



Sandy Run Lutheran Church

January Tidings

1927 Old State Road, Swansea SC 29160

Pastor Pam Turfa 803-381-1469 pturfa@aol.com

It is no secret that Sandy Run Lutheran Church has faced challenges and questions since Covid turned our world upside down almost three years ago.

It also is no secret that almost every other congregation in every denomination faces the same challenges and questions we face:

- How do we best encourage members to return to worship and other congregational activities?
- Which congregational activities should receive our our attention – and which could we drop in favor of something new?
- How do we do all of this safely – as Covid continues to rear its ugly head in the world, in our nation, even among members of our congregation?

In October, I received a phone call with an offer from Pastor James Henricks, director for evangelical mission for the South Carolina Synod. Pastor Henricks said he would come to Sandy Run to work with the congregation on evangelism and outreach. He would work with just the Council – or with the whole congregation.

Council has opened his visit up to the entire congregation – after all, we are all in this together.

Pastor Henricks will be here January 29 for worship, for a potluck following worship, and to lead a brainstorming session following worship.

Pastor Henricks will NOT tell us what to do. The members of this congregation know their congregation and their community best.

He will take our ideas – add some ideas that have worked in congregations like ours elsewhere – and help us begin to create an evangelism and outreach plan for the congregation.

Outreach might involve getting members to re-engage with the congregation. But, it might also reaching out to new members.

My own observations after five months: This congregation has enthusiasm and commitment that rival much larger congregations. We just need someone not involved in the day to day and week to week to help us jump start that enthusiasm and commitment into something workable for the future.

So mark this date on your calendars: January 29. Plan something to bring for the potluck. And, most importantly: Bring your ideas for congregational outreach.

We are not making New Year's Resolutions for 2023. We are making New Year's Evangelism and Outreach plans for 2023.

Pastor Pam



THANK YOU ... to everyone who organized and participated in our Christmas weekend worship services.

From musicians and worship leaders to those working behind the scenes (bulletin preparation and sanctuary and altar preparation), we could not have done it without you.

The Saturday evening refreshments were tasty, and Sunday morning's breakfast was a feast! Thank you, so much.

BIBLE STUDY ... resumes January 4 with a new Bible study *What's So Amazing About Grace* by Philip Yancey.

Yancey serves as editor-at-large for *Christianity Today*.

This study is based on an award-winning book. **10 a.m. Wednesdays, Fellowship Hall.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ...

... Please take a look at the sign-up sheets in the sanctuary for worship leaders (on the table) and for flower donations.

There are a number of Sundays where volunteers are needed.

If you already have volunteered, thank you for giving of you time and talents.

“Liturgy” – the word for form of worship – means “work of the people.” Worship leadership belongs to all of us – not just the pastor.