



## DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501



*8th Annual*

### *“Festival of the Crèche”*

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

*Sunday, November 28*

*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.*

### Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas Schedule

#### Thanksgiving Day Service

November 24

10:30 a.m.

#### Proclaim the Wondrous Birth

First Sunday of Advent, November 27

8:20 & 11:00

#### Wednesday, November 30

Isaac

7:55 p.m.

#### Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 4

8:20 & 11:00

#### Wednesday, December 7

Samuel

7:55 p.m.

#### Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 11

8:20 & 11:00

#### Wednesday, December 14

John the Baptist

7:55 p.m.

#### Fourth Sunday, of Advent, Dec. 18

8:20 a.m.

#### Sunday School & Youth Programs

N-2 11:00 a.m.

3-8 4:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, December 21

Jesus

7:55 p.m.

#### Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight Service

5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

#### Christmas Day Worship

With Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. only

#### New Year's Eve Worship

With Holy Communion

7:00 p.m.

#### New Year's Day Worship

11:00 a.m. only



## A Message From Pastor Urbach

Greetings in the Lord Jesus our Advent King! Advent King? Yes Advent King, we are already on the doorstep of Advent with Christmas to follow!

Advent also brings a time in which we still have just one pastor. Our first three calls have been declined. This caused one of our members to say, "Is something wrong with our parish?"

Well, the answer is not at all. We are short staffed and certainly need help soon. But if anything, it is the reason that things are well.

Three thoughts stand out for me as to our calls thus far. Before I list my three thoughts I wish to share with you my thanks to the Board of Elders for the time they have spent working over the call list and for the time they have spent visiting with possible Associate pastors. They have also been excellent in finishing our early service. I try to be here once a month to finish the service. I enjoy doing that and being here between services but also wish not to neglect Trinity in Blunt.

So, three thoughts:

- First of all, all three men that we called were excellent pastors and were fairly content in their present parish. Two of them had had new opportunities happen in their parish that prompted them to feel they needed to stay in their present ministry.
- Secondly, we have a strong

youth component in the ministry description that is pretty hands on. The three called pastors while having youth experience did not feel a real hands on ministry now fit in with their approach to youth ministry.

- Thirdly, someone in a good situation is not always willing to follow a pastor of about 38 years in one place. I understand these things. When I came to Faith in 1974 I did not envision being here 38 years but I did have two goals. I was determined to stay at least 10 years or until the parish had grown 1000 souls. Well obviously these goals came and went.

In my 30's and 40's I had tons of calls, a few times even multiple calls at the same time. At first I kept track of how many calls I had, then after a while just lost track..

Some calls were very appealing and if I could have taken all of you I might have moved. Some calls I knew immediately it just didn't fit me and my abilities.

Every time a parish calls a pastor from another church it can set up a long chain of churches without pastors.

Every pastor pondering a call does desire to be sure it is a good fit for him and his family.

So it's complicated. Before Pastor Heideman came here I believe I heard some 17 pastors were called.

It is a time consuming process.

At this point we are now looking at returning to the Seminary for a young man and speaking to Concordia University in St. Paul, MN and Seward, NE about DCE graduates. While new graduates don't always have lots of experience, they have good enthusiasm.

So while we press on I still miss Pastor Willms and enjoyed our working relationship. He seems to be doing well and with three children it's a busy household. They have been in a small apartment and are moving shortly to a rental home which they hope to buy after their home in Pierre sells.

So be patient in the Lord as we await some staff help and while we wait I thank all of you for the extra help and prayers as sometimes with big sighs we move on to the next project.

I await the season of Advent and its terrific preparation to get our hearts and homes ready to celebrate our Savior's birth.

The Lord be with you.  
In Christ, our Advent King,

Pastor Brad Urbach



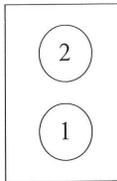


## Building News

### Otis

We actually have never had a member by the name of Otis, now we have an Otis. Yet in the month of December we hope Otis will be arriving and installed.

Otis, of course, is our new elevator that is required by the Building Code for a second floor access.



