



DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501



12th Annual

“Festival of the Crèche”

(Crèche: a three dimensional representation of the Nativity)

Sunday, December 6

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.*



YOUTH 9:45 am N-3 Christmas Program

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS 11:00 am Midweek 4th-8th Grade
Christmas Program

Dec. 13, 2015

The Sundays of Advent

**The services will center around the theme of
“Stir Up”**

November 29—Advent 1 Stir Up “Hope”

December 6—Advent 2 December 20—Advent 4

Stir Up “Preparation” Stir Up “Love”

December 13—Advent 3 December 24—Christmas Eve

Stir Up “Joy” “Hark the Glad Sound”

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Advent Services

“Hark the Glad Sound”

Wednesday, December 2

“The Song of Zachariah”

7:55 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9

“The Song of Mary”

7:55 p.m.

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 13

Sunday School & Youth Programs

N-3 9:45 a.m. 4-8 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 16

“The Song of the Angels”

7:55 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship, Dec. 24

“Hark the Glad Sound, Silent Night”

Candlelight Service

5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship, Dec. 25

“Hark the Glad Sound, Joy to the World”

With Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. only

Sunday, December 29

8:20 & 11:00

“Hark the Glad Sound, The Church”

New Year’s Eve Worship, Dec. 31

With Holy Communion

7:00 p.m.

Sent Forth By God’s Blessing



Pastor Urbach's Message

Greetings to you in Christ the Babe!

Gift giving! This has changed a lot in my older years. Gifts for my son, trains & trucks and yes, clothes. Gifts for my daughter, dolls & toy kitchens and yes, clothes. Actually there was a time when buying gifts for the grandkids was really easy. But sons, daughters, and grandkids grow-up and it has become cash and gift certificates and hopefully a tangible gift they like with a return gift receipt if you missed it.

But it is all about the spirit of giving. Now it's a special night in a motel with a pool, Christmas snacks, and a fun meal out—well that too has been part of the celebration.

Interesting is it not, Christmas, God sends a child, His Son. No cash, sweaters, gift certificates, a night in a fine motel—yes His Son, born of a Virgin, worshipped by Wise Men, shepherds and angels.

Our Sundays of Advent are designed to stir up a joyful expectation and hope for us as we prepare our homes and hearts to receive the gift of Christ once again.

One of God's good and wondrous gifts to His holy Church on earth are its Pastors. Our Pierre Circuit, referred to as Circuit C is having some large changes:

- Gettysburg—Pastor Daniel Tews has resigned his Pastoral position from both Emmanuel and the roster of the LCMS. Daniel has had a shifting thought in the theology of the Lutheran Church. While his heart and soul are clearly centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ as our salvation, he felt he could not in good conscience serve as a Lutheran pastor.

Pastor Tim Koch of Cresbard will serve Emmanuel as Vacancy Pastor. The congregations of St. Paul, Seneca and Christ, Lebanon will worship with Emmanuel at this point.

- Onida, Blunt, Harrold—Pastor Luke Edwards has taken a call to Our Redeemer Lutheran in Rapid City.

Pastor Peter Utecht of Redfield will serve Holy Cross in Onida and the three pastors connected with Faith will provide Sunday morning services to Trinity, Blunt between our services. Immanuel, Harrold will come to Trinity for worship and Pastor Utecht will take care of Pastoral care and the church business of Immanuel.

- To the south, Pastor Glenn Denke is retiring from St. John's, Norris and St. Peter, Midland. How those vacancies will be served is currently being discussed. A part of that discussion, a permanent realignment of several parishes in that area, is being considered.

