



The Rev. David M. Oddi,
Pastor
(816) 351-0744
pastordave59@gmail.com

Lay Minister Joyce Cronin,
LCC Director
(660) 582-9294
layministerjoyce@gmail.com

- Church Secretary
Jean Memken
(309) 825-5326
- Elder on Duty
Dean Biermann
- Altar Guild on Duty
Cindy Carmichael
Mary Ann Zanzie



Sunday School 9:00 am
Adult Bible Class 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
(Holy Communion on 1st
and 3rd Sundays)



Sunday Morning Worship
Service
with
Pastor Oddi

KNIM 1580 AM or 95.9 FM
10:00 am to 10:30 am

Hope Lutheran Church, 931 S. Main Street, Maryville, Mo 64468
Phone: 660-582-3262
Website: www.maryvillehopelcc.org E-mail: hopelutheranlccms@gmail.com



"The Divine Service Part 4"

We are privileged to worship a God who comes to us, who serves, forgives, and teaches us during what we call "The Divine Service." For the next few months we will be looking at "The Divine Service" and its parts. The information for this article is taken from *An Explanation of the Divine Service* by The Rev. Alan Kornacki, Jr. (Unless otherwise noted) This is part 4.

"The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God's Service to us. In the Divine Service, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacraments to bless and enliven us with His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we respond to the outpouring of those gifts. God speaks to us, and we speak His words back to Him. These two terms are sometimes called "sacramental" and

"sacrificial." God sacramentally serves us through His word, and we, in turn, sacrificially serve God with our prayer, thanksgiving, and praise."

Part 4 – The Office of the Word – The Offerings

The Offerings symbolize the giving of Christian lives in response to God's gift of salvation. There is some discussion as to whether the Offerings are part of the Office of the Word or the Office of the Holy Supper. In either case, it is a transition between the two. It is not, however, a conclusion to the sermon. We do indeed lock back upon the message and meaning of the Gospel, but more specifically at this point we direct our thoughts forward to the celebration and reception of the Sacrament.

The Office of the Word

The Offertory

The Offertory is a song, generally a selection of Psalm verses or other suitable sentences, connected to the act of gift giving. In essence, a

heart which is thankful will seek every opportunity for service to the Lord. This sacrifice also extends to the praise of the Lord, as Paul says in Hebrews in the 13th chapter of the letter to the Hebrews: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (v. 15). Thus, a song of praise is connected to the act of giving a gift.

The Offertory "Create in Me," from Psalm 51 (vv. 10-12) looks to God's work in the heart of the believer. God renews and makes right our spirit. God gives us joy in His salvation, and strengthens our spirits to obedience to His will. A suitable alternate Offertory is "What shall I render to the Lord," taken from Psalm 116 (vv. 12-14, 17-19).

Historically the communion elements were brought forward to the altar at this time, but this practice has widely fallen into disuse. It is the practice of some to sing the Offertory after the Offering, rather than before the Offering, and either practice is appropriate.

(continued on page 2)



Our Sunday Servants



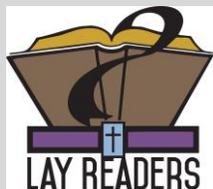
1/5 – Pam Shannon
 1/12 – Pam Shannon
 1/19 – Nancy Jenkins
 1/26 – Nancy Jenkins



1/5 – Pam Myers
 1/12 – Dean Biermann
 1/19 – Dean Biermann
 1/26 – Dean Biermann



1/5 – Michael & Deanna Mandrick
 1/12 – To Be Announced
 1/19 – To Be Announced
 1/26 – Michael & Deanna Mandrick



Pastor Oddi will be doing all the readings this month.

