

# JOYOUS NEWS

January 2022

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

*We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith,  
and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.*



If there is one thing we all know, it is that life doesn't always make sense. We often don't know why things are happening the way they are happening. As Christians, it is usually easy to trust that God knows what is going on and has a good purpose for it, but sometimes that feels very difficult to believe.

This really isn't about being a bold Christian or not. It is about how we face different things happening in our lives. Some of the boldest followers of God haven't been able to make sense of certain things happening in their lives. Elijah is a great example. Here is a guy who wasn't afraid to confront kings, taunted and then slaughtered the priests of baal, and performed incredible miracles, including raising someone from the dead.

Elijah also ran and hid for fear of his life. He hid in a cave and when God asked him what he was doing there, he told God that he had to hide because he was the only one of God's people left. He made it sound like he wasn't doing it for God, but he was doing it because he was afraid. At another point, he fell into great depression and told God that he would be better off dead.

It is strange to see the two sides of Elijah side by side. We would expect that God's chosen would never be afraid, especially those to whom God speaks directly, like Elijah. Given the crazy things he did, like confront, humiliate, then slaughter the priests of baal, it is surprising to see the side of him that is afraid or depressed. If the bible were a collection of mythical stories about heroes, we would almost certainly not see the weakness of God's chosen people. The bible is something else, though. It is a book of actual events that show us the truth about how hard it is to walk with God, even when we have a very close connection to him.

Elijah is far from the only one of God's people to have lapses of trust in God. Abraham, despite picking up and leaving everything behind at the whim of God's call, would lie about Sarah being his wife (even letting kings have her as a lover in the nighttime) because he was afraid that if he said she was his wife, they would kill him and take her from him. He did this multiple times. Jonah tried to avoid God's commands altogether by heading in the opposite direction of where God sent him.

Being a Christian, I know that God has everything in control. I have no fear or concerns about the big picture. I am quite satisfied in the goodness of God that I will spend eternity with him. I don't always know about the smaller picture stuff. Intellectually, I know that God is taking care of those things as well. But as I face different things in life, it can be easy to forget that God is working all things for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purposes.

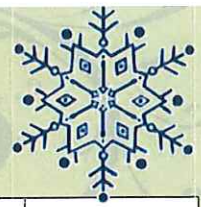
Let me give an example that comes from over eighteen years ago. One of my highest desires in life was always to be a husband and father. In the late spring 2003, my brother and sister-in-law came over to my parents' house (where I still lived, I was in seminary at the time) to announce that they were pregnant with their first child. Everyone was super excited except me. I didn't mean to not be excited, and I later apologized to my brother about not seeming excited. It happened that I had been sitting in my room feeling sorry for myself that I hadn't even been on a date in over two years and then they came over with that news and it made me feel even more sorry for myself.

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# January 2022

## at New Life



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Ostranders	3	4	5 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's Men's Bible Study 11am Blanz Hall 6:00pm Pizza 6:30pm Bible Study	6 Morning Prayer 8:00am	7	8  Movie Event 10am - 2pm American Gospel: In Christ Alone Lunch Provided
9 Sun. School 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Greenwells	10	11 January Vestry Meeting 6:00pm	12 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's Men's Bible Study 11am Blanz Hall 6:00pm Pizza 6:30pm Bible Study	13 Morning Prayer 8:00am	14	15
16 Sun. School 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am NLAC Eighteenth Annual Meeting	17	18	19 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's Men's Bible Study 11am Blanz Hall 6:00pm Pizza 6:30pm Bible Study	20 Morning Prayer 8:00am	21	22
23 Sun. School 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Stumps	24	25 <i>Joyous News Deadline February Issue</i>	26 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's Men's Bible Study 11am Blanz Hall 6:00pm Pizza 6:30pm Bible Study	27 Morning Prayer 8:00am Men's Ministry Group 5:30pm @ NLAC	28	29
30 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Bates	31	1	2 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's Men's Bible Study 11am Blanz Hall 6:00pm Pizza 6:30pm Bible Study	3 Morning Prayer 8:00am	4	5

## WALLY'S GALLERY –

### Why I believe in the God of the Bible

Some years ago I was listening to Greg Koukl from Stand to Reason on the radio. He told of a time when his daughter asked him why he believed in God. As his daughter was quite young, he knew his answer had to be concise and easily understood. So, after some thought he told her that he believed in God because as he looked at the world it made more sense to believe in God than to not believe. That is all I remember of what he explained but I wonder what might have followed.