- Winner—while Christ Lutheran in Winner is not a part of Circuit C, Pastor Don McKillop has also announced his retirement as of December 31. Interesting to note both Pastor McKillop and Pastor Glenn Denke have both purchased homes in Winner. Pastor Nies of Gregory will serve Christ in Winner.
- All of us in the Pierre Circuit wish Daniel, Luke, Glenn & Don God's rich blessings and we are grateful to the Lord for their faithful ministries!
- Faith, yes, our own beloved Faith. I have requested of our Board of Elders that I be released from my role of being the Vacancy Administrative Pastor as of January 4. While I truly love what I do and I deeply love this congregation, I believe this is in the best interest of the parish. We started this call process in the winter of 2014 and have called three pastors and yes, one of those Pastors we did re-issue a call too, so actually four calls. While there were many mitigating circumstances such as family situations, the shift from large town to a smaller isolated community and asking pastors enjoying good ministries where they were at to put it all up for grabs and move, there was also an awareness that the retired former pastor of 40 years is still



Pastor Urbach continued

...serving the parish, well, it in some small ways did give them some pause to reflect. The Board of Elders have accepted my decision for which I am grateful. I am writing this letter prior to a congregational meeting on Monday the 23rd of November so as you receive this letter you already have a clearer direction of where our call committee feels we need to proceed. I have made it clear that I am still willing to help in any areas they desire, but I need to go be “retired.”

I am personally grateful to another retired pastor in the person of Reverend Terry Naasz who has been so helpful preaching once a month and helping as needed.

My goal as the “Vacancy Administrative” pastor was that not one responsibility would be added to Pastor Baumann’s work. Youth, Education and direction to the Board of Missions is what we called him to and he needed to stay focused on those areas. I believe we have been most successful in that goal. So a typical month saw Pastor Baumann preaching twice a month, Pastor Urbach once a month and Pastor Naasz once a month. This has helped both of us to have some family time as well.

So back to the key thought—gift giving. Pastors are God’s gift to His Church. Faithful members are

God’s gift to His Church. In our joyous partnership in the Gospel the Kingdom of Christ grows and flourishes .

Worship too is God’s great joy, may Almighty God “Stir up” a great joy in us, for indeed “Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior comes.”

The “Hark the Glad Sound” theme will carry into Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Sunday after Christmas. Already I find myself whistling “Hark the Glad Sound” and I’m not even to Thanksgiving yet.

So, one more time I have the opportunity via our Faith newsletter to wish all of our Faith families a most delightful Christmas and a most healthy New Year. What a blessing all of you are to our parish.

The Lord be with you!
In God’s good and mighty love,

Pastor Brad Urbach



Our Sundays of Advent

- Nov. 29 Stir Up Hope
- Dec. 6 Stir Up Preparation
- Dec. 13 Stir Up Joy
- Dec. 20 Stir Up Love

Our Wednesdays

- Dec. 2 Hark the Glad Sound
“The Song of Zachariah”
- Dec. 9 Hark the Glad Sound
“The Song of Mary”
- Dec. 16 Hark the Glad Sound
“The Song of the Angels”



All of our Faith Promise cards for 2016 will be dedicated on January 10, 2016, the first Sunday of Epiphany





“The Fatal Fall”

In life, certain things seem to just dawn on you. That’s what happened to me during the 2015 Fall Pastor’s Conference in Spearfish, South Dakota. On our Tuesday afternoon free time, which is so graciously built into our schedule, I decided to try my hand at a bow hunt in Spearfish Canyon along with one other pastor friend. The best hunting country, in our opinion, seemed to be “up.” So we hiked, and hiked, and hiked! It was only on the return trip down did I realize how high we had really gotten. It was simply beautiful country, and God had given us truly spectacular views. As curiosity does tend to do with us, it got the best of me, and I couldn’t just hike down the gorge without seeing what was on the other side of this one particular hill. As I proceeded with caution, which I always do when hunting and hiking, I noticed the path ended and became more rocky, and as I approached the top of this hill everything suddenly opened up and I could see the river, the road below, and the whole entire valley from this one spectacular view. Then it dawned on me, “If you fall over this edge, you will fall and you will die!” I didn’t dare get too close, but the thought was certainly there.

