

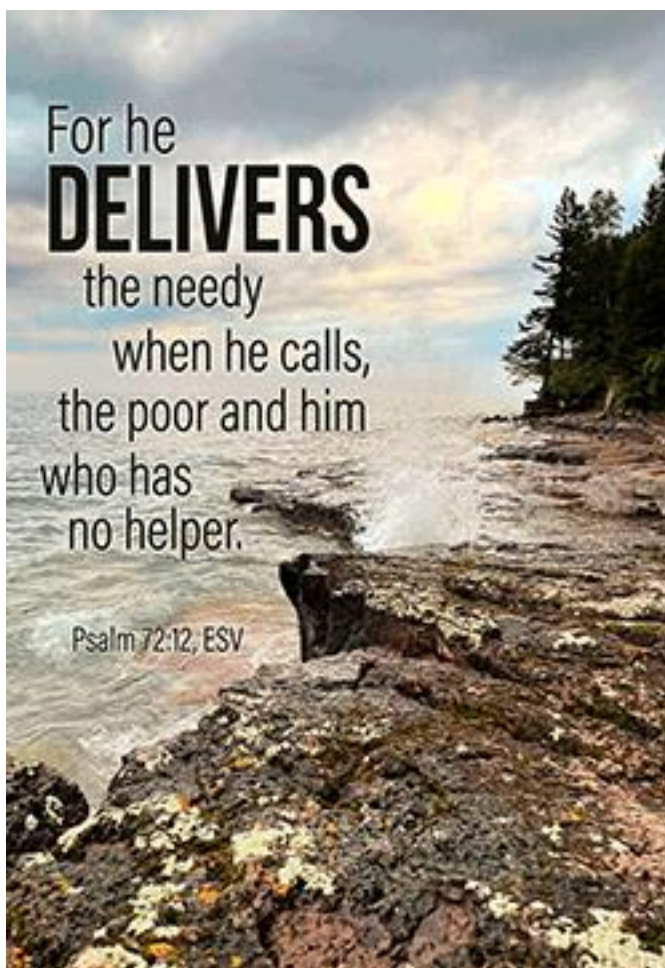
# St. John's Epistle

January 2024

*A Newsletter of*

St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS  
515 College Ave. W. Ladysmith, WI 54848  
stjohnladysmith@centurylink.net  
715-532-5780

*<http://www.stjohnsladysmith.org>*





## Thank You

**“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone.” (Ephesians 2:19-20)**

It's not normal for people to volunteer and use their precious time, talents, and treasures for an organization without getting paid, but that's exactly what you do! Yet, you are a member of no ordinary organization. You are a church! You are the body of Christ. You are children of God. You were bought, purchased, and won through the blood of Jesus Christ. You heard the Word of God. The Holy Spirit worked in your lives giving you faith and here you are a member of the church.

Our Lord brought you into His church. You are not on the outside looking in; you are actually the body of Christ. It's sometimes really hard to believe, but God made you a member of His church. It's real, and as a member of the church you have the great blessing of being able to weekly gather around His Word and sacraments. Furthermore, you are given the great honor and opportunity to serve your neighbor, to do exactly what your Lord said when He summarized the Ten Commandments. Jesus said, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depends all the law and the prophets.”** (Matthew 22:37-40)

I would like to thank everyone, as we begin the New Year, that has attended worship, volunteered their time, talents,

and resources to the church. What a blessing it is, as the Body of Christ, to work together as we follow our Lord's command, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20a)** Moreover, as we continue our Lord's mission He gives us this promise, **"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19:20b)**

God's Blessings to all of you this year as you continue the work the Lord has given you! It's such an awesome privilege to be a member of His church and receive the many gifts He gives. Amen

In His Service,  
Pastor Craig S. Zandi



\*\*\*\*\*

### **Notification of Pastor When in the Hospital**

There has been some confusion when people check in or go to the hospital. The hospital will **not automatically** inform your church, or pastor, that you are there unless it is specifically stated in your records. Furthermore, inform your family members to call your pastor. They can also contact the chaplain's office at the hospital and give them the information. Again, don't assume the hospital will do it, because they won't. You must be proactive to make sure your pastor is informed if you want him to come see you. Many times people are in the hospital and he has no idea they are there.