As I think about this it seems hard for me to distinguish between believing in the existence of “god” and the existence of the “God” of the Bible. When I reflect on the world, I see its beauty, its ugliness, its good and its evil. Then as I read the Bible I see all of these aspects revealed. The Bible is a book of faith that portrays the world as it really is; but this is not the end of the story. In the end, there is completeness and redemption; triumph and victory. But maybe I’m getting ahead of myself.

The Bible opens with an explanation of how it all began. How everything initially came into existence with an amazingly concise statement: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” To me that opening statement in Genesis declares two fundamental truths: (1) Everything in the universe was created at one time or another; and (2) God is assumed to have always existed. He is not a created being and but exists of His very necessity because if at any time there was nothing at all; not even God, then nothing would exist today. It is a true statement that out of nothing comes nothing and that there must be a first cause for anything to exist.

Some have asked: “Who created God?” and if you respond that God must have created the god who created everything else, they will likely ask again: “Who created that God? This question and answer could keep repeating until you finally have come to the realization this could not continue into infinity. Ultimately, there must have been a First Cause for all that followed. As I said above, without a First Cause, nothing would exist today.

In the same first chapter of the Bible we are also told that God is the Author of life. On November 24, 1859 the book “The Origin of Species” by Charles Darwin was published in which he tried to account for the diversity of life through evolutionary means. While much of his theory of slow evolutionary changes is under dispute, the idea that evolution can account for the variety of life has not been abandoned by the secularists. Even so what has not been answered by the scientific

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community, however, is how life first began. In 1953 chemists Stanley Miller and Harold Urey conducted an experiment hoping to show how life did begin. Although initially hailed as a success, the experiment ultimately failed. While it did produce in some amino acids the experiment was later found to be based on incorrect assumptions about the earth's early atmosphere.

In 2004 Zondervan published a book by Lee Strobel entitled *The Case For a Creator*. In the book Lee Strobel relates his interviews with noted scientist of various fields: cosmology, physics, biochemistry, biology and other related disciplines. What becomes clear in these interviews is that this creation is of a magnitude of order and precision that defies explanation. In regard to our own home in this immense cosmos (planet earth) the number of exact conditions which exist and that make life possible is staggering.

Earlier in this article, I mentioned that the Bible reveals the truth about the world we live in; including that evil is part of it. This invites the question that if evil exists how could there be a good God who would allow this to exist? If he is powerless to stop it, then he must not exist or be a good god at all.

Actually, the reverse is more accurate. The fact that we recognize evil at all indicates that we also recognize a standard of goodness. If evil and goodness really do exist and apply to everyone then there must be a God. Why is that? Simply because if there is no God, no Creator and everything came into existence without intent, design, or purpose then everything, and I mean everything, is just natural. It is neither right or wrong; good or evil. It just is.

I do not believe this is the case. I make judgements all the time. Some of them may be correct and some may be mistaken but the fact that I do make judgements indicates that I believe in an ultimate standard of good and evil which I am attempting to apply to my own life. A standard not of my making but one established by the Ultimate Standard maker; God.

This is a difficult subject to address in a short article. There are libraries filled with books on this subject. So let me end in this way: In order to not believe in God, I would have to believe that everything came from nothing; that life came from non-life; that chaos was the author of order and precision; and that good and evil do not really exist. I can not hold to such an empty, hopeless faith as that.

Therefore, I believe in the Creator, the First Cause of everything; of order, of life and the ultimate standard of goodness and righteousness. I believe in the God of the Bible.

~ Wally's Gallery

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON** – meeting at noon on the first Thursday of the month in Blanz Hall. Bring your own lunch. Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship!!

## **MEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** – meets each Wednesdays at 8:30am for food and fellowship at J.W. Filmore's.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – Blanz Hall

**MEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM** – meeting is Thursday, Jan. 27th at in Blanz Hall . Our meetings will include fellowship 5:30 – 6:30p.m., dinner 6:30 – 7:30p.m. and a short teaching 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. I hope you will join us.

