

January Newsletter 2019



Also available online at www.immanuelriverside.com



What Kind of “New” Year Will it Be?

by Pastor Borst

By the time you read these words, it will be 2019. You have celebrated the holy days of Christmas and have passed safely into the New Year. At this point, you have more insight than me about 2019, because as I write these words, it is only mid-December. I haven’t even written my Christmas sermon yet!

Even though my writing and your reading puts me at a chronological disadvantage, I still think I might be able to offer you some valuable insights about the New Year (which you have begun and I have not). Will 2019 be a good year? That all depends on the kind of “new” year you’ve started.

The New Testament uses two Greek words for “new.” The first is “neos”. Neos is something that is brand new. January 1, 2019 is a brand new day and in a brand new year. The Bible uses this term for all sorts of things that are brand new: a new vintage of wine, a new batch of dough, or a newborn child (also used to refer to the “younger” child).

While all these things may be new in time, it doesn’t mean that they’ll be new in quality. The wine is made from the same grape vines as previous years and may actually be an inferior harvest. The child is born from the same parents and still has to deal with original sin. So while January 1, 2019 might begin a brand new calendar year, chances are good that we’ll end up experiencing the same old thing. Solomon warns us, “there is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Thankfully, the New Testament uses a second Greek word for “new”. That is, “kainos”. Kainos suggests something that is new in quality. Jesus makes this point when He talks about the coming of His Kingdom, and the Gospel that He brings. He says,

“Neither is new (*neos*) wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is

spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new (*neos*) wine is put into new (*kainos*) wineskins, and so both are preserved.” (Matthew 9:17)

These new (*kainos*) wineskins are of a different quality than the old, brittle wineskins, and thus will not burst when brand new (*neos*) wine is put into them. What makes the Gospel of Jesus unique, is that it is genuinely new in character, unlike the old, brittle teaching of the Pharisees.

This type of newness can give us great hope for a new year. What we truly desire is not just more of the same, but a life that is renewed and is different in quality. That’s the kind of life only God can give:

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new (*kainos*) creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new (*kainos*) has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.” (2 Corinthians 5:17-8)

Through Christ, you are reconciled to God! The old is gone. Your sin has been paid for and no longer do live in fear of God’s wrath. What’s more, the new has come! Your relationship with the Father has been fully restored, and is now fundamentally different. It is based on the merits of Christ. Because of Jesus, you are holy to God, and wholly belong to His family.

This changes how you might enter into 2019. Certainly you will encounter many of the same celebrations and challenges you’ve faced in the past. Yet, you do so having been made a new creation in Christ. Therefore, you can approach each new (*neos*) day of our new (*neos*) year in a brand new (*kainos*) way:

- Focus on what the Spirit is doing as He works in you through Word and Sacrament. Spiritual renewal produces a harvest of righteousness.
- Take delight that Jesus is including you in His new wineskin ministry. By faith, you can serve in His Kingdom, and be play a part in the renewal that He brings.
- Finally, place your hope fully on the fulfillment of Christ’s work for the world. “Behold, I am making all things new,” is His promise to us. (Revelation 21:5) When He comes again, He will establish “a new heaven and a new earth,” (Revelation 21:1) so that we can delight in Him forever.

So while many people have already wished you a happy New Year, let me be the first to wish you a Happy Renewal this year! In Christ, you truly can anticipate something beautifully new.

And with these words I must now end, for I absolutely do need to start writing that Christmas sermon...

Community Outreach Report

by Julia Gardner - Outreach
Coordinator

SERVE the LORD
with
GLADNESS



ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree was a **HUGE success** for the foster teens and our local Veterans. **Thank you SO VERY much for your support** while showing God’s love through the gift cards you provided. May you be blessed for all that you do for others in Jesus’ name!



For our Foster Kids & Families! Here are the items that are needed:

- **Extra Long Twin Sheets (\$10 @ Walmart)**
- **Extra Long Twin Comforters (\$17 @ Walmart, rolled up like a sleeping bag)**
- **Blankets/Comforters for Toddler Beds**
- **Crib Blankets/Comforters**
- **Crib Sheets**

Immanuel Vision 2025

Our ministry is on the move,
and God is calling you to be a part of it!



VISION 2025 SUNDAY will take place on January 27. Hear an update about how God is leading our ministry in brand new ways and meet some of the leaders of our six Core Ministry Teams. Be a part of God's Kingdom work!