“If you journey too close, you will certainly die.” As we journey toward Bethlehem-toward the light and life of the world, I can’t help but think that Christ knew

what coming to earth would mean. It would mean His crucifixion and death. His descent to earth would mean his descent to the grave. I know, not a pleasant thought at this joyous time of Christmas celebration and Christmas cheer. Christ the Messiah would come because of the fatal fall of Adam and Eve into sin—a fall that you and I are still feeling the effects of. There is no other story like this in the history of all the universe! At Christmas we receive a Savior who comes to dwell with His people in their sin, and in their misery. Jesus has come for fallen mankind, for you and for me, and even for those who hate Him. We didn’t do anything to earn this love of God, it freely came to us out of God’s goodness and mercy. Jesus is our Emmanuel—God with us! As the popular Lenten song *Above All*, states: “You took the fall, and thought of me... above all.” May it dawn on you each and every day that your God loves you, Christ the Savior is born! Merry Christmas!

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Joshua Baumann

Pastor Baumann

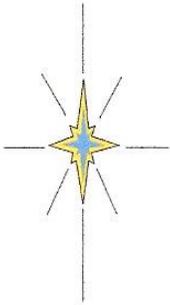


A tremendous word of thanks to all those who helped Margaret and I move into our new house! We could not have done it without you all! Thanks for all your help with new paint, new floors, exterior fixes and updates, for letting us borrow your tools, and just a lot of general labor which made the house look 100x better! So thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We are truly grateful and blessed by all of your kindness to us. Thanks for sharing Christ’s abundant love with us in so many ways. We would look forward to an open house celebration with the congregation this spring or early next summer, but in the meantime, feel free to stop on by for a visit: 511 North Evans is our new address. We would love to see you. Praise be to God for all your love and kindness to us.

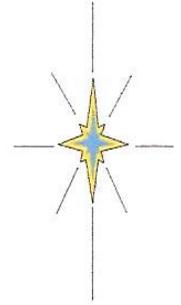
With Joy in Jesus,

Pastor Baumann, Margaret, and Family





Women's Christmas Party



All Faith Lutheran women are invited
Sunday December 13th at 7:00 PM
In the Christian Family Life Center at the church.

Please join us for a beautiful program
"God's Christmas Star"

There will be a free will offering for a Mission Project.
"Solar oven for Haiti"

Fellowship ~ Fun ~ Food to follow.

*There will be a gift exchange of something home made or
inexpensive.*



*There will be a special time set aside to install all officers
and coordinators for 2016.*

Hosted by the LWML



Sign up in the Narthex
This is a way to remember your
Loved ones and make our
Chancel area beautiful
At the same time!

Challenge Accepted!

Again this year we have had one of our families offer a generous Debt Retirement Challenge.

Here is the challenge: The family will match up to \$10,000.00 all gifts given to Debt Retirement beginning November 8 through Sunday December 29.

Our Board of Stewardship has discussed this opportunity for us to double every gift to Debt Retirement and they say, "Challenge Accepted." By our generous gifts may every member of Faith say,

"Challenge Accepted."

Christmas in November

Actually, it was Thanksgiving in November, yet with your generous gifts to Debt Retirement it seemed like Christmas because we were able to make two advance payments.

So here is our status as of November 1, 2015.

We have:

- ◆ Made 145 advance payments
- ◆ Saved \$528,906.79 in interest

Therefore:

- ◆ Our loan balance is \$504,473.15 on our \$1,000,000 loan. In just five years we have almost cut the loan in half while saving over half of the one million dollars of interest.

WOW—that's sizable!

“Thus Far...”

Note of Thanks

Pastor Urbach,

Thank you so much for the support you and your church body have shown toward Feeding South Dakota and our mission to eliminate hunger within our great state. It truly makes a positive impact on so many lives!

Sincerely,

Russ Hofeldt,

control operations manager

Giving from the Heart

According to legend, a desert wanderer happened upon a spring of cool, crystal-clear water. The water was so delightful, he decided to bring the king a sample of it. Barely quenching his own thirst, he filled his leather canteen and began his lengthy journey in the hot desert to the palace.

When he finally reached his destination, the water had become stale because of the old leather container in which it had been stored. The king graciously accepted the gift of his faithful subject. He tasted it with an expression of gratitude and delight, and the wanderer went his way with a joyful heart.

