

DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
714 N. GRAND AVENUE
PIERRE, SD 57501**



6th Annual

“Festival of the Crèche”

*(Crèche: a three dimensional representation
of the Nativity)*

Sunday, November 29

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church

1:30-4:00 – View the Crèches in the church

*Fellowship Hall during a come-and-go
reception. Holiday cookies and breads along
with tea and coffee will be served.*

*3:00- Live Crèche and reading of the Christmas
Story.*

Advent Schedule

Wednesday, December 2

The Christmas Love of TIME

7:55 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9

The Christmas Love of
AFFIRMATION

7:55 p.m.

Sunday, December 13

Sunday School & Youth
Programs

N-2 11:00 a.m.

3-8 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16

The Christmas Love of
ACTS OF SERVICE

7:55 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

With Holy Communion

10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship

With Holy Communion

7:00 p.m.

A Letter From Pastor Urbach

“Off we go into the wild blue yonder climbing high into the sun...”

Greetings to you in the Advent King! The above lyrics are from the Air Force song. These words remind me of:

- Football
- Our new building
- Christmas

So here we go—

Football—seeing Joshua Hartmann and taking in the Air Force/Army game was quite an experience. Josh is doing well, a lot of pressure. Pressure that all kids feel in college to do well and in addition to that all the military discipline and routine. The Academy games have a lot of pageantry to them, but as the B1 came over and soared away and then the F15 literally soared straight up after the fly over with a roar of power that is hard to describe, I couldn't help but think of the Air Force song.

“Off we go into the wild blue yonder climbing high into the sun...”

The guys weekend of football, well it was a climbing high moment and it renewed my deep appreciation for all of you who have and how are serving this great nation. God bless you all and thank you from all of us.

Our new building—several months ago I wrote a Pastoral letter about foundations. I am amazed at how much of our New Christian Life Center is underground. It is all the structure that supports what has now risen out of the earth. Speaking of the wild blue yonder, to now have the roof and HVAC units all on top so we don't see the wild blue yonder is wonderful.

Just as there is so much beneath the floor, so also there is a remarkable amount of pipes, ducts, and

conduit above the ceiling tiles. It is quite something to walk through the building and see all that is above that soon we will not see! Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the sacrifice that you have poured into this!

Christmas—Speaking of the wild blue yonder, I now am planning and thinking about Christmas, talk about a “wild blue yonder” story. Martin Luther stated it well in his wonderful Christmas Hymn “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come.”

*“From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing.”*

Ah, the marvelous joy of Christmas, from the “wild blue yonder” of heaven love finds a voice in Bethlehem.

All of this Divine Drama takes place as a fulfillment of that Marvelous Promise from Daniel: *“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”* 12:3

Football, our Christian Family Life Center, Christmas, God is good—to which I can only say Amen! The Lord be with you.

In the Crèche Child,



Pastor Brad Urbach

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SILENCE?

"How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given!"

Anyone who is familiar with music and rhythmic notation, knows there are symbols that indicate silence. Those signs are called rests, and are notated accordingly on a musical score. A rest can be as short as a quarter of a beat or as long as several beats. Regardless, a rest, or silence, is as important to the composition as are the notes.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

The silence that occurs before the downbeat of a conductor's baton is primed for expectation. Silences within the song can suggest a certain emotion, provide drama and balance, or produce a surprise! Vocalists and instrumentalists take advantage of rests, for that is when they can draw a quick breath that allows them to continue with a long phrase or passage. Some conductors remain perfectly still following the final cut-off to allow the resonance of the last chord to linger over the audience. We all know that silence can be deafening.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Life can be a lot like music. While there is motion, movement and activity in our daily lives, one must have silence as well. During the quiet times is when we are apt to feel God's presence. That is when we can listen with our hearts and He will meet us. Advent is a time of expectation, a time of waiting. The hymn writer suggests that all humankind keep silent

as we await His coming. It's like holding your breath in hushed anticipation of something wonderful!

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

Shhhh.... the Baby's asleep in the manger!
Karen Lindbloom

A Message From Pastor Willms

Hello Christian Friends,

Bad connections are frustrating in life. As I write this we are again experiencing bad connections in our internet and email. These things make life easier at many moments, but at times I wish we didn't have them, because when there is a bad connection, it is frustrating. Life is also frustrating when I have a bad connection with God. Now it isn't his fault, he isn't a bad router or a network imploding, he is always there, but I fail to connect. See in reality, what we celebrate together this season is God connecting, God bridging the gap, God sending His Son into the world to connect with you and me. But sometimes the connection fails with us, there is too much interference.