The Divine Service – Part 4 (continued from page 1)**The Offering**

Our faith shows itself in the works we do. This includes the giving of gifts to the Lord for the work of His Church, so that the Church may provide the spoken and written Word, Christian education, and pastoral care to the community and to the world. Therefore, after the Offertory we are given the opportunity to return to God the first and finest portion of the blessings He has given us, even as we see Abel doing in Genesis 4. Paul says in II Corinthians: *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”* (vv. 6-7). In addition to a sign of faith, the giving of gifts is a show of thankfulness to God for the gifts He has bestowed on us, both physically and spiritually.

Usually the altar and the elements are prepared for the Lord’s Supper at this time, although some will delay this preparation until the singing of the Sanctus. Either practice is appropriate. In some cases, the Pastor will enter the Sacristy to clothe himself in a garment called a “chasuble,” a garment that is meant to further obscure the man in the Office of the Ministry and rather emphasize Christ as the source of the Holy Supper.

Monetary gifts are not the whole of Christian giving, but are a significant part of it. Often giving includes the bread and wine for the Sacrament, flowers for the church, or the offering of time and talent in service to the Church. As Paul says in Romans: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service”* (12:1). In different times, the gifts brought forward at this time also included clothing, produce, livestock, and other necessities for the Pastor’s family and the needy of the community.

The Prayer of the Church

Prayer is one of the marks of the congregation gathered in worship. As Luke writes in Acts 2, *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers”* (v. 42). In the Divine Service, Christians pray for a wide variety of needs: for the Church, for the world, and for those with special or specific needs. In addition, Paul writes: *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior”* (1 Timothy 2:1-3). We know that God is present in our worship, and we anticipate His real presence in Holy Communion. Therefore we lay before Him our concerns, knowing He will hear and answer them.

The Prayer for the Church reveals the mind of the Church. It is directed to God in humility and trust, and its sincere purpose is to be heard by Him. This is the point in the Liturgy where prayers for occasions and events are offered. The needs of the people of God are ever the same, and the beautiful forms, which the Church has developed throughout the ages, give full expression to the believers’ wants at all times.

There are numerous prayers written for specific Sundays in the Church year, and they are often used in place of the General Prayer. In addition, we also use litanies (see Kyrie), prayers that call for response from the congregation. These often capture the specific theme for the Sunday, while maintaining the nature of the Prayer of the Church, namely, prayer for all the needs of the world. At the end of this prayer, the congregation responds, “Amen,” affirming that this prayer is theirs, as well.

After the Prayer of the Church, a hymn may be included to ease the transition into the Office of the Holy Supper.

Next month we will look at: An Explanation of the Divine Service Part 5– The Office of the Holy Supper – Introduction and Preface

God’s Blessings - Pastor Dave

JANUARY
Birthdays

- 1/7 - Kim Hullinger
- 1/18 - Louise VanSwearingen
- 1/23 - Eric Hanna
- 1/23 - Jase Johnson
- 1/23 - Judy Leyhe
- 1/24 - Angelica Bougher
- 1/25 - Jean Memken
- 1/27 - Jonathon Roush

JANUARY
Anniversaries

- 1/1 - Chaim and Katie Jenkins
- 1/27 - Cliff & Virginia McNair



Harriett Howard (front left) celebrated her December 26th birthday with 10 of her Hope Lutheran friends out at Oak Pointe where she resides. Those celebrating are (from the left): Jeanette Whited, Marilyn Bettis, Pat Bobzien, Twyla Hazen, Marcia Droegemueller, Marie Walsh, Pam Myers, Gladys Strauch, Jan Duncan, and Phyllis Abbott. Not pictured is the photographer, Jean Memken.



January 9, 2019, 5:00 pm

- Beth Goudge
- Liz Mandrick



LWML Reviews Past Activities and Plans for 2020

The LWML met on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the church. Our hostess, Jean Memken, served a delicious strawberry trifle with cranberry punch, coffee, nuts and candies.

President Lesley Oddi was ill so Pastor Oddi led the meeting which was called to order at 7:15 pm.

Pastor Oddi opened our meeting with prayer. We welcomed Cynthia Carmichael as a new member.