**ASSISTING FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY**

**Acolytes:** *Ushers/Youth*

**Altar Guild:** *Dave & Jamie Werner*

**Finance:** *Karen Kmosena & Sue Monnier*

**Worship Assistants for January**

**Sunday, Jan 7**

**Elder:** Tom Rosolowski

**Greeters:** Tom & Nancy Rosolowski

**Ushers:** **Team 4:** Chuck Perenchio-Captain,  
Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier,  
Gene Zillmer

**Sunday, Jan 14**

*Caring & Sharing*

**Elder:** Darrell Kuchta

**Greeters:**

**Ushers:** **Team 5:** Jim Kuchta-Captain,  
Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson,  
Russ Thompson

**Sunday, Jan 21**

*LWML*

*Mites In*

*Gathering*

**Elder:** Tim Dolan

**Greeters:** Sam & Shelley Barg

**Ushers:** **Team 1:** Dave Scott-Captain,  
Dave Kuchta, Tom Rosolowski,  
Vic Plockelman, Stu Pask

**Sunday, Jan 28**

*Stewardship Sunday*

**Elder:** Sam Barg

**Greeters:** Sally & Terry Schar

**Ushers:** **Team 2:** Dave Kmosena- Captain  
Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd,  
Lee Purdy



We have exciting news already this January! We will be getting another new student at the end of the month!

Our Bible lessons for this month will focus on Jesus growing from baby, to young boy, to adult. Our themes for January will include Winter and Outer Space.

We will spend our first week after break reviewing the letters A-N. We will then start on O, P, & Q. More exciting news-we are going to be starting to learn how to write our names this month!

We continue to work on our colors, shapes, and numbers.

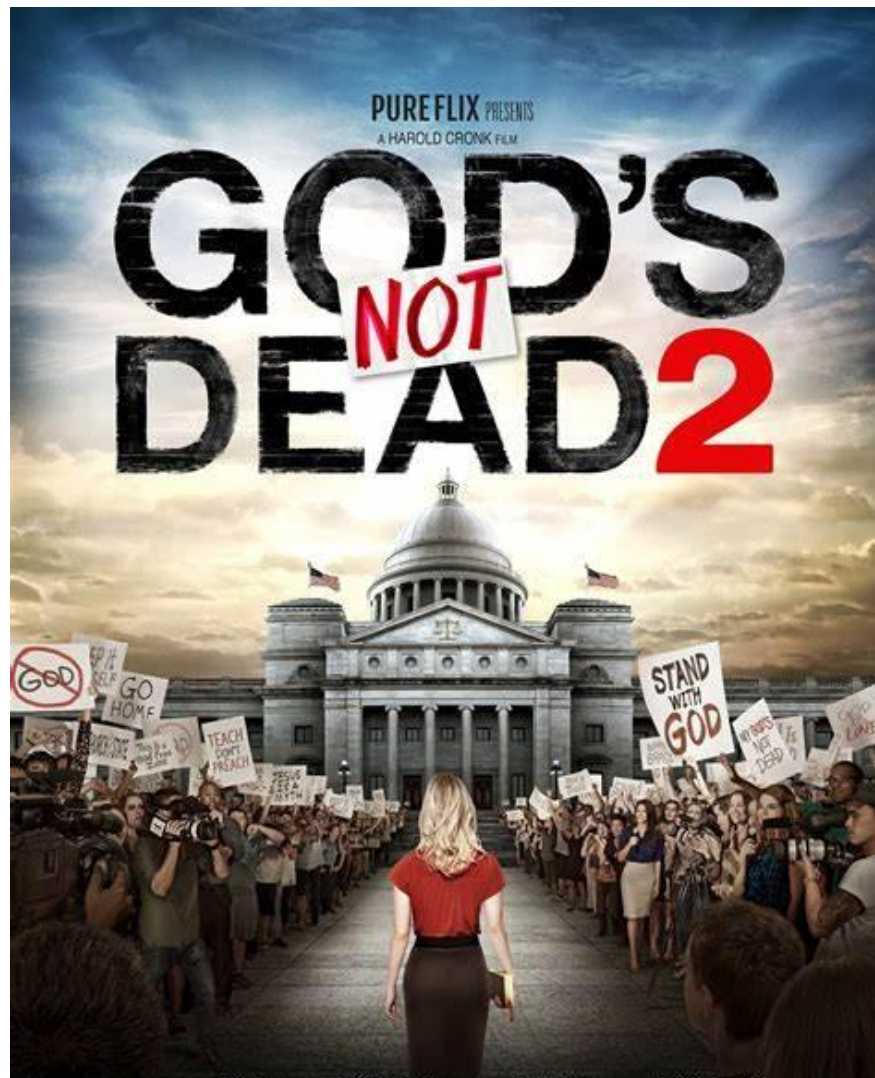
Thank you for your support of our Preschool. We appreciate you!