My encouragement for you this month is to Stay Connected. Hear His word, read His word, spend time speaking with Him, gather with others who love Him. Christmas is a stressful time, a difficult time, but in Christ who connects with us, it is a joyous time. Don't loose connection with the one who connects with us, who saves, forgives us, and the one who gives us strength. God bless you this Christmas Season and may know God's amazing love for you in sending His Son.

Pastor Willms

Building News

Paint & Pizza Party!

The painting of the second floor masonry walls is not part of our contract with Sioux Falls Construction. Yet these are walls we desire to have done for the general appearance of the second floor which we will finish as funding permits.

So PLEASE set aside Saturday, January 9 from 9:30 till 12:00, with pizza provided when done.

Please bring a new clean 1¼ inch nap roller.

We will, of course, supply the primer paint, which is actually called a block filler, and the buckets needed for the paint.

Pizza and beverage provided!

Special Need

With all the progress being made on the new addition at Faith, people are asking about the new kitchen and what it will be like. As a committee, we visited several church kitchens in Pierre. The new kitchen at the United Methodist Church was a good example for us to follow as we designed the new kitchen area. There will be two large islands with double sinks, two electric ranges like the one we have, a small freezer, a commercial refrigerator, a deep metal three section sink, and a commercial dish washer. The cupboards, which are numerous, will be a light wood-grain. The

counter tops are a green and the vinyl floor is a marbled green as well.

Several of these items are quite expensive and there will be more details and information about how you can help in the next building update newsletter. Thank you in advance for your support and prayers!

Jan Larson, Kitchen Committee Chair

Progress

As November comes to a close a lot of things are in progress. Perhaps the most important thing is we are “buttoned up” for winter.

Yes indeed—

- Windows are in.
- The roof is complete.
- Most of the real doors are in
- The HVAC units are all on the roof.
- The drywall is nearly complete and taping has begun.
- The first coat of paint, called “Block Filler” is on the gym walls.

Gifts

Since our November newsletter another special need has been met. In our efforts to furnish Pastor Willms office we are grateful to:

- Craig Bump who is providing a new desk for Pastor Willms office.

- Jared Doud for offering to build the new cabinets.
- Rick & Marlis Doud, Les & Marilyn Wulf, Curt & Roxie Everson, Scott & Jean Colli-son, and Jim & Phyllis Douglas for providing for the cost of materials for the cabinets.
- The 1978 Fellowship Hall is starting a transition to our new Daycare location.
- Sod, rock and landscaping has started.
- Grace Plaza is nearly complete.
- Electric conduit, dust work, gas lines and the fire suppression water pipes are nearly all in.
- The concrete work has been finished, this spring the balance of the parking lot will be re-stripped.

Since 1978 our Fellowship Hall has hosted hundreds of events and meals. Our last meal was served at our Fall Mission Festival, November 22, 2009 and our last major event, our 2009 Festival of the Crèche was held November 30, 2009.

1978 Fellowship Hall

We are indebted to all these visionary souls who provided us with the Fellowship Hall that has served Faith Evangelical Lutheran, its families and our community for 31 years. Yes, 31 years, we have eaten and celebrated God’s goodness well.

Continued on page 5

Building cont.

Our Building Committee for our 1978 addition:

Reuben Leidholt, Jerry Erbe

Carl Winckler, Ev Quam

Jack Titus, Peter Young

Robert Wold

Our Gifts—as of November 16 These include congregational gifts, Estate gifts, interest and out of the blue gifts.

\$1,980,072.65

Would it not be a remarkable thing to hang that \$2,000,000 grape cluster before the end of the year? We would welcome generous sacrificial end of the year gifts and we say it again as we seek to close the gap between our gifts and our need—

Every gift counts, whatever its sacrificial nature, whether it is

- A new gift
- An accelerated gift
- An exceeded gift
- A gift meeting one's commitment.

Different Gifts, Equal Sacrifice.



Missionary News

Once again, thank you to all you who have prayed for us, given us words of encouragement, and given us support, financial, or otherwise during the past few months. Please continue to pray for us. In particular continue to pray for Smokey, Ferlin, Lizzie, and all our youth.

First of all we have had a bunch of Baptisms in Parmelee lately. I think 8 of them. It is always a little amusing to me, because we set up one baptism, but on the day of the baptism, the mom or grandma will bring several others along. I never seem to know what is going on, but we work it anyway. Several of these were teenagers who had come to Bible School for a long time, but quit coming, and now their mom wanted them baptized. I think it may be the start (again) of a youth group.

Just this last Sunday we also had a wedding in Parmelee. I found out on Saturday, and the wedding was Sunday. It was simple, but perhaps one of the most memorable weddings I have ever officiated at.

