

WEEKLY NEWS – JANUARY 6, 2021

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: “Down to the River”

Ordination Sunday

ELDER AND DEACON ORDINATION

Since we are unable to gather in person, we have had to get creative with our Ordination service. Pastor Hans will do individual Ordination services this Sunday, January 10. The services will be filmed and added to our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Joe Davies and Christine Whitlatch will be ordained this Sunday. Benie Kalala will be ordained at a later date.

We are still asking all current and past Elders to send us a copy of your hand. Just trace your hand on a piece of paper, take a photo, and email or text to Teresa. Email: wpcteresa@sbcglobal.net. Text 972-7093. We will need the hand prints before Sunday morning. Thank you!

ONLINE FAITH STUDY

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Hans via Zoom on Sunday, January 17 at 9:00am. This “study” will more of a conversation about our faith – both as an individual and as part of a faith community. Through these conversations we will reflect on our beliefs and learn to better articulate our faith.

You will find the Zoom link in next week’s Weekly News. This link will not be published on our Facebook page. If you know of someone who would like to attend please let me know and I will make sure they get the meeting link.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have an online Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 31 at 11:00. The purpose of meeting will be to elect a new Deacon. The Zoom link will be posted in the weekly news the Wednesday before the meeting.

ZOOM HELP

If you have not used Zoom before or have any questions please let me know. I would be happy to walk you through the process and even have a practice meeting with you.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTION BOOKS

Don’t forget we have the January/February Upper Room devotional books. If you would like a copy sent to you in the mail please let me know. We have both regular print and large print book available at no cost.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Friends,

Another New Year has sneaked up on us, and everybody agrees that it will be better than 2020. It better be. Each culture has its own traditions how to celebrate the change of the years. In my home country of Austria, we like to shoot off fireworks, play pranks, and, strangest of all, we melt lead tokens and pour the lead into cold water, and then we try to fathom from the shapes what the New Year will bring. In America, time honored traditions are to gather, watch the ball drop on Broadway in New York, toot horns, and get more or less senselessly drunk. (We do that in Austria, too; it just is not quite as center stage.)

A universal custom at this time is to make New Years resolutions. If I look back over the years, I proudly can claim that I kept them all. Yes, they are neatly filed in chronological order in a manila envelope in my filing cabinet. When I was a student one year I decided to come up with resolutions that I actually might keep. So I resolved I would drink as much as I could, smoke as much as I could, and have as much fun as I could. And what did God do? That year I met my wife; she very rapidly dried me up, stopped my smoking, and let us just say, the meaning of the word fun radically changed. Simply put, suddenly I had no more time for cigarettes and beer.

You see, not even negative resolutions work. For Presbyterians, this is, of course, a duh insight. We know that we really are not in control. We might muddle along, but everything actually is in the hands of God. Rather than resolve anything we need to be on our knees and pray that God has mercy on us, and guides us to overcome our ingrained tendencies towards self-destruction.

In regard to our church at this time no more be said about Rise and Shine. Understand that the only thing I really hope for is Jesus Christ. If our church remembers that everything in the end is about Jesus Christ and His love nothing else matters, nothing else is needed. I shall pray that Christ may transform our church, that the love of Christ may revolutionize the hearts and souls of everybody.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **2 Corinthians 5:17***

Have a Blessed New Year
Pastor Hans

ON THE CALENDAR

Sun. 1/10 Ordination Services 12:00pm
 Sr. High Youth (online) 6:30pm
Tues. 1/12 Open Gym (must sign up) 2:30 – 4:30pm
Thurs. 1/14 Open Gym (must sign up) 2:30 – 4:30pm
 Worship Music Meeting 5:30pm
Sun. 1/17 Online Faith Study 9:00am
 Deacons Meeting 11:00am