Here is the status of our campaign to raise the dollars needed for this project. As of November 14, we have received sufficient gifts to pay for the elevator. We are grateful for all the gifts. It appears that on the 13th of November, several members sought to

close the gap. We also are grateful for the \$12,000 matching gift for our October 30 offering for which one of our families wishes to be anonymous.

Thank you to everyone.

**The cost:** \$44,315.00

**Additional cost:** \$8,300 for Sioux Falls Construction for preparing the shaft and doing the finish work so that the first and second floor openings are nicely presentable.

### THANK YOU!

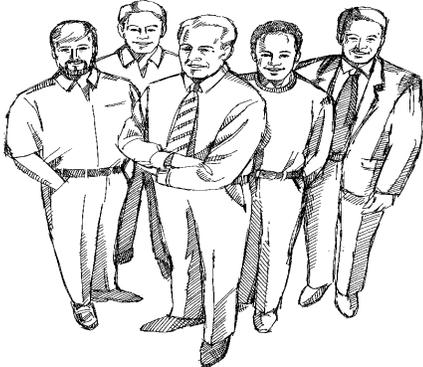
#### Our Goals this winter:

- To finish the St. Paul room in its entirety, ceiling, lights, carpet, and on the North wall a combination of closet, cabinets, a working surface,

and a sink.

- To accomplish this we will have Brock Construction tape & texture not only the St. Paul room but while we are doing this to tape & texture the Luke/John room as well.
- Get ready for a Saturday paint Party complete with doughnuts and coffee.
- In both the Luke/John room the North walls will have a combination of closet, cabinets, a working surface and sinks.
- At this point, Luke/John will remain one very large room. In time a wall could divide the room into two rooms as other opportunities arise.

## Men's Fellowship



Men of the parish are invited to our Men's Christmas Party on Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Bring a gag gift worth no more than \$5.00, and a snack to share.

We will play a few rousing hands of Court Whist. Always a fun time.

## Memorial Books

Did you know that all memorials given to the church are recorded in Memorial books that you will find in the Narthex?

They are actually cross-referenced by name and by project.

A suggestion that is really helpful so that henceforth (and retroactively if you should supply a photo) we will put a photo of the person

the memorials are given in the name of in the memorial book alongside the memorials listed in their name.



**Debt Retirement:** Along with our regular monthly payment of \$5,487.00 we are able on December 1 to pay two more advance payments. We have now made 49 advanced payments. The two additional advance payments saved another \$8,462.16 in interest. Thus far advance payments have saved \$221,340.57 which is about 20% of the total \$1,000,000 we would pay on our loan if we did no advance payments. Let's look at our next two payments. The total payment is \$5,487.00. Now if we pay the \$1,264.56 principal payment in advance, we save the \$4,222.44 in interest. The next payment—if we pay the \$1,270.36 principal payment we save the \$4,216.64 in interest.

Once again—every dollar you give to Debt Retirement multiplies its value.



## Circuit News

**Circuit Counselor:** Pastor Urbach was elected to the position of Circuit Counselor for a three year term at the November 8, 2011 Pierre Circuit Forum.

Voting were the six pastors of our Circuit and each of the Circuit congregations was able to cast a vote on behalf of their congregation.

**Tri-Parish Agreement:** Trinity Lutheran in Blunt which we have served since 1983 has signed a Tri-Parish Agreement on November 7 with Holy Cross Lutheran in Onida and Immanuel Lutheran in Harrold to form a three part parish.

They will now proceed to call a Pas-

tor supported by these congregations. Pastor Urbach is working with them to submit call papers yet this month. Pastor Urbach will continue to serve Trinity until the new Pastor arrives, we would hope in early summer.

**District Convention Delegates:** Pastor Urbach and David Zuercher will represent Faith Lutheran at our April 18-21 South Dakota District Convention in Sioux Falls. Brad Schultz will be our alternate delegate. David and Brad were elected at our November 6 Voters' Assembly.

