

***“The Year in Review/The Year Ahead”***

**The First Sunday of the New Year**

***January 4, 2026***

**Pastor Chris Rollins**

### **The Story of the Lost Sheep**

“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!”  
Luke 15:4-7 (NLT)

### **The Story of the Lost Coin**

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.” Luke 15:8-10 (NLT)

### **The Story of the Prodigal Son**

“To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and took a trip to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money on wild living.” Luke 15:11-13 (NLT)

“We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.” Luke 15:23-24 (NLT)

## **1. Our Motivation.**

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.” Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT)

**Our motivation is love.**

**Common Thread:  
Something of great value is lost.**

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”  
Matthew 9:36 (NLT)

## **2. Our Method.**

**Common Thread:  
That which is lost is so valuable, that it warrants an all out search.**

## **3. Our Mindset.**

**Our mindset is one of joy.**

**Common Thread:  
Once that which is lost is found, there is a celebration.**