Also in Parmelee, we had mid-week Bible school, and after supper I always let the kids help me clean and then mess around. I went into the other room to do the dishes, and some of the kids started playing with the cd player. They were playing the cd's we use for Sundays with the hymns on them. The one they kept playing was "Go My Children With My Bless-

ing". I went back into that room to get some more dishes, and what did I see, but 3 of the kids had gotten out the hymnals, found hymn 922, and were singing it! All by themselves they had done this. Raymond, Dayshawn, and Louie. Those children have the blessing they were singing about. I will remember that a long time. I took a picture of it so I could share the moment.

I also want to tell you to pray for Smokey, he is a young man I have told you about who is in prison, and will be released on Nov. 13. The Lord has really worked in his life. If we can keep the devil at bay, he wants to become a pastor some day. He will go to a half way house for a few months and then move back to Rosebud. Pray that as he comes out, the path the Lord Jesus has laid out for him will be the one that is followed.

Once again, thank you! May the Lord Jesus bless the ministry where you are, and open doors to share his forgiveness where you live!

In Christ, Rev. Andrew Utecht

Christian Family Life

Center Dedication

June 6, 2010

Invite your family and family members to join us for this Historic day in our 79 year history.

Daycare News

Greetings Faith brothers and sisters,

As many of you know I have resigned from my position as director. I am grateful to have been given one last year here at the Daycare.

The children have long been a source of joy in my life. Watching them grow, explore their world, and interact with one another brings a smile to my face. Yet, I feel it is time for me to explore other possibilities in my life.

Noell Uhlir has accepted the position of director, and her training has been going well. I am confident that God will continue to bless Noell and the Daycare as he has all these years.

Sincerely,

Nick Wulf



- Our men of the parish are invited to our December Edition of Men's Fellowship.
- We will have a short study entitled "He Who Dies With the Most Toys Still Dies." This study might even help us set some Christmas priorities.
- We will play Court Whist at our December meeting.
- Bring a snack to share.
- Dads with kids—check our Lutheran Hour Ministries JC Playzone website at: www.jcplayzone.com

Greetings,

Hi. I am Noell Uhlir, the new director of Faith Lutheran Daycare. I am in my third week of training and things seem to be going great. I am getting to know the children and their own little personalities and it has truly been a great experience thus far. I have always enjoyed working with children and children have always been put first in my life. I am thankful to God for helping me find this opportunity and trust that he will continue to guide me in this new position. I also thank you for letting me be a part of your children's lives.

I am originally from Kadoka, SD and moved to Onida in June of this year. I am married to Cory Uhlir and we have been married for 22 years. I have three children of my own, Carlie, Carter, and Conner, and I also have one grandchild, RaeLee with another one expected to arrive any day. I enjoy spending time with my family, scrapbooking, and reading in my spare time. I am a big sports fan, and love to watch my son participate in all of his activities.

Again, I am thankful that God has brought me here and look forward to great things happening in the future for Faith Lutheran Day Care.

Sincerely,
Noell Uhlir

Official acts

Baptisms

*Bristol Rose Humphrey
Dalton Matthew Eldridge*

*Carsten Levi Willms
Madison Claire Hand
Claire Leigh Hutchison
Wyatt William Rathbun*

Funerals

*Marilyn Joyce Hirsch
Andrea Jean Tate*



Women's Retreat

A wonderful women's retreat will be held here at Faith on Friday evening, February 12 and Saturday morning, February 13. The retreat will be centered around Beth Moore's study "Loving Well." More details to follow, but make plans to attend. This is open to all women.

OUR CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

The Cornerstone – it all took place Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30 with a great crowd on hand. We sang, read scripture and prayed, and joyfully watched Randy Davey, of Fichter Davey Masonry, and his son, Justin, lay the cornerstone.

A time capsule was placed behind the stone. What was in the capsule? Well, a copy of the groundbreaking and cornerstone lay event service, our last pictorial directory, our most current congregational directory as of September 30, 2009, a Bible and a Luther's small Catechism. In other words, the capsule contains who we are on September 30, 2009 and what we believe.

We again express our thanks to Brad & Laurie Schultz for the gift to purchase the stone, Melissa Brock for making the arrangement for the stone with Mary & Scott Gibson of Family Memorials by Gibson in Sioux Falls who provided the stone at cost.

The question of lots of the kids, "is there a capsule behind the 1996 Sanctuary Cornerstone?" The answer is yes and the second question, "is there a capsule behind the 1961 stone?" Don't know! Perhaps on the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Building project we could look and see?

"Christ is our Cornerstone on Him alone we build..." LSB 912 Verse 1

Grace Plaza

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace Plaza is the area between the two major entrances off the parking lot at Faith. The Plaza's central feature is our Ebenezer stone which was donated to the Parish by the Building Committee as a focal point for our "Building Together in Faith" campaign. The stone, like faith and our salvation, was a gift. That's grace – God's undeserved mercy.