### **What Luther says:**

Scripture speaks of the church very simply and used the expression in one sense only. According to Scripture, the church is the assembly of all those on earth who believe in Christ, just as we pray in the Creed: *“I believe in the Holy Ghost – a communion of saints.”* This community or assembly consists of all those who live in true faith, hope, and love, so that the essence, life, and nature of the church is not a bodily, but a spiritual assembly of hearts in one faith, as St. Paul says, Ephesians 4:5: *“One Baptism, one faith, one Lord.”* Hence, although they be a thousand miles apart in body, they are yet an assembly in spirit because each one preaches, believes, hopes, loves, and lives like the other. So we sing of the Holy Ghost: *“Thou, who through divers tongues gathers together the nations in the unity of faith.”* **(1)** Now that is what is properly called a spiritual unity, because of which men are called a *“communion of saints.”* And only this unity is sufficient to make a church: without it no unity—be it of place, of time, of person, of work, or of whatever it may be—makes a church. (WLS p.260)

**(1)** This is from stanza one of Luther’s translation (and revision) of the Latin Hymn *“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord.”* *Divers Tongues* are supernatural utterances by the Holy Spirit in a language the speaker has never learned.



Members of St. John's are invited to see  
***God's Not Dead 2***  
Saturday, January 6th at 2:00PM  
in the Fellowship Hall with Pop and Popcorn.

*Free Will Donations for Refreshments*



**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Stewardship  
Newsletter – January 2024**

**The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad**

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37-39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.



So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have ô whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time ô is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

\*\*\*\*\*



Installation of all Officers and Board members is  
scheduled for January 14th.  
All members are asked to attend.  
Thank you.

# January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Everything is subject to change. Please check our website (<a href="http://www.stjohnsladysmith.org">www.stjohnsladysmith.org</a>), Facebook. and/or phone the Church office 715-532-5780.</b>						
	<b>1</b> No Preschool	<b>2</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool  6:00PM BOCE/YM	<b>3</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool  6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	<b>4</b> 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant  8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 2:00PM <i>God's Not Dead 2</i>
<b>7</b> 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 11:15 Elder meeting	<b>8</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>9</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>10</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool  11:30AM Evangelism/Stewardship  1:00PM Ladies Society  6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	<b>11</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00AM LWML Bible Study
<b>14</b> <i>Caring and Sharing</i> 8:00AM Finance 9:00AM Worship +HC & Installation of Officers <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	<b>15</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>16</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool  11:30AM FAPQG  6:00PM Council	<b>17</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool  6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	<b>18</b> 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant  8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00-noon <b>Crafty Stitchers</b>
<b>21</b> <i>LWML Mites Ingathering</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	<b>22</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>23</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool  <b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool  6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	<b>25</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00AM Worship +HC <i>No Bible Study</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School <b>Voter's Annual Meeting</b>	<b>29</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>30</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	<b>31</b> 8:30-11:30AM Preschool  6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	St John's Volunteers serve meals at the Senior Center Meal Site this week		

2023-2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 4

## FORTIFYING FAITH IN THOSE WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS | \$100,000



### *The Light of Christ for the Blind and Visually Impaired*

There are millions of people throughout the world who are blind or visually impaired and are seeking to strengthen their faith as they cope with isolation and deal with physical, mental, and spiritual struggles. They desire to be able to read the words of the Lord themselves, so that they can feel and learn about the love of God and the salvation of Jesus. Even with advancements in technology, they still have difficulties accessing scriptural and theologically-related reading materials.

