

GATHER & SERVE

JANUARY 2015

Opportunities for Christian Fellowship & Service at OFLC

To view the complete list of January events,
[visit our online calendar.](#)

Connect over a cup of joe!

Our new women's group, Connected, INC. (Connected, In The Name of Christ) invites you for coffee and great conversation on Saturday, January 10 at 9 a.m. We'll begin with a brief prayer or devotion, and then the morning will be open for conversation. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know women of all ages in our community in a relaxed, come-as-you-are setting. Because the agenda is open, you are encouraged to strike up topics of interest to you, share in discussions, or simply sit back with a hot cup of joe and listen. All are welcome!

What is "centering prayer?"

Learn more about the spiritual practice of centering prayer by joining Norie Siers and Sarah Dahl for a brief discussion on the history, the benefits, and the "how to" of this type of prayer every Tuesday morning in January at 8:45 a.m. A centering prayer session will follow at 9 a.m. so you may give it a try!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wright Hennepin mailing: Jan. 9-12

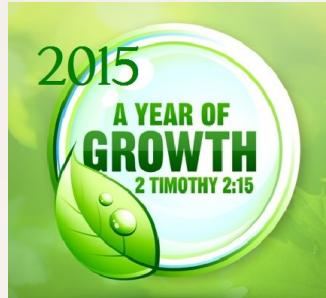
Although we just completed a fundraising mailer last month, Wright Hennepin is extending us the opportunity to assemble a bonus mailing to raise funds for our church and ministries! Please plan to drop by anytime January 9-12 to lend a hand for as little or as much time as you can spare.

My ScrapbookNook: Saturday, January 10

Scrap and craft to your heart's content in the company of good friends at this all-day creativity fest! Contact [Michelle Miller](#) for details.

Sewing & Knitting Group: Jan. 19 & 21

Learn a new skill or sew in the company of friends Monday, January 19th at 9 a.m. and/or Wednesday the 21st at 6 p.m. All skill levels are welcome!



What's your faith resolution for 2015?

2015 is just around the corner, and it comes filled with 365 days of exciting possibilities! Most of us consider new year resolutions about eating better, exercising, becoming more fiscally responsible, and so on. But what might it be like if you resolved to draw closer to God in the coming year?

Do you have a faith resolution for 2015? If not, we encourage you to make 2015 your year of spiritual growth! Maybe you'd like to adopt a more regular habit of prayer, explore the Bible, serve your community or lend your gifts and talents to a ministry. The possibilities are endless! Consider a faith resolution for 2015 and share it on [our Facebook page](#) to inspire others –or– share one way Our Father's can help you nurture your relationship with God!

Save the Date

Our Father's Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 25
10:30 a.m.**

Rebekah Circle: Wed., Jan. 14 at 1 p.m.
Explore and discuss the women of the Bible in this engaging and thought-provoking study group. Newcomers welcome and no RSVP required.

Widow & Widowers Group: Jan. 8

Find comfort and fellowship in the company of others who understand your loss. The Widow & Widowers group will meet Thursday, January 8 at 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Cathy to study clinical pastoral care at Abbott

Happy New Year, Everyone! Starting January 26, I will begin CPE, Clinical Pastoral Education. CPE is a program at Abbott Northwestern Hospital that will help me learn how to provide pastoral care in a hospital setting under a variety of situations. This is an exciting new step in my studies, and will help prepare me to be a more well-rounded pastor.

Thank you for your continued support. Please pray for me as I embark on this next step of my journey.

Blessings!
Pastor Cathy

Harvester of Hope is headed to Tanzania!

After nearly a year's worth of planning and praying, our Harvester of Hope will soon depart for Tanzania! Last-minute preparations are underway, and we are incredibly thrilled to send this blessing to Africa where it will help local farmers and their families reap more of what they sow.



We're planning a send-off celebration in January so we can bless the combine and celebrate God's awesome hand in this endeavor. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

A New Year Devotion by Carol Kuykendall, as seen in Daily Guideposts

Sometimes I think New Year's Day comes at the wrong time of year. I'm usually tackling a bunch of tasks left over from the old year, like taking down the Christmas tree, putting decorations away, sifting through Christmas cards and the like. Then there's the thought of trying to catch up on all the work I put off during the holidays. I'm behind before the New Year even starts.

"Who can think about new beginnings or inspirational goals in the midst of old concerns?" I asked my husband Lynn. "Let me show you a gift I just received," he said, pulling a beautifully wrapped package out of his briefcase. It was signed by a member of his Bible study group. Lynn tore off the paper and lifted out a beautifully framed message penned by a professional calligrapher. It read,

"Lynn, Trust Me. I have everything under control. —Jesus

He set the frame down amidst the clutter on the kitchen counter so I could see that simple message as I went about my tasks. Slowly these words began to change my frame of mind. If I needed something to help me carry my old concerns into the New Year, I'd just found it...the determination to face each day's concerns, trusting in the words of this promise from the Source of all comfort and strength.

Father, each day in this new year, please help me remember that You are in control of everything. Amen.

What you may be missing online...

[Check out our website](#) for a slideshow of photos from the birthday party for Jesus held last month. Kids of all ages and the young at heart had a terrific time celebrating the real reason for the season!



[Visit our Facebook page](#) to see the awesome news cast our 7th grade confirmation students created about Advent. They did a terrific job demonstrating how the Christmas spirit was alive and well in our community!



[See our homepage](#) for a list of Christmas Bible verses that will fill you with joy and wonderment about just how much God loves you.