Marie Walsh led the devotion from the Quarterly entitled, “Beautiful Savior.” Jesus’ crucifixion — though bathed in ugly wounds, scars, and blood — was really the most beautiful thing that has happened for mankind. Because of Jesus death and resurrection we have the promise of eternal life in Heaven with our Savior. 1 Peter 2:24-25: *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

The in-gathering was for The Ministry Center.

Pam Myers and Marie Walsh reported that 21 poinsettias were ordered from HyVee.

Liz Mandrick showed us the beautiful bags she found for the ornaments for the Sunday school children.

We reviewed the Lutheran Campus Center Thanksgiving meal and decided we need only 10 pounds of potatoes, fewer dinner rolls and maybe a 2nd green bean casserole.

Donations for the Mound City food pantry included 50 instant mashed potatoes, 50 gravy packets, 50 boxes of brownie mix. All items were delivered to Holy Trinity that afternoon. WOW!

The Adopt a Family project was successful with all tags for gifts taken and all items returned. These families were adopted through the Big Brothers & Sisters organization.

We will “undecorate” the church at 6:00 pm before our regular 7:00 pm meeting on January 7.

Quilt tying will begin in January on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Next month we will discuss the February Love gift and treat boxes for our college students.

Jean Memken led us in a Mite box devotion. The grant featured this month was \$95,000 for Lutheran Bible Translators – God’s Word Changes Everything.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 7th at 6:00 pm to “undecorate” the church.

Hostess is Pat Bobzien.

Devotion leader is Phyllis Abbott.

In gathering will be for the Ministry Center.

Shepherd’s Kitchen - Thursday, December 12 – Twyla Hazen & Marie Walsh

Thursday, January 9 – Beth Goudge & Liz Mandrick

We closed by standing and singing “Beautiful Savior” together.—*Twyla Hazen, Secretary*

News from the LCC Director

December was a very short month for the LCC, so we look to 2020 with anticipation and joy. Ethan will be moving out of the house and moving in with some friends. At this moment I don't know where we are for housing next year, but I am working on it. In the meantime, I am sending out a newsletter to our alumni and area sister congregations to keep them up to date and to ask for donations.

Before the students get back, the volunteers are meeting to talk about activities. My idea is to have a list available to the students and see what interests them. The Columbia, MO LCC is holding a GO LEADERSHIP RETREAT March 6 & 7. This replaces the Peer Leadership training of the past. It is only \$35 per student and I'm hoping we can get some of the students to attend. Thank you for your support, and I ask for your continued prayers. —Joyce Cronin



Council Notes

Here are the items that were discussed at the last Church Council Meeting. It was a pretty short meeting after the Midweek Advent Services on December 11.

The meeting was attended by Dean Biermann, Larry Abbott, Pam Myers, Karla Roush, Royce Duncan, Pastor Oddi, and Kim Hullinger.

Treasurer Royce Duncan presented the balance sheet for the previous month. He also reported that he had delivered the check for \$2,283.55 to the Ministry Center for their Energy Assistance Fund. These were the proceeds of the Soup and Chili Supper.

Trustees: Larry Abbott reported they planned to put the manger scene outside on December 12.

Campus Relations: Pam Myers reported she has been over to the LCC, and secured a few things for winter.

No other reports.

There was no old business.

The one item of new business discussed was the distribution of Christmas gifts for the staff.

A Sacred Partnership

Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was “startled and unwilling” when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought *he* needed what *Jesus* could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God — indeed he invites this: “Call on me in the day of trouble” (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to *us* with needs: “Mortal, I am sending you” (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV); “Go ... make disciples” (Matthew 28:19); “Carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim his word, ensure justice and mercy, share his love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God’s alone to accomplish, but then he calls us to share work with him, for the world’s sake. So we echo Jesus: “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this” (Matthew 3:15, NIV).—Heidi Mann



How Do You Read the Bible?

