

# Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod)

2035 S. Penrod Lane, Pinetop, AZ

Ph/Fax (928) 367-1183 E-mail: shepherdpt@frontiernet.net

www.shepherdofthemountains.com

Pastor: R. Wayne Morton

Ministers: Each and Every Member

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 28, 2018

## Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we warmly welcome you to God's house this morning. Especially if you are visiting, we pray that you will feel at home with us and discover the blessing of God's grace in this service.

## The Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Following Holy Scripture, which speaks of the blessing of forgiveness (and therefore life and salvation) for those who discern the reality of Christ's bodily presence in the Supper ( Mt. 26:28, e.g.), but warns of harm and judgment for those who don't (1 Cor. 11:27-30, e.g.), we urge all those baptized and catechized individuals (youth and adults) who would come to the Lord's Table today to celebrate Holy Communion to examine your hearts to see that you:

repent of your sin;

believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;

affirm the real presence of Christ's true body and blood in/with/under the bread & wine;  
and desire to live your life in accordance with the will of God.

If you have not previously communed here at Shepherd of the Mountains, please first introduce yourself to our Pastor, in order that all those who will commune together today - who will share the one bread and the one cup - may be assured that we share as well the same confession and understanding.

(Young) children who are not yet capable of such self-examination are nevertheless invited to come forward - not to receive the body and blood of our Savior, but rather, the blessing of our gracious God.

## As We Gather

God's Word regarding salvation is clear and sure. He spoke through Moses and the prophets who followed him. And finally, He spoke most clearly in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. But false prophets and unclean spirits can seem convincing and powerful. So, in today's Epistle, Paul urges us to be concerned for "*the brother for whom Christ died.*" Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice gives us freedom. But he also calls us to sacrifice our rights for the sake of others in the weakness of their faith or conscience.

(10:25 a.m.) **The Ringing of the Bell**

(10:25 a.m.) **The Welcome**

(The Pastor may invite the people to God's house with the following greeting:  
"*The Lord be with you.*" **"And also with you."**)

(10:25 a.m.) **Make a Joyful Noise: #809 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"** (v. 1)

\* (stand) **The Invocation**

*Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People: Amen.**

(Mt. 28:19)

**The Hymn: #809 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"** (v. 2)

\* (stand) **The Confession and Absolution of our Sin**

*Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,*

(Psalm 124:8)

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

*Pastor: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? (Ps. 130:3)*

**People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

*Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:  
God, be merciful to me, a sinner.*

(Luke 18:13).

**People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

*Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore publicly forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People: Amen**

The Entrance Hymn: #809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (v. 3)

\* (stand) The Kyrie (the prayer for mercy)

*Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: For the peace Christ spoke with authority and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of each brother and sister near us and for the Church of God around the world, let us pray to the Lord.*

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise in peace and unity, let us pray to the Lord.*

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**People: Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise: #790 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (vs. 1, 2)

\* (stand) The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Pastor: Let us pray.*

*Almighty God, Almighty God, You know that as we face so many dangers, one person is strong and another is weak. Grant us loving concern for our brothers and sisters as Your instruments to support one another in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**People: Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

*(God promises a new prophet like Moses.)*

15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— 16 just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ 17 And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. 20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’

*Reader: This is the word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*(Love for those weak in faith)*

1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

*Reader: This is the word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\* (stand) **The Gospel Acclamation**  
(“*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*” p. 156)

*Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.*

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

\* (stand) **The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**  
(*Authority over unclean spirits*)

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”

25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!”

26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

*Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon Hymn: "Love in Christ Is Strong and Living"**  
(Tune: GALILEAN, *LSB* #826 “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”) (verses 1,2)

**Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving, May His will in us be done.  
Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ's humility,  
Gentle, selfless, kind and caring, Reaching out in charity.**

**Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving, May His will in us be done.  
Love in Christ abides forever, Fainting not when ills attend;  
Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life's end.**

The Sermon

## We Believe, Teach and Confess: The Nicene Creed

### The Offering

(If you have not already done so, please register your attendance with the Friendship Form at this time and pass it down and back your pew, taking note of the names of those sitting with you and rejoicing in their presence here today.)

