

# January 2025 Newsletter

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## Spotlight Focus on QUALITY of LIFE



Happy New Year! Another year has come and gone along with it last year's resolutions. You may not even remember last year's resolutions. But whether or not you participate in this particular annual challenge, we all can agree that we all have room for improvement. Each new year provides us an opportunity to pause and reflect. Reflecting on the 1st chapter of 2 Peter can give us some insights.

The Apostle Peter is a good example of an "improved" life. You may know someone like Peter or perhaps you share some of the same "qualities". God changed him from an impulsive, cussing fisherman, who often put his foot in his mouth, to a wise man who diligently endeavored to share what he had learned with those he loves. In reading 2 Peter he addresses those who have received and possess a precious faith, and that includes us. It is for us and still applies today.

*"1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle (special messenger, personally chosen representative) of Jesus Christ, To those who have received and possess [by God's will] a precious faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace [that special sense of spiritual well-being] be multiplied to you in the [true, intimate] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."*

The following verses explain why he wrote this particular letter. We all tend to be forgetful and there are a great number of things that we need to be reminded of. Peter shares his insights gleaned through years of learning and growing. In the first chapter of 2 Peter, he wrote,

*"Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them and are established in the truth which is held firmly in your grasp. 13 I think it right, as long as I am in this earthly tent, to inspire you by reminding you, 14 knowing that the laying aside of this earthly tent of mine is imminent, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 Moreover, I will diligently endeavor [to see to it] that even after my departure you will be able, at all times, to call these things to mind."*

Peter shares a focus on a Quality of Life that we can all successfully achieve. He spells out some specifics that can both challenge and inspire us. You may notice the text is in the Amplified version. This version helps to expand on and fleshes out some of the implied meaning. So if you're seeking improvement and growth in your life this is an excellent place to look. We can find that if we adopt these truths and begin to weave them into our day to day lives we will see results just as Peter says,

*"8 For as these qualities are yours and are increasing [in you as you grow toward spiritual maturity], they will keep you from being useless and unproductive in regard to the true knowledge and greater understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is blind—shortsighted [closing his spiritual eyes to the truth], having become oblivious to the fact that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, believers, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you [be sure that your behavior reflects and confirms your relationship with God]; for by doing these things [actively developing these virtues], you will never stumble [in your spiritual growth and will live a life that leads others away from sin]; 11 for in this way entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly provided to you."*

So, I am sure you have heard that exercise can improve the quality of your life. It is true in our physical lives and even more so in our spiritual lives. Peter breaks down these "qualities" to be exercised in our lives and like all exercise over time your strength and endurance increase.

**5 For this very reason, adding your diligence [to the divine promises], employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and in [exercising] virtue [develop] knowledge (intelligence),**

**6 And in [exercising] knowledge [develop] self-control, and in [exercising] self-control [develop] steadfastness (patience, endurance), and in [exercising] steadfastness [develop] godliness (piety),**

**7 And in [exercising] godliness [develop] brotherly affection, and in [exercising] brotherly affection [develop] Christian love.**


So we know WHO Peter was writing, WHY he wrote it, and WHAT our part in it is.

**And now the HOW....**

**3 For His divine power has bestowed on us [absolutely] everything necessary for [a dynamic spiritual] life and godliness, through true and personal knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has bestowed on us His precious and magnificent promises [of inexpressible value], so that by them you may escape from the immoral freedom that is in the world because of disreputable desire, and become sharers of the divine nature.**

There is so much power in these words. God has already done the work, for it was His desire to bestow these precious and magnificent promises on us, we just need to do our part and partner with Him. So maybe we should consider exchanging new year's resolutions for some solid promises given by the One with divine power to accomplish it. That sounds like a guaranteed success for the best Quality of Life imaginable. What a great way to start the New Year!!