## Official Acts

### Baptisms

Carter Jackson Dokken 11-20-11

### Weddings

Kimberly Weischedel & Jared McPherson 11-19-11

Taylor Huber and Jarrod Slaght  
11-19-11

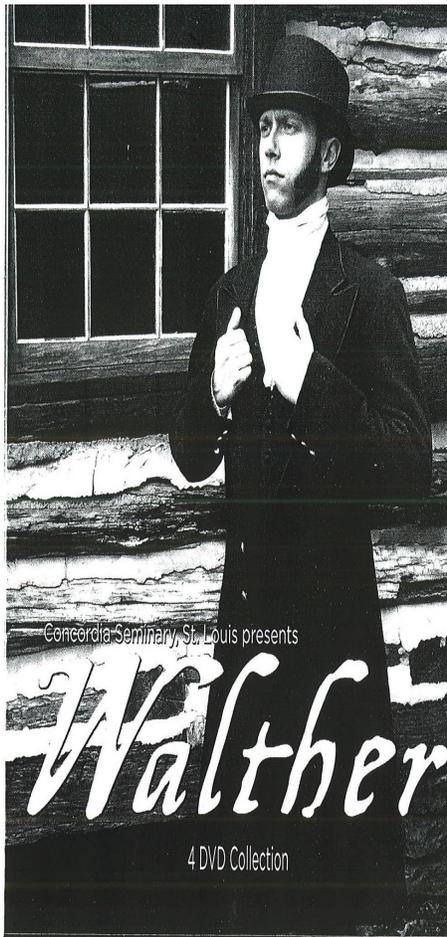


## Where have we Been and Where are we Going?

On Sunday, January 15 we have a day of looking back and looking ahead. In the morning our Board of Missions will serve Pancakes and sausage from 7:30 to 12:30 as a Fund Raiser to assist our Mission Team to go to Hong Kong. So enjoy a breakfast, a brunch, a lunch or all three.

It will be a free will offering and all the proceeds will go to the team and shared equally for them.

Then at 3:00 in the afternoon we will look back at the early beginnings of our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as we view Concordia Seminary's newly released film "Walther." The film will give you an enormous appreciation for the early struggles of Lutheran German immigrants and that which we enjoy today.



## New Board Members

Congregational President Bob Shoup has appointed Veryl Huisman to fill Roger Larson's position on the Board of Trustees and Daryl Ramquist to fulfill the Board of Missions and Evangelism position of Stephen White. Both Roger and Stephen have moved to new communities.

Welcome Veryl and Daryl.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Priscilla Circle would like to thank everyone who donated items or gave a monetary donation to help the OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD project, also for the Country Fair monies to help mail them. It was a big success again this year. We prepared 43 boxes to send. Thanks again!!!!





## Preschool News

A blessed Thanksgiving to each of you! We have been learning about the first Thanksgiving and also about the past Native American culture here in South Dakota during the month of November. It is great to be able to tell the children why we celebrate Thanksgiving – to tell God “thank you” for all the good things that He gives us! We decorated tipis, learned about the pilgrims and the Native Americans, and decorated a large wall size tipi with our handprints. We visited the Cultural Heritage Center and saw a

buffalo, tipi, sod house, wagon and stage coach. During December, we will be learning about JKL, red, 5, star and numbers. Music and games are the emphasis and of course, the true Christmas story! Our field trip for the month is to the View the trees at the Capitol and to feed the geese. The highlight of the month is our Christmas programs which will be held on Tuesday, December 20 and Wednesday, December 21. Each session has its own program in which the children act out the first Christmas. The new

sound system will be so nice to have this year!

We also made angels for the tree at the Mall – check it out! Yes, Christmas is coming too, but not before we give thanks for our blessings. I hope and pray that you too are able to give thanks for the blessings in your life. My work and the staff that I work with are some of my many blessings, as well as the children who send so much joy into our lives. God bless you for all your support and prayers!

Jan Larson, Director/teacher  
Faith Lutheran Preschool

## Letters Received

Brad and all the Saints at Faith,  
Thank you so much for letting the District Youth board use your wonderful church. The leadership training went very well. I do think our team needs a rematch on the volleyball!

Thanks again.

Pastor Randy (Sturzenbecher) and the District Youth Board

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

After much prayer, I feel that the Lord still has work for me to do at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Athens, WI. I decline the call extended to me by Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre, SD. After a wonderful visit to Faith I know that the Lord has great plans for you. The Lord has blessed you with strong leaders and outgoing families that welcomed us warmly. Thank you for opening your hearts and sharing your church family with me.