Everything in *Grace Plaza* is a gift.

Plantings and shrubs

These are a gift from the East Pierre Garden Center made possible by the kindness of Wally & Nancy Thomsen.

Lighting

The lighting on the stone was made possible by Laura Archambeau of Todd's Electric. Brandon Butler of Todd's Electric provided the labor.

The Paver Tiles

The Tiles were made possible by Susan Wold from a number of

special project gifts and from memorial gifts in memory of Carl Winckler.

The Irrigation

Cullan Deis donated the drip irrigation to keep our flowers and bushes looking great.

The Benches

The original benches were a gift in memory of Xenia Campbell. When the original benches showed some wear and tear the Board of Trustees replaced them. The original bench remains by the Daycare/Third Street entrance.

The Quarterback

That would be Jay Fredrich, who coordinated the project and provided leadership for the project.

The Workers

We thank the following for volunteering and completing the placement of the pavers:

Bill Farnham, Curt Everson

Jay Fredrich, Dan Cronin

Vern Miller, Larry Coyle

Harlan Fransen, Lari Ott

Bruce McIntire, Vern Dockter

Dennis Hanson, Jerry Erbe

The Footing

The footing was provided as a gift by Gerrick McComsey. He also provided the sand base and packed the base.

The Rock

The rock was donated by Darren Chase of Chase Roofing.

"Thus Far Has The Lord Helped Us"

1 Samuel 7:12

YOUTH PAGE

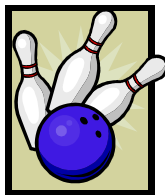


Acolyte Schedule

Circuit Bible Camp Circuit Bible camp will be next summer, July 27-30 at Custer State Park. This is for kids currently in 3rd-8th grade, so please mark you calendars. If there are any adults that would like to go and help with Circuit Bible Camp, please speak with Pastor Willms

Camp Minneboji Camp Minneboji dates for next year are June 20th-26th and is for kids currently in 4th-9th grade. Please mark your calendars for this opportunity as well.

LYF Bowling We will go bowling Dec. 6th at the bowling alley from 2:00-4:00. See you there!



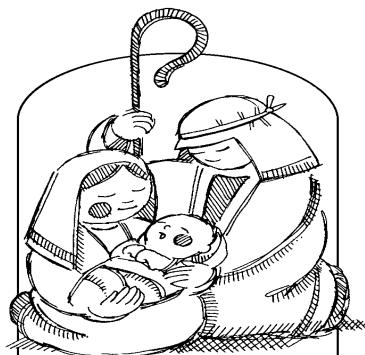
LYF Christmas Party We will have a Christmas Party on Dec. 20th from 7:00-8:30. Bring a brown bag gift to exchange (\$3-\$5).

JYM Christmas Party Hey JYM kids, we will have a Christmas party on Dec. 20th 5:00-6:30. We will have pizza and decorate cookies!



Midweek Christmas Pool Party We will have a Midweek Christmas party on Dec. 16th at the YMCA during our Midweek time. Come and go swimming and hang out with teachers and friends.

Midweek Christmas Program The midweek Christmas program is on Dec. 13th at 4:00 PM for our 3rd-8th graders. We will be having practice during Midweek and one Saturday Practice on Dec. 12th at 1:00-2:30. **Please make every attempt to make both practice and the program.**



Christmas Program

Sunday School Christmas Program The Sunday School Program will be during the late service on Dec. 13th at 11:00. The kids will be doing practice during Sunday School hour and will be having one Saturday practice on Dec. 12th at 10:00 am. **Please make every attempt to have your kids at practices and in the program.**

Dec. 2nd Advent Service
7:55 Andrew Leif and Ryan Koch

Dec. 6th
Early: Reed Lindbloom and Rebekah Miller
Late: Logan Lenz & Jacob Larson

Dec. 9th Advent Service
7:55 Maranda Olson and Jared Neilan

Dec. 13th
Early: Caden Overturf and Alex Neyhart
Late: Nicole Smith and Kyle Olson

Dec. 16th Advent Service
7:55 Molly Tschetter and Joshua Thompson

Dec. 20th
Early: Brooklyn Voeltz and Haley Adams
Late: Austin Wagner and Travis Adney

Christmas Eve
5:00- Vance Weber, Amber Ziebart, Kelsey Dykstra, and Emily Fredrich
7:30- Wylin Baker, Courtney Brandt, Justin Harmon, Roberta Forman

Christmas Day
10:30- Alyssa Bump and Rebekah Hartmann

Dec. 27th
Early: Kaci Deal and Taylor Larson
Late: Rachel Hartmann and Dylan Norris