O Lord, let my  
*New Year's resolution*  
be to   
**follow you**  
**more closely**  
and to  
**trust in your**  
*loving guidance.*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4th Dustin Dobill  
4th Andrew Martin  
5th Lyle Thompson  
5th Wes Wilt  
8th Stephanie Cralley  
9th Anniston Thompson  
9th Harold Zoller  
10th Dewey Reiman  
14th Lisa Stewart  
16th Kathy Yates  
16th Ricky Baldrige  
17th Darell Bosecker  
18th Pat Shimkus  
22nd Travis Williams  
26th Maggie Elson  
27th Gabrielle Cobin  
28th Trevor Dinkins  
31st Thelma Viernum  
31st Kevin Hicks

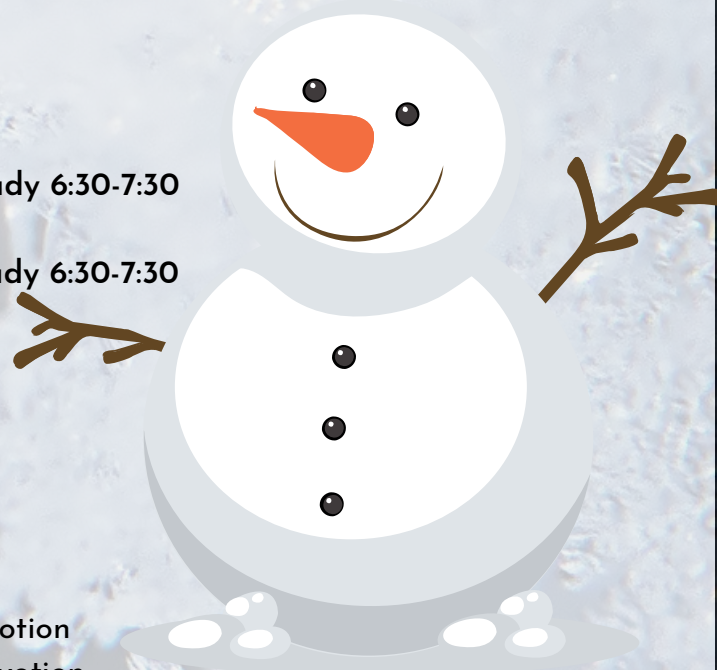
1st Steve & Vickie Parry  
6th David & Kathy Elson



# JANUARY DATES

\*Please remember that dates are subject to change, and that there may be some events added later after this newsletter is published. Follow the weekly bulletins and follow us on Facebook.

- 1/1 New Year's Day - Office Closed
- 1/4 Men's Meeting and Breakfast 8:00-9:00 a.m.
- 1/8 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal 5:45 Bible Study 6:30-7:30
- 1/11 Women's Breakfast 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- 1/12 Senior's Meeting and Lunch after church
- 1/12 Sunday Night Youth 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 1/13 Book Club 6:00 p.m.
- 1/15 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal 5:45 Bible Study 6:30-7:30
- 1/18 Food Pantry 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- 1/19 Baby Dedication
- 1/19 Guest Services Meeting
- 1/19 Sunday Night Youth 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 1/20 Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30-5:30
- 1/20 Area Men's Meeting in Marion
- 1/21 Senior's Luncheon 12:00 noon
- 1/22 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal 5:45 Bible Study 6:30-7:30
- 1/23 Joint Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 1/29 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal 5:45 Bible Study 6:30-7:30



## FOR MORE INFORMATION.....

- Men's Breakfast-Gary Pruitt will be leading the devotion
- Women's Breakfast - Beth Alongi is leading the devotion.
- Elder/Deacon/Deaconess recommendations. We will be taking recommendations for Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses for the entire month of January. If you would like to nominate a member of the church for one of these positions, you may do so at the Guest Services Table. You must submit a signed recommendation slip for review.
- Book Club: This Month's Book is *Country Miracles* by Nicholas Sparks
- Sunday Night Youth. We need volunteers to help provide a meal to the youth on Sunday nights! Sign up at the bulletin board.
- Baby Dedication. Our annual baby dedication will be Sunday, January 19th during regular worship service. This is for families who were blessed with babies in 2024. Babies will be featured in a video, then dedicated to Christ in a short ceremony. If you would like to dedicate your baby, and wish to have them featured in the video, please submit 3-5 JPEGs to Cayla by Monday, January 13th. You're encouraged not to delay! Any submissions after this will not be included in the video but can still participate in the dedication ceremony.
- Senior's Lunch after church on January 12th. This is to discuss plans for 2025. Lunch is provided.