When I was 10 years old, I started Confirmation instruction. My confirmation classes were on Saturday mornings during the school year, from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. I know some of you are cringing as you think of that, but I really didn't find it all that bad, and I can still remember vividly many of the things we did in our confirmation classes, maybe because it was in the morning and my mind was more alert. I remember the very first thing I had to memorize in Confirmation were the books of the Bible. We did it in parts: Genesis to Song of Solomon, Isaiah to Malachi, and finally the books of the New Testament. Other than looking at a few Bible verses in Sunday School, I don't believe I had really read much of the Bible at this stage in life. So learning all the books in order was a real challenge. I had never heard of most of them! I don't know that I could say them in order today (I'm sure I would goof up the minor prophets), but learning the books in order was probably one of the best things I learned in Confirmation, because it made it so much easier to actually study the Bible. When I do my Bible study at home or in my Bible Study group, I usually can find the passages I need to read fairly quickly, and that makes the study of Scripture a lot more interesting and fun.

But just knowing the order of the books of the Bible does not really help you know how to read them or what they are actually saying to you. For that, you

actually have three very good helpers. First, you have the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and reveals God's word and will to you. Second, you have the church. The Holy Spirit has been speaking to others by Scripture throughout the history of the church and he continues to speak to us as a church body each time we gather together at Hope. And finally, you have your own reasoning ability. God has blessed each of us with a mind and the ability to use it to understand His words for us in the Bible.

I came across a very insightful Bible commentary this month that I am sure will help me as I start my Bible readings in the new year, and so I thought I might share some of what I learned with you.

As many of you know, the Bible is broken down into several divisions. In the Old Testament, the first five books are the Law, which were written by Moses. Then come the books of history from Joshua to Esther. Next are the major prophets of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations (written by Jeremiah), Ezekiel, and Daniel. And then finally, the Minor Prophets from Hosea to Malachi.

The New Testament starts with the familiar Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, then the history book of Acts. That is followed by the letters (or epistles), Romans to Jude, and finally, the prophetic/apocalyptic book of Revelation.

As you are trying to understand what you are reading in the Bible, it is good

to consider these three questions:

1. What does it actually say?

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek. Today there are numerous English translations of the Bible, and many of these modern translations are quite accurate. In the LC-MS, we currently use the English Standard Version, but the New International Version, the Revised Standard Version (which is what I grew up with) and, of course, the King James Version have all been used in our church in the past.

When I read a verse that I really am having trouble understanding, I go to *The Message*, a very contemporary version of the Bible that I have quoted often in these monthly articles. It is written akin to a modern novel with contemporary phrases and common American slang. You can find it on the Bible Gateway website. I wouldn't recommend reading it in place of one of the previous listed versions, but it really does make some of the more cryptic passages of the Bible more understandable.

For example, Luke 2:28-32 is what we often sing after communion, the words of Simeon. In the version we sing (based on the King James version), it reads: *"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of*

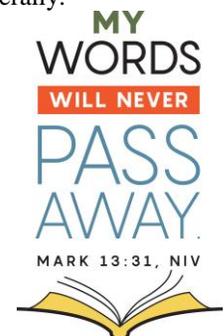
thy people Israel."

In *The Message*, that passage is written as: *"God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised. With my own eyes I've seen your salvation; it's now out in the open for everyone to see: A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel."*

2. What does it mean?

To answer this, you first have to identify what sort of writing it is. The Bible is made up of all kinds of literature. There is factual writing (the law), and there is poetry. The Gospels are narratives of Jesus' life. Of course, much of the Bible is history. We need to read each of those types of literature differently.

Consider the Psalms. They are poetry, but they were written by real people with real feelings and sometimes the writing is raw and earthy. Sometimes the authors express anger and exasperation with God. They use a lot of comparisons, but because they are poetry, it doesn't mean the two things being compared are exactly alike. For example, in Psalm 114:12, the writer says, *"Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars."* This is the language of poetry - it is beautiful, but you cannot take it literally.