It is estimated that approximately 95% of the 253 million people around the world with moderate to severe vision impairment are unchurched, yet when it comes to ministering to this community, there are fewer than a handful of Christian organizations reaching out to provide help. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) continues to provide Bibles and other Christian materials in braille or specialized large print to help this under reached population feel connected to the family of Christ and grow in their faith. Those who have received and benefited from LBW materials have shared that without these volumes, they might never have learned to read and obtain basic life skills needed to survive in the world today.

Lutheran Braille Workers has been freely supplying materials in large print and braille to people who are visually impaired for over eighty years. This grant will help with the formatting, producing, and distributing of fifty to one hundred new Scripture-based materials and add to the LBW collection of resources to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of recipients with vision impairments around the world. Some of the materials include Lutheran Hour Ministries Connect Booklets and American missionary books from Mission Nation Publishing. There is also cooperation with other LCMS partners, such as Concordia Publishing House and the LCMS Synodical Headquarters to gain access to more titles as needed. This grant will develop and provide materials beyond the Bible that will help Christians develop and strengthen their faith.

*Let him who walks  
in darkness and has  
no light trust in the  
name of the Lord  
and rely on his God  
(Isaiah 50: 10b).*

*Again Jesus spoke  
to them, saying, "I  
am the light of the  
world. Whoever  
follows me will not  
walk in darkness,  
but will have the  
light of life"  
(John 8: 12).*

2023-2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 4

## FORTIFYING FAITH IN THOSE WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS | \$100,000

*The Light of Christ for the Blind and Visually Impaired*

### PRAYER #1

Dear heavenly Father, You brought forth light out of the darkness at creation and came to a world lost in the darkness of sin with Your Son's incarnation. We ask that You bless the work of Lutheran Braille Workers as they reach out to people who have visual impairments and are seeking to find You. Help them find your guiding light in this world of spiritual darkness, show them the way to You and Your love for them, accomplished in the atoning work of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### PRAYER #2

Dear Lord, as Lutheran Braille Workers send out more and new resources to people in need, we ask that You grant Your Holy Spirit to be with each person that receives these materials. Create faith in their hearts so that they repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ for life and salvation. We also ask that all these materials reach those who desire and need them by opening avenues through which they may be distributed. Watch over and bless all who work to help LBW and its volunteers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### PRAYER #3

Lord Jesus Christ, there are millions of people in the world who suffer from blindness and visual impairments. Lutheran Braille Workers is working to help those in need by bringing Your love to as many people as possible through the work they continue to do in Your name. May all the materials they have created in the past, are creating in the present, and will create in the future — braille print, large print, and other media resources — be a blessing in all the lives they touch. By the power of Your Spirit, open the eyes of their hearts to trust in Your forgiveness and grace unto eternal life. Amen.

### PRAYER #4

Dear Lord, we give thanks for Lutheran Braille Workers materials for the blind and visually impaired. We pray Your continued blessings on this organization and the work they continue to do here and around the world spreading the Good News of Jesus to people who are blind and visually impaired. We also give thanks for Your providence as they continue to distribute more materials to those who want and need them. Remind them and us that Your work done in Your way will never lack Your supply. In Your holy name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*Let him who walks  
in darkness and  
has no light trust  
in the name of the  
Lord and rely on his  
God (Isaiah 50: 10b).*

*Again Jesus spoke  
to them, saying, "I  
am the light of the  
world. Whoever  
follows me will not  
walk in darkness,  
but will have the  
light of life"  
(John 8: 12).*



*Thank you to everyone that donated poinsettias for the altar.*

*The flowers that were given in celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ have been donated by the following:*

✦ *In memory of Richard, Lucy, & Scott Dolan*

*by Tim & Jackie Dolan*

✦ *Thanking God for all our blessings by Gil & Jean Johnson*

✦ *In memory of Betty & Bernie Rydlund*

*by Sam & Shelley Barg*

✦ *In memory of Pastor & Bessie Barg by Sam & Shelley Barg*

✦ *In memory of Robert & Lisa Johnson by Roberta Baye*

✦ *In memory of Gerhardt & Koba Juergens by Joyce Juergens*

✦ *Celebrating our many blessings received*

*by Dave & Jamie Werner*

✦ *In memory of family members by Dave & Karen Kmosena*



**Notice of Annual Voters  
Meeting**

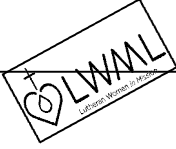
**Sunday, January 28,**

**After Worship**




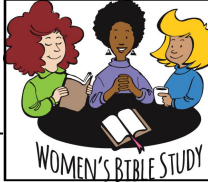
**Quarterly/Annual reports are  
due to the church office no  
later than January 16th.**