# JANUARY SERVING SCHEDULE

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## Communion Purchase

Larry Hickman

## Communion Prep

Jim Williamson

## Communion Meditation

1/5 Jake Gibbs

1/12 Kim Buser

1/19 Joyce Hickman

1/26 Lance Weil

## Sunday School Milk & Juice

1/5 & 1/12 Larry & Joyce Hickman

1/19 & 1/26 Jeanette Thompson

## Inside Greeters

1/5 Kathy Elson & Maggie Elson

1/12 Becky Burroughs & Marilyn Piper

1/19 Lisa Stewart & Sylvia Krelo

1/26 Kim Buser & Joyce Elledge

## Opening Prayer

1/5 Tom Bailey

1/12 Gordon Burroughs

1/19 Brandon Buser

1/26 Alan Evans

## Hall Greeter

1/5 Brandon Buser

1/12 Jordan Evans

1/19 Gary Jones

1/26 Randy Manis

## Nursery

1/5 Dot Williams with Riley & Michaela

1/12 Alison Keith with Abby Keith

1/19 Carla Bigham with Ginny Reiman

1/26 Emily Evans with Zoey Swenson

## Exit Greeter

1/5 Jeanette Thompson

1/12 Vickie Carter

1/19 Paula Dunlap

1/26 Thelma Viernum

## COMMUNION SERVERS

### 1/5/2025

Kevin Asbury  
Warren Yates  
Kathy Yates  
Jarrod Kreid  
Tom Scott  
Kathy Elson  
Dennis Bastien  
Bruce Ridgeway

### 1/12/2025

Gordon Burroughs  
Andy Burroughs  
Tyler Burroughs  
Brandon Buser  
Luke Buser  
Rich Bernardini  
Doug Gibbs  
Jake Gibbs

### 1/19/2025

Gary Monroe  
Ron Ritter  
Lisa Bastien  
Steve Parry  
Jim Williamson  
Craig Briley  
Paula Dunlap  
Dale Odom

### 1/26/2025

Gary Jones  
Jeremy Keith  
AJ Keith  
Dirk Valerius  
Christian Kistner  
Tim Gossett  
Mike Stewart  
Hank Stewart

# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Office Closed	2	3	4 Men's Breakfast 8:00-9:00 a.m.
5 Senior's Lunch and Meeting after church	6	7	8 Meal 6:00-6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.	9	10	11 Women's Breakfast 9:00-10:00 a.m.
12 Youth Group	13 Book Club 6 p.m.	14	15 Meal 6:00-6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.	16	17	18 Food Pantry 9:00-10:00 a.m.
19 Baby Dedication Guest Services Youth Group	20 Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30-5:30 Area Men's Meeting at Marion 	21 Senior's Movie Luncheon 12:00 noon	22 Meal 6:00-6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.	23 Joint Board Meeting 6 p.m.	24	25
26 Youth Group	27	28	29 Meal 6:00-6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.	30	31	

# Prayers and Praises

**Praises:** After a successful surgery, Necie Rees is cancer free!!! Tim Gossett was baptized in Christ on Sunday, November 24th. We're please to also welcome his wife, Myra, as she placed her membership at ECC. We'd also like to welcome Allen & Colleen Shupe to the ECC family, as they placed their membership at ECC on Sunday, November 24th. Mary Ann Mays committed her life to Christ and was Baptized in Him on Sunday, November 17th! Jerilyn Seibert dedicated her life to Christ and was baptized in Him on Monday, November 11th! Levi Compton visited ECC on Sunday, November 10th and committed his life to Christ by baptism! Bryce Trojcak dedicated his life to Christ and was baptized in Him on Wednesday, November 6th.