(continued on page 6)

How Do You Read the Bible? *(continued from page 5)*

Then you need to think about what these words meant to the person who first wrote them, and has anything happened since they were written to change our understanding of them. Probably the best example of that is the coming of Christ and how it changed our understanding of the Old Testament. The prophets of the Old Testament never mention Jesus by name, and yet we know that they were writing about Him because his life fulfilled their prophecies. The whole Bible is about Jesus, but he had to come as a baby in Bethlehem, carry out his ministry, and die on the cross and rise again before anyone realized that.

3. How does this apply to my life?

If you don't apply the things learned in the Bible to your own daily living, you are just carrying out an intellectual exercise and not really living a life in Christ. There are many religious scholars who "know" the Bible, but don't really "live" the Bible. Think about what God is trying to say to you personally in the Bible passages you read. This makes reading the Bible so much better because it is God talking to you personally, and the Holy Spirit will help you understand what He is trying to say to you. Always look for the life application in your Bible study.

I think it is especially interesting to know the history behind the writing. For example, David wrote many of the Psalms, but he did so in response to something that happened to him. If you know the story behind the Psalm, it makes it much more meaningful and the application to your own life is more easily understood. A good self-study Bible with footnotes is especially helpful in this regard.

This past year, the women's Bible study took a look at Hebrews, a book I have always found extremely difficult to understand. But we learned about the reason the book was written and the audience it was written for, and it immediately made much more sense to me.

The most difficult book in the Bible for me (and others, I assume) to understand is Revelation. It is apocalyptic literature - full of dreams and visions, divine mysteries and a description of the end of history. We also find apocalyptic literature in the book of Daniel. Both books are full of symbols that need to be decoded. But they also contain themes that are pretty basic. In Revelation, we are given a fantastical description of the end of the world as we know it. There are angels, and beasts and what seem to be superhuman beings, but the underlying premise is God's judgment is coming and we need to be ready. We need to repent. We need to keep praying and studying God's word.

God could have just given us the 10 commandments, and let us do our best to keep them, but he didn't. He gave us the Bible. And within it, there is writing that can appeal to everyone. There are stories and parables. There are strategic military battles. There is beautiful poetry. Action and adventure that rivals any Marvel superhero movie. Reality written as fantasy. Philosophy that has stood the test of time. It's a love story like no other. If you haven't cracked open a Bible lately, 2020 is the year to do it. I pray you have much to look forward to in this new year and new decade, and that you will resolve to dig into the scriptures a little more frequently. I know that is going to be my goal this year, and I hope it is yours as well. May God bless our efforts to get to know Him better through the Scriptures!—jm



Love in Action

Martin Luther King Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with "absolute commitment to the way of love." Love, declared the minister and activist, "is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." And, he said, anyone who's "devoid of the power to love" is "devoid of the power to forgive."

King distinguished between true love and "empty sentimentalism," however. He taught — and showed — that love is "the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another."

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate "active outpouring" of love, and we can choose to follow his example daily.

"Because of Calvary I'm free to choose," writes Max Lucado in *When God Whispers Your Name*. "No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves."



Deck the Halls . . .

. . . with boughs of pine garland! The church looked magnificent during the Christmas season, thanks to the work of the LWML and their families. Considering most of the decorating took place after the Thanksgiving Service, we are especially grateful to these faithful servants that stayed late and worked hard on the day before a major holiday! Here are a few pictures of some of those willing workers who stayed and helped. The undecorating will commence on January 7 at 6:00 pm before the monthly LWML meeting.



Twyla Hazen checks the Advent Wreath.



Virginia McNair (left) and Pam Myers (right) hung garland and bows on the balcony while Sarah and Jonathan Rogers (not pictured) helped from below.



Twyla, Marie Walsh and Marcia Droegemueller gather decorations and move them into the sanctuary.



Hope in all her Christmas splendor!