January 13, 2024 10 am Ladies Bible Study, "Equipped". Copies of this Bible Study are found in the LWML mailbox in the lower right of the mailboxes. All the ladies of St John's are invited to attend





**Mites are collected on the third Sunday of each month!** Simply deposit your donation in the large mite box when you come to worship. These mites continue to fund district and national mission projects. Check the LWML bulletin board for details on some of those projects. Please let Amy Tousey or Paula Hook know if you have any questions.

\*\*\*\*\*



Men's Bible Study will be on Thursday, **January 4th & 18th** 7:00AM at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

\*\*\*\*\*



Greeting cards are located at the West entrance!



**The *Next* Caring and Sharing Sunday  
is **January 14th****

**This is your opportunity to show you care  
for the hungry in our community by making a donation  
to the Hope Food Pantry or show your concern  
for the hungry children in our community by making  
a donation to the  
Back Pack Program.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Rada Knives

If you are interested in purchasing Rada Knives, please  
contact Lorraine Flohr at 715-532-5095

All proceeds go to the St. John's Ladies Aid.

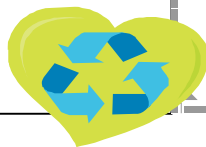
Orders are processed quickly! *They make great Christmas  
and wedding gifts.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ONGOING COLLECTIONS**

- ◆ Aluminum cans for  
Preschool
- ◆ Canceled Stamps (LWML)
- ◆ Greeting cards
- ◆ Used eye glasses
- ◆ Soft eyeglass cases

Please, leave only  
aluminum cans! We  
cannot take aluminum  
foil, plates, etc.;  
aluminum cans only!  
Thanks for your  
assistance.



## JOYFUL RESPONSE

JOYFUL Response (e-giving program) is run through VANCO and LCEF. It is now available for use by St. John's members, free of charge to you, as long as the money is taken out of your bank account (no credit cards). This account is for General Operating offerings only, no designated funds. The information and application to enroll are on St. John's website ([www.stjohnsladysmith.org](http://www.stjohnsladysmith.org)). As the Financial Secretary of St. John's, Nancy is the contact person for this program. An account has been set up at LCEF for your offerings to be deposited. Nancy will receive a statement when your offering is received at LCEF so she can enter it on your St. John's offering account. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy.



\*\*\*\*\*

## Submit Your Information!

ITEMS FOR BULLETINS are due on Tuesday by close of day each week (unless indicated otherwise in bulletins due to holidays). *Newsletter items are due* in the office no later than close of day on the Tuesday preceding the last Sunday of the month.

E-mail to: [stjohnladysmith@centurylink.net](mailto:stjohnladysmith@centurylink.net)  
(preferred method).

Don't forget that **LARGE PRINT** bulletins and newsletters are available for those who need them. **Contact the office to get your name on the list!**





1	Tami Kraft, Jean Seifert
2	Andrew Fredrick, Kelli Grotzinger
4	Bob Hauser
5	Cheri Lee
6	Brady Bishop
7	Christine Rosolowski
10	Janet Witt
14	Amy Baars
15	Dallas Zunker
19	Gary Drohman
20	DeDe Bishop, Mark Grabowski
22	Randy Scott
24	Luke Harris, Dana Hauser
25	Jack Canfield
27	Lisa Gleason
28	Deb Zillmer



5	Katie & Breyen Canfield
11	Ken & Denise Webster



# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

*Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.*

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The last Monday \_ \_

The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

One day before the 20th \_ \_

The day before the first Friday \_ \_

The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The day after the 20th \_ \_

The day after 18th \_ \_

The first day of the second weekend \_

The last Sunday \_ \_ \_

The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.