



### **Verse of the Week:**

*I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. — Ezekiel 36:26*

Jesus told a skeptical crowd, who wanted to kill Him for calling God His own Father, that they had missed something obvious in the Scriptures that they held so dear:

*It is [the Scriptures] that bear witness about me. — John 5:39 ESV*

Even Moses wrote of the Christ who would come. Ironically, the crowd had set their hopes on Moses but did not believe his words about the coming Messiah (John 5:45: But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set).

**From Genesis to Malachi, hope had centered on a coming Messiah whose advent would signify a new heart and a new spirit for everyone who would follow Him.**

Yes, sometimes we fail to appreciate these messianic prophecies because the identity of the Messiah isn't a mystery to us. If this Christmas season needs an infusion of hope, consider the anticipation with which our faith ancestors awaited the Messiah.

Can we recapture the hope of Simeon, who occupied the temple daily and was promised that he would live to see Christ? When baby Jesus arrived at the temple, Simeon took Him up in his arms and praised God. He said,

*My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel. — Luke 2:30-32 ESV*

*Dear God, may we hope fervently for Your advent. We long to see You. Help us recapture our awe. Amen.*

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- January 18 - April 11, 2017
- **Foundations of Faith Community Nursing through Augustana University of Sioux Falls, SD -Online**
  - February 6 - March 27, 2017
- **Foundations in Faith Community Nursing Course offered by FCNN of the Greater Twin Cities**
  - Date: April 3rd - 7th, 2017; Monday – Friday
  - Time: 9am - 5pm (closing convocation at 3pm on Friday)

Links for information and registration for the following are found on our website [Elim Care FCN](#) under Upcoming Events or at <http://www.elimcare.org/services/faith-community-nursing/>

- **Westberg on the Road—A Year of Community Conversations**
  - The Westberg Institute will bring the Westberg Symposium “on the Road” in 2017! “Westberg on the Road” will be held at six locations in partnership with regional conferences or faith community nurse events. Details about each event is still to be announced by January. **Our Midwest location is Lansing, MI on April 21-22.**

## Upcoming Events

- **TED BOWMAN- Educator, Author, and Consultant in the field of Change, Transition, and Loss (flyer attached)**
  - December 11th - 10:05 am “When Plans, Expectations, and Dreams Are Shattered”
  - Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View, MN
- **2nd Annual North Central District Church Security Summit**
  - Saturday, **February 18th, from 9 am to 4 pm** at Constance EFC, 16150 Crosstown Blvd, Andover MN 55304.
  - Thom Ranier in his December 14, 2015 article, “16 Trends in American Churches in 2016” declares Church Security as the fastest growing ministry!! The North Central District Office and Constance EFC would like to invite you to attend our second Annual **Church Security Summit**. There will be experts on mental health challenges and solutions, starting volunteer security teams from the ground up, make recommendations on helpful technology and other exciting principles of this very necessary ministry.

## Resources

- **Interested in becoming a *Stepping On* leader?**

As a leader, you will be able to help the older adults in your congregation develop the special skills and awareness they need in order to avoid falling. If interested, contact Jessica Drecktrah, Program Director, Faith Community Nurse Network at [Jessica@fcnntc.org](mailto:Jessica@fcnntc.org) or 612-237-4639..

- **GriefShare: *Support for those Grieving***

- A new session will begin January 11th – March 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 4101 Washington Street NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 763-788-9427
- Lakewood Church in Baxter, MN is currently providing sessions on Tuesdays at 7pm through December 20. Contact [afelten@lefcmail.com](mailto:afelten@lefcmail.com) for more information.
- Find a support group in your area at: <http://www.griefshare.org/>

- **Arden Woods Psychological Services-Friday Forum for Pastors and Christian Leaders**

- [http://www.ardenwoodpsych.com/Arden\\_Woods/Friday\\_Forums.html](http://www.ardenwoodpsych.com/Arden_Woods/Friday_Forums.html)
- Friday, January 8, 2016 - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- held at Salem Covenant Church, 2655 5th St. NW, New Brighton, MN
- **“INTERCULTURAL SENSITIVITY”**  
Chris Frank, M.A., LPCC, will be exploring intercultural sensitivity in ministry and helping professions, based upon his graduate and ongoing research in this area as well as his time in church ministry and student development at Bethel University.
- Please indicate via email or phone if you are planning on attending a session:  
Phone: 651-482-9361 email: [info@ardenwoodpsych.com](mailto:info@ardenwoodpsych.com)

*Helping You to Help Others*

*Joanne*