I do ask that you continue to keep me, my family, and Trinity Lutheran Church & School in Athens, WI in your prayers—that the Lord may continue to build up His Church and that more and more people might come to know and love Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Know that I will be praying for you and the Lord’s work at Faith—that the Lord may continue to strengthen Pastor Urbach and also provide for you both an Associate Pastor and DCE in order to do the work the Lord has given you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Andy

Pastor Andy Alberts



## Another Thank You

Pastor Urbach and Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for allowing the home school children to come to your gym and have their school pictures taken. I appreciate your flexibility on short notice and your willingness to share your gym with us. May God bless you and your church in many ways!

Sincerely,

Carol Becker (home school mom)

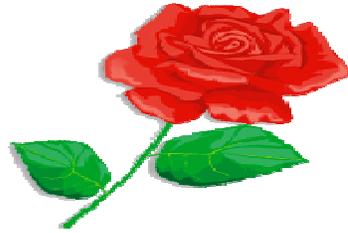


## PREPARE: LOOK EAST!

People, look east,  
 The time is near of the crowning of  
 the year.  
 Make your house fair as you are  
 able,  
 Trim the heart and set the table.  
 People, look east, and sing today:  
 Love, the Guest, is on the way.

The poetry of this Advent carol was penned by British author Eleanor Farjeon in 1928 and set to the French folk tune, *Besancon*. Interestingly, Miss Farjeon also wrote "Morning Has Broken." For many centuries, churches traditionally were laid out on an east-west axis. In ancient times, the Church faced east to pray, which was the direction of the rising sun. That act would symbolize the soul looking towards where the true light rises. Day-break reminds us to welcome and recognize God's presence in our lives each new day.

Furrows, be glad,  
 Though earth is bare, one more seed  
 is planted there.  
 Give up your strength the seed to  
 nourish,  
 That in course the flow'r may flourish.  
 People, look east, and sing today:  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.



The song directs Christians to turn toward Bethlehem in expectation of the incarnation of God. In other words, we are to "orient" ourselves. The word "orient" means east. During the coming weeks, we will observe Advent, a time of re-orientation, where we will "get our house" in order and re-arrange our spiritual furniture. Just as we would prepare for guests in our homes, we are to ready our hearts and ponder the significance of His coming near. In other words, welcome the Guest!

Stars, keep the watch,  
 When night is dim, one more light the  
 bowl shall brim,  
 Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
 Bright as sun and moon together,  
 People, look east, and sing today:  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.



Throughout the season of Advent we will tremble with antici-

pation, eagerly watching the sky to see if the Star has appeared. We'll run to scoop up hay, find the empty manger and prop the barn door open. We'll anxiously lie awake, listening for the gentle sounds of His coming. This journey won't result in a closed door, but in a welcoming manger in which God will be born more abundantly in our lives. We will see God more fully – not only as our Guest, but as the Rose, the Star and, above all, Love.



Angels announce  
 With shouts of mirth Him who brings  
 new life to earth.  
 Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
 with the word, the Lord is coming!  
 People, look east and sing today:  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Karen Lindbloom





## Faith Lutheran Daycare

Greetings from Faith Lutheran DayCare:

It's the holiday season and daycare has been doing crafts and songs to go along with Thanksgiving. Daycare had their Thanksgiving dinner on Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> and the children really enjoyed the meal. We have the following Bible stories planned for the month of December. John the Baptist, the Birth of Jesus Our Savior, and Jesus in the Temple. We have fun crafts and songs planned to go along with the Bible stories. The Nativity Story is

### New Christmas Banner

On Christmas Eve we will dedicate a new White Christmas banner. It is given to the glory of God by:

- The family of Joan Cash in her memory,
- Arlene Barker in memory of her husband Blaine,
- Joyce Nielsen in memory of her husband Bill.

It is designed and created by Gaspards, who also made the Blue Advent banner. The Angel and the gold script lettering is very similar to the blue banner.

The Banner theme "O Come All Ye Faithful" is the wonderful reminder that we are invited to the manger once again to celebrate God's mercy.



always a favorite among the children. Of course we will also be planning a Christmas party for the children. They all love this time of year.