Take a minute and check out our new website @ <https://newlifeanglicanchurch.org>

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There was no reason for me to not be happy for them. Why should I be sad about God's blessings in their lives just because I couldn't make sense of my own? And just because I was busy being depressed and having a one-person pity party didn't mean that God wasn't still working out his good plan in my life. It is important in those times to remember what we believe about God. It is also helpful to know what we believe about him during the good times so that we can fall back on that knowledge in the harder times.

My story could have ended there. I know people who want to be married and aren't. But that wasn't the purpose God had for me. Feeling sorry for myself didn't affect what God had in store. I learned of my sister-in-law's pregnancy in the spring, feeling hopeless in my own affairs. In the summer I met Bonnie. By October we were engaged. When my nephew was born in February, Bonnie was there for it.

We don't know what God is going to do in our lives tomorrow. We don't know why things are the way they are right now. Things can seem bleak, and it can even feel like God is against us. The truth is, he is still there and working. He has a purpose. He has a plan that he is working out. He doesn't give us all the details as he unfolds it, but he never stops being active in our lives.

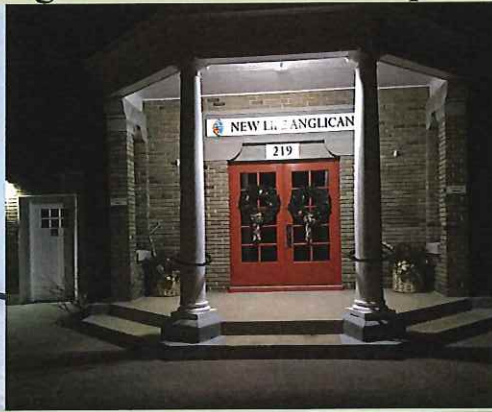
Let's go back to Elijah. He hid in a cave because he thought he was the last of God's faithful and he didn't want to be killed. His biggest fear in the moment was that the enemy was too great, and it would cost him his life. He knew that God was with him during his confrontation with the priests of baal, so he had no fear at all. But in this moment, hiding in a cave, he wasn't so sure. What did God do with his fear of death? He eventually made it so that he never died. He took him up in a chariot of fire to be with him in heaven. While that may be unlikely to happen to us, the underlying message of God's faithfulness to us even when we don't understand what is happening stands.

Life won't always make sense. Circumstances are often dramatically different than we would like them to be. But God is always there. He is always at work. He never abandons us. God can handle your questions about why things are happening the way they are. And he will hold you closely as a loving Father and comfort you while continuing to work out his plan in his time.

~ Fr. Mike

## NEW LIFE HAS NEW SIGNAGE

**Thanks to Ron and Susan for designing and building our new signs and thanks to Mike, Don, Dan and Andy for braving the elements to help hang them.**



# January 2022 Service Calendar

If you are unable to fulfill your service duties on the dates listed, please try to rearrange and find your own replacement.

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
ALTAR GUILD	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman
SOUND/ MUSIC	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes
USHER/ COUNTER/ GREETERS	Don L./ Dan W./ Taylor DuBois	Randy F./ Don L./ The Bowmans	Dan W./ Randy F./ The Flynns	Don L./ Dan W./ The Bowmans	Randy F./ Don L./ Sally Stump
LECTOR	Karen Dielman	Wally Stansbury	Dan Wandrie	Erika Dielman	Gretchen Lucky
LAY MINISTER	Erika Dielman	Mickey Bridge	Howard Bates	Karen Dielman	Wally Stansbury
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	Darlene Wandrie	Darlene Wandrie	Darlene Wandrie	Darlene Wandrie	Darlene Wandrie
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	The Ostrandrs	The Greenwells	Annual Meeting Fellowship	The Stumps	The Bates



Thursday  
Morning Prayer  
8:00am in  
Fr. Mike's Office



## ALTAR GUILD

Jan..... Karen Dielman  
Feb..... Gretchen Lucky  
Mar..... Liz Ostrander  
April..... Karen Dielman

## Birthdays

## January



## Wedding Anniversaries



Brenda Flynn 1/4  
Linda Knapp 1/14  
Bob Hameister 1/18  
Mark DuBois 1/19  
Connie Woods 1/21



May the Lord richly bless you on your special day and all year!  
Please let us know if we have missed your Birthday or Wedding Anniversary  
so that we may celebrate with you and remember you in prayer.

