + For some of those who reject God in Christ, 1977 will be the year in which they will know that God is not to be trifled with, for they will meet Him face to face in judgment, on the day of their death.
- + But for those who trust Jesus and continue to grow in that trust, 1977 will be the best year of their lives.

I hope every one who reads this fulfills the condition of the last prediction, so that it will come true for him or her!

Best Wishes for a Christ-filled New Year!

Harold H. Luke

A Daily Devotional for January 2025

Theme: Renew Your Faith in Christ

Week 1

Wednesday, January 1

- **Bible Passage:** 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **Psalm:** Psalm 51
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to truly understand the depth of Your grace and the transformative power of Your forgiveness. Renew my faith in the promise of a new life in Christ.

Thursday, January 2

- **Bible Passage:** Romans 8:38-39
- **Psalm:** Psalm 23
- **Prayer:** Lord, in the face of life's challenges, help me to remember that nothing can separate me from Your love. Renew my faith in Your unwavering presence in my life.

Friday, January 3

- **Bible Passage:** Hebrews 12:1-2
- **Psalm:** Psalm 19
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to fix my eyes on You, the author and finisher of my faith. Renew my strength and perseverance as I run the race set before me.

Saturday, January 4

- **Bible Passage:** Philippians 4:13
- **Psalm:** Psalm 34
- **Prayer:** Lord, grant me the strength to face any difficulty, knowing that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Renew my faith in Your abiding power.

Sunday, January 5

- **Bible Passage:** Matthew 11:28-30
- **Psalm:** Psalm 27
- **Prayer:** Lord, I come to You weary and burdened. Give me rest for my soul and renew my faith in Your gentle and loving care.

Monday, January 6

- **Bible Passage:** Ephesians 2:8-9
- **Psalm:** Psalm 130
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to daily remember that my salvation is not earned but a free gift of grace. Renew my faith in Your undeserved mercy.

Tuesday, January 7

- **Bible Passage:** Colossians 3:1-4
- **Psalm:** Psalm 119:33-40
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to set my mind on things above and to live a life that reflects the new creation I am in Christ. Renew my faith in the power of Your Word to transform me.

Week 2

Wednesday, January 8

- **Bible Passage:** 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **Psalm:** Psalm 51
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to truly understand the depth of Your grace and the transformative power of Your forgiveness. Renew my faith in the promise of a new life in Christ.

Thursday, January 9

- **Bible Passage:** Romans 8:38-39
- **Psalm:** Psalm 23
- **Prayer:** Lord, in the face of life's challenges, help me to remember that nothing can separate me from Your love. Renew my faith in Your unwavering presence in my life.

Friday, January 10

- **Bible Passage:** Hebrews 12:1-2
- **Psalm:** Psalm 19
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to fix my eyes on You, the author and finisher of my faith. Renew my strength and perseverance as I run the race set before me.

Saturday, January 11

- **Bible Passage:** Philippians 4:13
- **Psalm:** Psalm 34
- **Prayer:** Lord, grant me the strength to face any difficulty, knowing that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Renew my faith in Your abiding power.

Sunday, January 12

- **Bible Passage:** Matthew 11:28-30
- **Psalm:** Psalm 27
- **Prayer:** Lord, I come to You weary and burdened. Give me rest for my soul and renew my faith in Your gentle and loving care.

Monday, January 13

- **Bible Passage:** Ephesians 2:8-9
- **Psalm:** Psalm 130
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to daily remember that my salvation is not earned but a free gift of grace. Renew my faith in Your undeserved mercy.

Tuesday, January 14

- **Bible Passage:** Colossians 3:1-4
- **Psalm:** Psalm 119:33-40
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to set my mind on things above and to live a life that reflects the new creation I am in Christ. Renew my faith in the power of Your Word to transform me.

Week 3

Wednesday, January 15

- **Bible Passage:** 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **Psalm:** Psalm 51
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to truly understand the depth of Your grace and the transformative power of Your forgiveness. Renew my faith in the promise of a new life in Christ.

Thursday, January 16

- **Bible Passage:** Romans 8:38-39
- **Psalm:** Psalm 23
- **Prayer:** Lord, in the face of life's challenges, help me to remember that nothing can separate me from Your love. Renew my faith in Your unwavering presence in my life.

Friday, January 17

- **Bible Passage:** Hebrews 12:1-2
- **Psalm:** Psalm 19
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to fix my eyes on You, the author and finisher of my faith. Renew my strength and perseverance as I run the race set before me.

Saturday, January 18

- **Bible Passage:** Philippians 4:13
- **Psalm:** Psalm 34
- **Prayer:** Lord, grant me the strength to face any difficulty, knowing that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Renew my faith in Your abiding power.

Sunday, January 19

- **Bible Passage:** Matthew 11:28-30
- **Psalm:** Psalm 27
- **Prayer:** Lord, I come to You weary and burdened. Give me rest for my soul and renew my faith in Your gentle and loving care.

Monday, January 20

- **Bible Passage:** Ephesians 2:8-9
- **Psalm:** Psalm 130
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to daily remember that my salvation is not earned but a free gift of grace. Renew my faith in Your undeserved mercy.

Tuesday, January 21

- **Bible Passage:** Colossians 3:1-4
- **Psalm:** Psalm 119:33-40
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to set my mind on things above and to live a life that reflects the new creation I am in Christ. Renew my faith in the power of Your Word to transform me.

Week 4

Wednesday, January 22

- **Bible Passage:** 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **Psalm:** Psalm 51
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to truly understand the depth of Your grace and the transformative power of Your forgiveness. Renew my faith in the promise of a new life in Christ.