The current enrollment at the daycare is 61 total children. We have 10 babies, 15 toddlers, 25 three to five year olds, and 11 schoolers. Staff remains the same.

Daycare still needs an outdoor storage unit to store the toddler toys in. As always we need paper, colors, craft items, books, and toys. Since winter time is close daycare can always use gloves, mittens, and hats for the children in case they forget to bring theirs from home. Thank you to everyone that has donated toys and books throughout the year.

We finished up our fundraiser on November 11<sup>th</sup>. I believe it was a great success. The funds raised

### New Members

We are pleased to welcome new members to our family of Faith. Our new members are:

- Jim Arbuthnot  
 Byron & Jill Caauwe and Bella Jack & Beth Dokken and Maddox and Carter  
 Lonnie & Nicole Moody  
 Gary Nickerson  
 Brian & Shannon Zeeb and Deni, Gracie, Broch, Bryant, and Shawnie.

will be used for daycare improvements. Thanks to everyone that ordered from the children.

Happy Holidays to All.

Your friend in Christ,

Noell Uhlir  
FLDC Director

### New Men's Study

In early December our Wednesday morning men's "Game Plan for Life" study will conclude. Starting on Wednesday, January 11 will be a new study on Proverbs. Proverbs is what we call wisdom literature. It is also absolutely filled with Godly nuggets of wisdom.

A great way to begin a Wednesday morning. See you Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 a.m.

### Blood Drive

Faith Lutheran will have a Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 6 from 11:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call Char Russell at 224-1160 for an appointment or go to [www.bloodhero.com](http://www.bloodhero.com) and then enter code: pierrefaith.



# YOUTH PAGE

## LYF Meetings

- November 30** 7:55 Join for short Advent service and then our meeting.
- December 7** 8:00 Meeting
- December 14** 8:00 Meeting
- December 21** 7:30 Christmas Party. Be sure to wear your favorite Santa hat. We will have Pizza and Cookies.
- December 28** NO meeting. Have a blessed Christmas

## Pizza Ranch "Thank You"

The LYF Youth say "THANK YOU" for all who attended the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser on November 14. These gifts will assist the LYF Youth in their 2012 summer trip to the Black Hills and then the huge 2013 Synod Youth Gathering in San Antonio entitled "Live Love(d)".



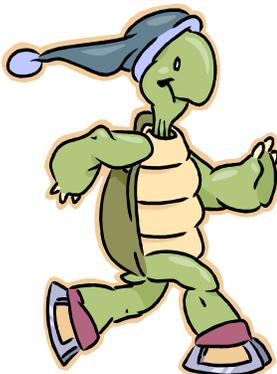
## Midweek Pool Party

On December 21 our Midweek Youth will gather for our Midweek 2-8 grade pool party. Snacks will be served in the Lobby and if you are not a "Y" member the church will pay for your admission.



## December JYM

On December 11 we are planning an ice skating outing. Be watching the bulletins for details!



**December 4**  
Early: Andrew Leif,  
Jordain Rathbun  
Late: Ryan Koch,  
Kaci Deal

**December 11**

Early: Rebekah Miller, Brandon Berheim  
Late: Jared Neilan, Brittney Munyon

**December 18**

Early: Alyssa Bump, Courtney Brandt  
Late: Matthew Green, Brandi Ziebart

**December 24**

5:00 Colton Shoop, Connor Shoop,  
LeAndra Hoefener, Jacob Fuerst,  
Kaiden Karst

7:30 Whitney King, Colton Graves, Abby  
Lingle, Wylin Baker, Megan Arneson

**December 25**

11:00 Emily Weber, Molly Tschetter

**December 31**

7:30 Jacob Larson, Justin Meier

## Acolyte Reminder

Acolytes if you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please find someone to trade with and let the office know who will be filling your assigned space. This is an important part of our service. Parents and the rest of our congregation enjoy seeing our youth take part in the services.

Thanks for your help in this matter.



"I'm going to be a chorus member in the Christmas pageant. I was going to be a shepherd 'til I found out I'd have to wear my bathrobe and count sheep."