\* (stand) The Offertory: #806 “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

\* (stand) The Prayer of the Church and the Hymn of the Day

*Pastor: Let us pray for all people in their various needs, for the Church wherever it is planted, and for ourselves, gathered in worship.*

*Lord of the Church, whose Word is power at work for all who call out to You in faith, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders here and around the world. Give them compassionate hearts, clear minds, appropriate words, and the wisdom to use them so that the Church grows stronger in faith and closer to You and one another in love. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

The Hymn of the Day: #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior” (v. 1)

*Pastor: Heavenly Father, giver of life and health and peace, open our hearts and minds to share Your bounty with one another, among our neighbors, and through the agencies of the Church and government, with any people in need. Raise up leaders in our nation and around the world so that poverty and hunger will be lessened and health and human dignity increased. Protect and guide all who order society across the globe, and give patience and resolve to forces deployed for peace across national borders. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

The Hymn of the Day: #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior” (v. 2)

*Pastor: O Holy Spirit, who bestows precious gifts throughout the Church, open the eyes of Your people to see avenues of peace and reconciliation, paths of concord and joy. We remember our brothers and sisters who call out to You for healing of all sorts. Use the talents You have placed in counselors, healthcare workers, medical personnel, first responders, and all who are called to work as Your instruments of care. Grant peace, health, and comfort according to Your gracious plans. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

The Hymn of the Day: #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior” (v. 3)

*Pastor: Although we in no way deserve Your gracious hearing of these our petitions, Lord, grant them for the sake of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, who has promised that what we ask in His name will be heard at Your throne of grace. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

The Hymn of the Day: #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior” (v. 4)

(Here special intercessions may be made.)

Each petition concludes: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*)

*Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**People: Amen.**

\* The Service of the Sacrament (beginning on p. 208)

The Preface (LSB, p. 208)

The Sanctus (LSB, p. 208)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (LSB, p. 209)

The Lord’s Prayer (LSB, p. 209)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of our Lord (LSB, p. 209)

The Pax Domini (LSB, p. 209)

The Agnus Dei (LSB, p. 210)

The Prayer before Holy Communion:

Dear Savior, we come to your table at your gracious invitation to eat and drink your holy body and blood. Let us find favor in your eyes to receive this holy sacrament in faith for the salvation of our souls and to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

### The Distribution

(The white wine in each tray is “non-alcoholic” wine.

(Children coming forward for a blessing are asked to keep their hands below the communion rail in order to eliminate any confusion for those who are distributing.

(We encourage all those communicants who intend to come to the Sacrament today to prepare for receiving the Lord's gracious gifts with the Christian Questions found on page 329 of our worship and hymn book, *Lutheran Service Book*.

(Following Holy Scripture, we urge all those communicants who would come to the Lord's Table today to celebrate Holy Communion to examine your hearts to see that you:

repent of your sins;

believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;

affirm the real presence of Christ's true body and blood in/with/under the bread and wine;

and, desire to live your life in accordance with the will of God.)

The Prayer after Holy Communion

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank and praise you that you have again refreshed us with the gift of your holy body and blood in this comforting sacrament. Bless our participation that we may depart from your presence with peace and joy in the knowledge that we are reconciled to God. Amen.

\* (stand) The Common Dismissal (LSB, p. 210)

*Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you  
in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in (+) peace.*

**People: Amen.**

\* (stand) The Post-Communion Collect (LSB, p. 212)

\* (stand) The Benedicamus and Benediction

*Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.*

(Ps. 103:1)

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.*

*The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.* (Num. 6:24)

**People: Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: #849 “Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness”

(Tune: HYMN TO JOY, LSB# 803 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

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### Parish Announcements

#### Organ Postludes

**MISSION MINUTE:** “*And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority.*” “*And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority!”* (Mark 1:22, 27). Everyone’s looking for someone who knows what he’s talking about. Everyone’s looking for someone who’s in charge. Everyone’s looking for someone who has authority. Everyone’s looking for Jesus; they just don’t know it yet. But *you* do, so tell them with confidence, introduce them.

**AND SPEAKING OF MISSION**, please take a few minutes to welcome those **VISITING WITH US AT SHEPHERD THE LAST FEW WEEKS** If you were to see them at worship. And if you don't, make it a point to meet them, to invite them to worship again or to Sunday Bible Class or Ladies' Bible Study or *LifeLight* Bible Study.