Hope Pappert

How blessed we are to have such talented musicians in our congregation! Not only do we have two amazing organists, Pam Shannon and Nancy Jenkins, but we also are blessed with Hope Pappert, our choir director, and Deanna Mandrick, who played the recorder for one of our Christmas songs. Thank you all for sharing your talents with us!



Deanna Mandrick



And a Little Child Shall Lead Them . . .

Celebrating Christmas at Hope began on December 8, with the Sunday School Christmas Program during the 10:00 am worship service. Thirteen children from our congregation performed "Behold the Child," which included recitations, songs and action rhymes. They did a terrific job! Following the worship service, we held our Christmas Potluck which was attended by most of the congregation and several of our LCC students. The food was especially plentiful and decidedly delicious! What a great way to ring in the Christmas season and celebrate the birth of our Savior! Below are a few pictures of the day.



The children and young adults of our Sunday School sing together as part of the Christmas Program, "Behold the Child."



Following the program, it was time for a little fun at the Foosball table. Caleb and Isabel Brunnert (left) challenge Andrea Riley and Jenna Pappert (right) as Asher Brunnert and Allison Riley look on.



After the meal, quite a few folks stuck around and chatted and then helped clean-up. Thanks for pitching in!



What a spread! The food selection was ample at this potluck! Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to create such a wonderful meal for all!



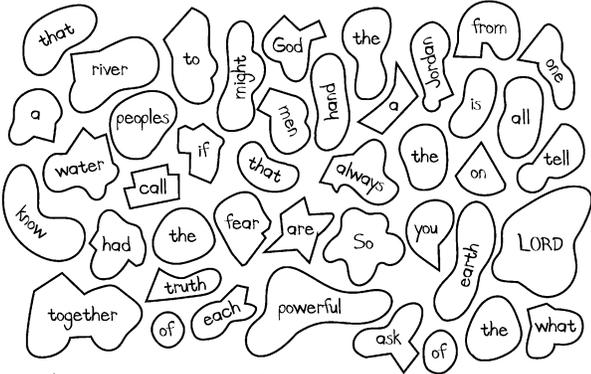
What would a Christmas dinner be without Christmas cookies? And such beautiful ones like these! Thanks, Marilyn Bettis, for sharing the results of your baking!



Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

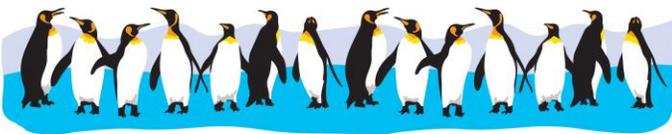
Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____ the
 _____ the _____
 _____ the _____.

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV



Chiefs Play at Noon ...

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. "Why are you so late?" asked his friend.

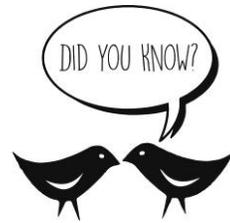
"I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So I tossed a coin," said Bobby.

"But that shouldn't have taken too long." said the friend.

"Well, I had to toss it 35 times."



"Are Forever Stamps OK?"



-- **Terry Ewing** was recently honored for 30 years of service to Mosaic Medical Center (formerly SSM and St. Francis Healthcare). Congratulations, Terry!

--**Carter Strauch** has been featured several times in the local media recently. He was one of six students that attended the National Fall Leadership Conference of the Future Business Leaders of America that was held in Denver, Colorado. He also was part of the cast of "Elf, the Musical," which was performed at Maryville High School in December. Way to go, Carter!

--**Ashley Riley** was named to the MoMileSplit All-Decade Cross Country Team, featuring the very best athletes in the state from the past decade. Ashley currently is a member of the cross-country team at Creighton University. What a great honor, Ashley!

--**Kim Hullinger** was honored for 40 years of employment at Northwest Missouri State University as their Education Compliance Specialist. Congratulations, Kim!