Surgery & Recovering: Shirley Zoller (foot surgery after infection); Jeff Wisely (back surgery revision); Jamie Wonish (brain surgery) Abby Clark (14 year old having rods placed in both legs on August 22nd.) Johnnie Halstead (knee surgery 7/22); Leon Milfield (cousin of Warren Yates and Carla Bigam- had bypass surgery and is now in a Montana rehab)

**Others in Need:** Michael Brooks (heart attack-48 years old); Whitney Dunbar (awaiting medical tests-hoping for the best outcome); Joan Watts; Abel Tripp; Tony Hall (44 year old had a stroke-on ventilator); Aydan Zoller (16 year old with multiple health issues); Alec Valerius (Prayers for sensation to return in legs below the knees); Gavin Barnett (diagnosis on Barrey's esophagus); Lonnie Jacobs (health issues); Dennis Phoenix (diabetic-toe amputation. Fell and broke femur-facing more amputation on his right foot); Evey Maye (kidney disease-one kidney only functioning at 1%); Heidi Humerickhouse (6 month old with serious health issues); Dawn Cashion (heart issues); Dawn Conner (heart issues); Marge Quillman (91-broken hip, infection-cannot do surgery); Cheryl Reese (Pancreatitis & liver cirrhosis); Vickie Lewis (Health issues); Nyle Ford; Richard Shimkus (balance and overall health); Doug Myers (heart issues); Carol Myers (serious health issues); Nancy Denton (serious heart issues); Chris Darnell (brain bleed-in St. Louis hospital); Nick Fowler (biopsy-testing for possible skin cancer in the stomach); Karen Monroe; David Flowers (broken leg after a fall); Alex Walters (32 year old admitted to Barnes Jewish Hospital after a collapse; Patty Manis (cardiac and other health issues)

**Those With Cancer:** Tom Hengen (Bobbie Starr's brother-soft tissue cancer); Allen Russell (Jeanette Thompson's son-in-law's brother, having bone marrow transplant for leukemia); Mary Lynn Morber (ovarian cancer); Stacey Arnett (multiple myeloma); Raelin Chaffin (thyroid cancer); John Halstead (leukemia); Lucy Boss (5 year old with leukemia); Barb Nawakoski (lung cancer); Mary McGriff (ovarian cancer); Larry Thompson (radiation treatments); Brian Tuthill (leukemia); Logan Kraeger (31 year old with stage 4 cancer); Melissa Jane Pabst (leukemia has returned); Aiden Caracker (senior @ Elverado with rare cancer-undergoing treatment); Nathan Barnes-Atterberry (on hospice); Kathy Yates; Janelle Coleman (mother of 3-breast cancer-preparing for double mastectomy followed by chemo; Sherry Hargis (Chemo Treatments, not doing well); Jason Stutes (lymphoma returned for 3rd time); Reice Mae Albright (Goreville High School student-brain tumor); Addilyn Holmes (6 y.o. stage 3 renal cancer, Wilms tumor-kidney removed-starts chemo January 10th followed by radiation; Cheryl Baker; Jeanette Thompson (leukemia); Linda O'dell (stage3 cancer);

**Military Service:** William Meadows (Air Force-stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada); Bryce Mathis (Army Ranger); Zac Jorgenson (Air Force-stationed in North Dakota); Nick Depyatic (Air Force-stationed in Wyoming); Micheal Brown (Navy); Chad Lipe (deployed overseas); Major Luke Grieder (Army-stationed in Poland); Rylan Ragar (Coast Guard-stationed in Puerto Rico); Andrew Martin (Army-LTC@Pentagon); Jessica Sickles (Air Force-being deployed overseas); Jeffrey Davis (Navy); Stavian Bizaillion (Army); Mekenna Goessman (National Guard); Brooklyn Miller-McMullen (Coast Guard)

**Those in Mourning:** Bob Dawe; Donna Shupe; Eddie Prince; Susan Crane; Fred Huff; Gina Tadlock; Paul McLaughin; Arthur Porter; Danny Dunlap; Jack Ingram

# January Wednesday Night Menu

Meal starts at 5:45. Comes with Drink and Dessert. Cost is \$7/plate or \$18/family. To help Donna prepare, PLEASE sign up prior to the Tuesday before.

1/8 Chicken Alfredo, Salad, and Garlic Bread

1/15 Vegetable Beef Soup and Pizza Sliders

1/22 Chicken Pot Pie, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, and Dinner Rolls

1/29 Sub Sandwiches, Pasta Salad, and Chips

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. You can also visit our website at

[www.elkvillechristian.com](http://www.elkvillechristian.com) for more!

Also be sure to like us on Facebook!

Happy New Year!

From your friends at ECC

*The Lord bless you  
and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you  
Numbers 6:24-25*