*"This is the week that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"*

Sun	1/28	8:15 a.m. - Handbell Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service - Holy Communion (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday) 11:55 a.m. - Dorcas Society "Mites for Missions" Coffee Fellowship
Tues	1/30	5:00 p.m. - Confirmation Class (Melissa cooking.)
Wed	1/31	9:30 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p.m. - <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Fri	2/02	6:30 p.m. - "First Friday" night at the movies (Dinner offered at 6:00 p.m.)
Sun	2/04	8:15 a.m. - Handbell Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service 11:45 a.m. - "First Sunday of the Month" Potluck Luncheon

**WHAT WAS THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY?** Christian Ed. - 16; Worship - 35 (Members 30, Friends 5, Visitors 0) How many were here because you invited them, will return because you welcomed them?

**CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:** Birthdays: 1/29 - Amy (nee Morton) C; 1/30 - Joe R. Anniversaries: 2/3 - Kevin and Patti D.

**SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS WEEK:**

Organist: Maja C Elder in Charge: Kevin D  
Project Keep-In-Touch Mailing: Patti and Corky

**WHERE ARE OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS OFF TO THIS MONTH?** We voted in our Sunday School and Bible Class opening to support the work of Bread of Life Mission in Holbrook. Bread of Life is far more than just a food pantry or a homeless shelter. Their work is changing lives. Their mission is "to provide spiritual guidance and physical assistance including shelter, food and vocational training to people in need, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to help them recognize and deal with their problems in a life changing" way.

**WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY:**

All those who are sick  
All those who continue to receive treatments  
All those who travel  
All those who serve  
Gordon C - hospitalized  
Bob D - as he awaits his transplant surgery  
Peace Lutheran Church - Palm Desert, CA. Pastor Brian Pratt  
Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church - Sherman Oaks, CA. Pastor Daniel Pezzica  
New Life Community (Nazarene) - Show Low, AZ. Pastor David Embry  
January SS/BC Mission Project - Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR** (from Lutherans for Life): "We testify to each life's preciousness with Christ's authority and effectiveness (Mark 1:22). He has redeemed even sinners by dying for all. He has defeated the devil himself by rising again. We need not retreat in the face of utter evils or hostile accusations. The Word of Life reclaims souls, changes hearts, and saves lives. (Prayer: Almighty Savior, work Your confidence and concern in us and through us. Amen.)

**WHAT'S GOING ON IN BIBLE CLASS THESE DAYS?** We're working our way through the book of Luke. When we're done, well, see, that's the thing; then, we'll decide what we want to do next. Come, be a part of the decision. Come, be a part of the study. Sundays beginning at 9:20 a.m.

**"OLD CONCHO COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER, INC. WOULD**

**LIKE TO THANK YOU** for your generous donation. The food your church donated will help feed many people in the Apache and Navajo counties. Your support, and the many people like you, make it possible to run all our programs.” [The leftovers from our Reformation 500 food drive - everything over the first 500 non-perishable items along with our Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive gifts were taken out to the Old Concho Community Assistance Center. Thanks, Kevin and Patti - and Linda, for alerting us to the need.]

**WHAT’S THE DEATH TOLL IN CANADA SINCE JUNE 2016**, when euthanasia and assisted suicide were legalized? In the first year - by June 30, 2017 - 1,982 lives were lost - five by assisted suicide and the others all by euthanasia. Even more disturbing, the pace picked up considerably in the second half of the year, where there were a reported 1,179 deaths, a 46.8% increase from the first six months. During that same span, assisted suicide and euthanasia deaths accounted for 0.9% of all deaths in Canada. And these numbers are all from self-reporting; it’s not inconceivable the true figures could be much higher. Every doctor who carries out a death is obliged by law to report the same, but . . . . Meanwhile, there’s more disturbing news coming from our neighbor to the north. Researchers at the University of Calgary are investigating how much the country could save if euthanasia were to be extended to people with Alzheimers’s and the mentally ill. Their best tally? A hundred thirty-nine million dollars a year. And what’s next in line on the assisted-suicide “slippery slope” with our friends from the somewhat icier country than our own? Lowering the bar from competent terminal adults in “intolerable pain,” not just to those individuals with mental illness, but also to assisted suicide for “mature minors” - children (whose parents put in the request).