Important Dates in January

- January 2: Preschool Resumes
- January 7: Elementary School Resumes
- January 14: Kindergarten Visit Day
- January 16: IN HOUSE ENROLLMENT BEGINS
- January 18: Faculty In service CAMPUS CLOSED
- January 21: MLK Birthday CAMPUS CLOSED
- January 22: Kindergarten Visit Day
- January 22: Incoming Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade OPEN HOUSE, 6:30
- January 23: RNO: Tokyo Joe's
- January 27: 5th grade at 8:30 church service
- January 27: Vision 2025 Sunday
- January 28: Beginning of Lutheran Schools Week
- January 28: Kindergarten Visit Day
- January 30: Incoming 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade OPEN HOUSE, 6:30
- January 30: COMMUNITY ENROLLMENT BEGINS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAMPUS CLOSED 8:30am - Traditional Service 9:30am - Bible Study 10:30am - Contemporary Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Eve Vacation Day for 6:30pm - Sound Offering Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day 10am - Senior Bible Study 12pm - Senior Staff @ Conference Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am - The Oldies, but Goodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am - Preschool chapel @ church 9:30am - Quilters 9pm - Youth Group @ Youth Lounge 7pm - Sanctuary Choir @ Music room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Young Adult Bible Study @ Youth Lounge 	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am - Traditional Service 9:30am - Bible Study 10:30am - Contemporary Service 9pm - Girl Scouts @ Grassmann Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Joy Group 6:30pm - Sound Offering Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Senior Bible Study 12pm - Senior Staff @ Conference Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am - Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences 8am - The Oldies, but Goodies 9:30pm - Confirmation @ Youth Lounge/Grauman = Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am - Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences 8:45am - Preschool chapel @ church 9:30am - Quilters 5:30pm - Accreditation meeting @ 6pm - Youth Group @ Youth Lounge 7pm - Sanctuary Choir @ Music room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am - Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences 6:30pm - Young Adult Bible Study @ Youth Lounge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am - Men's Bible Study 8am - Poly Track sponsored River Middle @ 9:30am - Women's Bible Study
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am - Traditional Service 9:30am - Bible Study 10:30am - Contemporary Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinder visit day 5pm - Guest Chel 6:30pm - Elders' mtg 6:30pm - Sound Offering Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Senior Bible Study 12pm - Senior Staff @ Conference Room 6:30pm - Cub Scouts Pack 175 week 8:30pm - Endowment @ Grassmann Hall 6:30pm - S&G meeting conference room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In House Enrollment for PTL 8am - The Oldies, but Goodies 9:30pm - Confirmation @ Youth Lounge/Grauman = Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am - Preschool chapel @ church 9:30am - Quilters 12:30pm - PTL meeting @ conference room 6pm - Youth Group @ Youth Lounge 7pm - Sanctuary Choir @ Music room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAMPUS CLOSED 9am - All-Staff @ Grassmann Hall 6:30pm - Young Adult Bible Study @ Youth Lounge 	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am - Traditional Service 9:30am - Bible Study 10:30am - Contemporary Service 5:30pm - Girl Scouts and Rev. Keesen 9:45pm - Christianity 101 @ Grassmann Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAMPUS CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:30pm - Sound Offering Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinder Visit Day 10am - Senior Bible Study 12pm - Senior Staff @ Conference Room 4:30pm - Open House K-2 @ Elementary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am - The Oldies, but Goodies 9:30pm - Confirmation @ Youth Lounge/Grauman = Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am - Preschool chapel @ church 9:30am - Quilters 6pm - Youth Group @ Youth Lounge 7pm - Sanctuary Choir @ Music room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Quarter Ends 6:30pm - Young Adult Bible Study @ Youth Lounge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am - Men's Bible Study 8am - Food Delivery 9:30am - Women's Bible Study @ ELCA, 4725 Brockton Ave. Riverside, CA 92506, USA
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision 2025 Sunday @ church 8:30am - Traditional Service/Grade 4 9:30am - Bible Study 10:30am - Contemporary Service/Prd 9:45pm - Christianity 101 @ Conference Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lutheran Schools Week Kinder Visit Day 8pm - School Ministry Team meeting @ 6:30pm - Sound Offering Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Senior Bible Study 12pm - Senior Staff @ Conference Room 5:30pm - Vision 2025 core meeting @ Grassmann Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPEN ENROLLMENT @ PTL 8am - The Oldies, but Goodies 5:30pm - 3-6 Open House @ 5:30pm - Confirmation @ Youth Lounge/Grauman = Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am - Preschool chapel @ church 9:30am - Quilters 6pm - Youth Group @ Youth Lounge 7pm - Sanctuary Choir @ Music room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Color Run @ ES 6:30pm - Young Adult Bible Study @ Youth Lounge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CUI Concert @ Church

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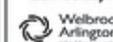
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