Thursday, January 23

- **Bible Passage:** Romans 8:38-39
- **Psalm:** Psalm 23
- **Prayer:** Lord, in the face of life's challenges, help me to remember that nothing can separate me from Your love. Renew my faith in Your unwavering presence in my life.

Friday, January 24

- **Bible Passage:** Hebrews 12:1-2
- **Psalm:** Psalm 19
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to fix my eyes on You, the author and finisher of my faith. Renew my strength and perseverance as I run the race set before me.

Saturday, January 25

- **Bible Passage:** Philippians 4:13
- **Psalm:** Psalm 34
- **Prayer:** Lord, grant me the strength to face any difficulty, knowing that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Renew my faith in Your abiding power.

Sunday, January 26

- **Bible Passage:** Matthew 11:28-30
- **Psalm:** Psalm 27
- **Prayer:** Lord, I come to You weary and burdened. Give me rest for my soul and renew my faith in Your gentle and loving care.

Monday, January 27

- **Bible Passage:** Ephesians 2:8-9
- **Psalm:** Psalm 130
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to daily remember that my salvation is not earned but a free gift of grace. Renew my faith in Your undeserved mercy.

Tuesday, January 28

- **Bible Passage:** Colossians 3:1-4
- **Psalm:** Psalm 119:33-40
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to set my mind on things above and to live a life that reflects the new creation I am in Christ. Renew my faith in the power of Your Word to transform me.

Week 5

Wednesday, January 29

- **Bible Passage:** 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **Psalm:** Psalm 51
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to truly understand the depth of Your grace and the transformative power of Your forgiveness. Renew my faith in the promise of a new life in Christ.

Thursday, January 30

- **Bible Passage:** Romans 8:38-39
- **Psalm:** Psalm 23
- **Prayer:** Lord, in the face of life's challenges, help me to remember that nothing can separate me from Your love. Renew my faith in Your unwavering presence in my life.

Friday, January 31

- **Bible Passage:** Hebrews 12:1-2
- **Psalm:** Psalm 19
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to fix my eyes on You, the author and finisher of my faith. Renew my strength and perseverance as I run the race set before me.

January Birthdays- 3rd Jeff Schachter; 9th Jeff Fisher; 10th Sam Reynolds; 12th Tim Lunceford, Don Wegener; 14th William King; 15th Tim Kemper, Catherine Talley; 16th Bennett Durham, Ron Wagner; 17th Joan Fisher, Erin Lunceford; 23rd Caleb Lunceford; 25th Joan Hedberg; 26th Amanda Williams; 28th Jorjana Pohlman; 29th Carrie Kautz; 30th Lindsey Stucky.

January Baptismal Birthdays 1st Lourene Embree, Kathy Erickson, Pat Gordon, Michael Lunceford, Tom Lynch; 3rd David Barker; 7th Matt Dickhut; 19th Karen Gordon; 26th Eileen Green; 28th Tim Lunceford.

Lord, Who Do You Want Me to Love for You Today?

I'm reading a book about the gift of the Holy Spirit. The author calls the Holy Spirit the "Forgotten God" and asserts that many Christian churches today overlook or downplay this aspect of our triune God. While I'm not a Bible scholar and won't debate what other churches say, I recognize myself in some of the examples. I'm fortunate to have been raised in the Lutheran faith, where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are proclaimed. However, I am convicted of relying on my own knowledge, thoughts, and plans more than I should. What if I let go of that need for control and started each day with the simple prayer above?

I'm not one for New Year's resolutions, so I won't pose the challenge that way. I ask you to pray too. No matter your daily routine or commitments, will you ask God to show you who needs His love through you each day?

In our adult Bible class, we're studying how we show God's mercy as a congregation. This is another, more personal way to demonstrate His love and presence in our lives. Please join us each Sunday morning in January to see what opportunities He puts before us.

This spring, the congregation will elect or re-elect council leadership. My term as council president will end in June, and our bylaws do not allow me to serve another term. Please pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, will work in the heart of the congregation member who is to become our next leader and that person will come forward—maybe it's you?

When my term began in 2021, Ascension looked different than it does today. The next council president will face new challenges and the "headwinds" that today's culture places on the church, but I know they will not face them alone. The Holy Spirit is with us, and He gives us godly leaders who place serving the Lord above personal needs or gain. It is humbling, exciting, frightening, and eye-opening to see how the Holy Spirit leads our congregation. Please keep praying! Please continue coming to church to be a part of this community of believers. You are loved, you are valued, you are part of our family.

Kathy Jenkins

January 2025

Ascension Lutheran Church
4900 Blue Ridge Blvd.
KC MO 64133

816-358-1919
secretary@ascensionlckc.org
Walkers M-F, 7-10am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship Schedule: Bible Study 8:15am Sunday School 8:30am ~ Worship Service 9:30am			1	2	3 Bible Study 10am	4 Basketball 9-11am
5 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	6	7 Bd of Elders 6pm	8	9	10 Bible Study 10am Basketball 8-10pm	11 No Basketball Craft Day 9am-6:30pm
12 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	13	14 Church Council 6:30pm	15	16	17 Bible Study 10am	18 Basketball 9-11am
19 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	20	21	22	23	24 Bible Study 10am	25 Basketball 9-11am
26 New Dimensions of Praise 10am Mite Box Sunday	27 No Dorcas Circle will resume in February	28	29	30	31 Bible Study 10am	

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:5