**ESCs. NO CLINICAL TRIAL TO DATE USING ESCs HAS DEMONSTRATED THERAPEUTIC SUCCESS.** And, in fact, in animal experiments, embryonic stem cells (ESCs) transformed into cancerous tumors. But that isn’t stopping a Chinese research institute from beginning a study testing ESCs as a remedy for Parkinson’s disease and macular degeneration. And this despite recent research that found iPSCs - induced pluripotent stem cells - relieved Parkinson’s symptoms in monkeys without degenerating into tumors. (The iPSCs are cultivated

from adult skin cells. The ESC’s end the life of the yet-to-be born.)

**LIFE QUOTE OF THE DAY** (from Lutherans For Life) “Our throw-away culture values ability and perfection. Those values increasingly and unfairly characterize the preborn diagnosed with disability as not even worthy to be born. But God’s Word is clear in King David’s Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV): *‘For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.’*” (Mona Fuerstenau, director of Lutheran Ministry Partnerships, Bethesda Lutheran Communities).

**MONEY IS NOT THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL.** Not according to our friend, Martin Luther. Not by a long shot! “If silver and gold are things evil in themselves, then those who keep away from them deserve to be praised,” he once wrote. “But if they are good creatures of God, which we can use both for the needs of our neighbor and for the glory of God, is not a person silly, yes, even unthankful to God, if he refrains from them as though they were evil? For they are not evil, even though they have been subjected to vanity and evil.” Thrivent Financial for Lutherans CEO Brad Hewitt is quoted in *Christianity Today* (March, 2017) as saying that “our research . . . suggests that a healthy relationship with money isn’t determined by how much money you have, but rather by the choices you make with your finances. . . . Our mission at Thrivent is to help Christians be wise with money and live generously. . . . Luther was committed to generosity.” “Had he wanted to,” Rob Sorenson, author of *Martin Luther and the German Reformation*, says, “Luther could have been a fantastically wealthy man. [ He never took any royalties from the publishers of his books, even though they sold extremely well.] He was known for being rather profligate with his money, giving it away to anybody who needed help.” In fact, there’s a story about Katie Luther once hiding some of the household money just so Martin couldn’t give it away. Not even the fact that others some-times took advantage of his generosity slowed him down. “God divide the hand into fingers,” he once said, “so that money would slip through.”

**WHAT'S THE LATEST ON THE BUILDING PROGRAM, NOW?** The copier, the mailboxes for officers and boards, and all the bulletin and copy supplies and equipment have been moved from their temporary home in the corner of the fellowship hall into the new church office. (Thanks, Enno for finishing all the drywall in there and in Pastor's office. Thanks, Enno and Carol, for painting both of the offices, and Jay and Corky for getting the new flooring down. And thanks, Warren and Kevin and Patti and company for moving everything but a couple of large wall-mounted bookshelves from Pastor's old office to his new office.) In the Fireside Room, a generous grant from the Dorcas Society - the proceeds of last year's and this's Christmas Cookies and Goodies Sale (along with about \$300 more in private donations) went to pay for a contractor to hang and finish all the drywall. The fireplace is in and the stone has been completed (thanks, anonymous donors!) and the mantle installed (thanks, Dean, for the donation and installation).

**AND JUST IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD:**

**WE VOTED ON IT**, and as a friend of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran, you need to know. We did it at our first quarter Voters' Assembly meeting. We established our Ministry Plan and approved our budget for this year (2018). There have been quite a few changes - we've now got this beautiful new addition to heat, and cool, and clean, and maintain, and complete - and there will be quite a few more as we undergo a change in pastors. We voted conservatively; engaging Pr. David Lindemann of Scottsdale to be our Vacancy Pastor beginning April 22, establishing a starting salary of \$50,000 for our new seminary graduate, assuming *family* coverage for Concordia Health Plan coverage, and building in \$5000 for "relocation" (moving, and or closing costs) expenses.

P.S. And once the budget was approved, the last few remaining items on the Call paperwork could be inserted, and the Call Documents and Diploma of Vocation could be forward to the District and on to the Synod (Seminaries). That all was completed by last Thursday - thanks, Elder Kevin and President John - so everything is in place for our new candidate/pastor to be able to see those numbers in his Call Documents and Diploma of Vocation. Well done, everyone. We beat the 1 February deadline with weeks to spare!

**DO WE HAVE YOUR IMPORTANT DATES** - birthdays and anniversaries? We do if you've completed a SOTMLC member biographical form. We may well not if you haven't. Wonder why we missed praying for you on your birthday? That could well be the reason. If you'd like us to be able to celebrate with you, please see Pastor or one of the Elders for a form today.