## Congregation — We Need You!

To volunteer to serve, please contact the Team Leaders listed below.

<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Karen Dielman..... 231/347-3532
<b>Altar Flowers:</b>	Karen Dielman..... 231/347-3532
<b>Music/Sound:</b>	Ferd Dielman ..... 231/347-3532
<b>Ushers:</b>	
<b>Greeters:</b>	Carol Bowman ..... 231/459-4566
<b>Lectors:</b>	Tracey Jepsen ..... 231/347-3448
<b>Lay Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
<b>Prayer Team:</b>	Betty Stansbury..... 231/439-0773
<b>Children's Sunday School:</b>	Darlene Wandrie .. 231/347-5871
<b>Youth Sunday School:</b>	Don Lucky ..... 231/622-2058
(middle & high school)	
<b>Adult Sunday School:</b>	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
	Wally Stansbury ... 231/439-0773
<b>Nursery:</b>	Bonnie Bridge ..... 231/445-1810
<b>Fellowship/Hospitality:</b>	Liz Ostrander ..... 231/348-2802
<b>Prayer Chain:</b>	Ron Davis ..... 517/617-5015
<b>Women's Ministry:</b>	Karen Dielman..... 231/347-3532
Study Leader	Bonnie Bridge..... 231/445-1810
<b>Men's Ministry:</b>	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
<b>Inreach:</b>	Gretchen Lucky .... 231/622-2057
<b>Outreach:</b>	Lacy Bates .....231/373-7997
<b>Evangelism:</b>	Betty Stansbury..... 231/439-0773
<b>Missions:</b>	
<b>Building and Grounds:</b>	Don Greenwell..... 231/347-1808
<b>Art and Architecture:</b>	Susan Davis..... 231/881-3106
<b>Church Historian:</b>	Liz Ostrander ..... 231/348-2802
<b>Communications:</b>	Bonnie Bridge..... 231/445-1810
(newspaper articles, etc.)	
<b>Student Visitor's:</b>	
(Recreational Liaison)	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Wes Ostrander ..... 231/330-4930
Assistant Treasurer:	Susan Davis..... 231/881-3106
Assistant Treasurer:	Sally Stump ..... 231/881-2818
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Dan Wandrie..... 231/347-5871

## New Life Anglican Church 2021 Vestry

*Sr. Warden ...* Howard Bates  
*Jr. Warden....* Dan Wandrie  
*Treasurer .....* Wes Ostrander  
*.....* Susan Davis  
*.....* Toni DuBois  
*.....* Don Lucky

## Our Joyous News Needs You!

Please consider submitting an article or item of interest for the next issue of the Joyous News.

Submission deadline  
is January 25th.

February

## SAVE YOUR

### OLESON'S RECEIPTS

We appreciate grocery receipts from Oleson's Food Stores. You may leave your receipts in the coffee hour donation basket, in the Outreach shopping cart or on Tracey's desk.

## THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany, celebrated January 6th, also known as "Three Kings Day", is a Christian holiday, marking the twelfth day of the Christmas season and the revelation of Christ as the son of God. It is also often the focus on the three magi (or "wise men") and their visit to baby Jesus in Bethlehem. The story goes that the three kings found baby Jesus by following the guidance of a mysterious star. This ends the season of Christmas and then begins a new season of ordinary time, growth and new life, color green, leading up to lent.

## LITURGICAL SEASON — by Karen Dielman

# New Life

Anglican Church

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[newlifeanglicanchurch.org](http://newlifeanglicanchurch.org)

We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:4



ANGLICAN CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

## JOYOUS NEWS

January 2022

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

The past is past.  
Reluctance says its so,  
as wisdom advises: Let it go.  
The present is the presence  
in our midst,  
but ignoring this,  
we make future pleasure  
our heartfelt wishful bliss.  
That future is our present  
when it comes,  
sometimes with wishes looked for  
on the road we run,

Happy  
NEW  
Year  
2022

It tells us the present  
is the truth of time,  
this looked for future  
now present  
that is yours and mine.  
So live in the present  
in blessed grace,  
fully in touch  
with time's own pace.  
See, the sun is rising  
in the sky,  
its day, like ours,  
goes all too quickly by.