After he had gone, others in the king's court tasted the putrid water and asked why the king had pretended to enjoy it, “Ah,” responded the king, “it was not the water I tasted, but the spirit in which it was given.”

During the Christmas season, in what spirit are we going to be receiving and giving our gifts? Are we going to be like the wise men who came in search of the newborn king, bringing their gifts and bowing before Him in adoration? Matthew 2:11 records, “*And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him.*” And they offered to the Christ Child the gifts they had brought for Him,

“gold and frankincense and myrrh.” They gave with love and adoration from their hearts.

The shepherds adored Him, too. They heard about Jesus from the angels as they sat outdoors watching their sheep and ran to Bethlehem to see the Christ Child. They didn't have gifts to bring as the Magi did, but they, too, responded in adoration. Luke writes, “*And when they saw it, they made known saying that had been told them concerning the Child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them*” (Luke 2:17-18).

God gives gifts to each of us and uses us to tell the Good News of the birth of His Son Who came to bring us forgiveness of sins and life eternal. Some of us, like the Wise Men, are blessed with monetary gifts to be used to support mission and ministry. Others of us are more like the shepherds, able to “*make known... [what has] been told [us] concerning the Child.*” By God's grace, all of us can respond by giving our time, talent, and treasures from hearts filled with God's love. In these ways, we adore our Savior.





IN THE MORNING

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you the testimony for the churches.

I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the Bright Morning Star.” Rev. 22:16

Morning. The dawning of a new day. A fresh start. A new beginning. Have you ever noted that, after a troubled day and night, everything seems better in the morning? It’s easier to handle stress and work out problems in the morning. Often, before the sunrise, one can see the planet Venus in the eastern sky. Venus is sometimes referred to as the “morning star.” I often think of it as God’s presence at the beginning of the day.

As I write this, the church year will soon be coming to a close. Our scripture readings deal with end times, and the signs that will accompany them. It’s not a pretty sight. God’s people will endure significant hardships in the name of persecution, war, famine and earthquakes. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. It was with these thoughts in mind that I selected a spiritual for the special music offering on November 15.

My Lord, what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall.
You’ll hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,

Looking to my God’s right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.

Spirituals were the religious counterpart to the work songs sung by the black slaves. Slaves held informal prayer meetings, sometimes singing and praying all night. The songs that were sung drew from hymns, the Bible, and African styles of singing. Because most slaves could not read, the spirituals helped to teach them the Bible. The above spiritual drew its inspiration from an original hymn of Richard Allen, published in 1801:

Behold the awful trumpet sounds,
The sleeping dead to raise,
And calls the nations underground:
O how the saints will praise!
The falling stars their orbits leave,
The sun in darkness hide:
The elements asunder cleave,
The moon turn’d into blood!

The song served as a warning to people about the coming days of judgment and wrath, and the ultimate prevail of righteousness. It describes the apocalyptic destruction as found in the Book of Revelation, ending with a shout of Victory and the New Heavens and the New Earth. Because God intervened, and Christ, the Great High Priest, offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for all sins, the dark of night will be snuffed out and the dawn will appear. Faith endures!

In the eastern sky, preceding the sunrise, Jesus comes as the Bright Morning Star. His is the “True Light,” which gives light to every man and nation.

Stars of the morning,
so gloriously bright,
Angels in heaven,
resplendent in light,
These, where no darkness
the glory can dim,
Praise the Thrice Holy One,
serving but Him.

It was obviously no accident that a star marked the place where Jesus was born!

Karen Lindbloom





Men's Fellowship

All men of our Parish are invited to our Men's Christmas Fellowship. It is on Monday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m.—easy to remember 7—7 in the Living Room. Please bring a snack to share and enjoy a few hands of court whist. Beverage will be provid-

ed and there will be a few small gift certificates as prizes.



A Trunk 'N' Treat Thank You

Thanks so much to all of you who made our Trunk 'N' Treat so successful. It was a great event for all! Thanks to our "Trunks", our Board of Missions, our LYF Youth, Those who donated candy, and all those of the community that participated in this fun evening.



Faith Women's LWML

Christmas Party

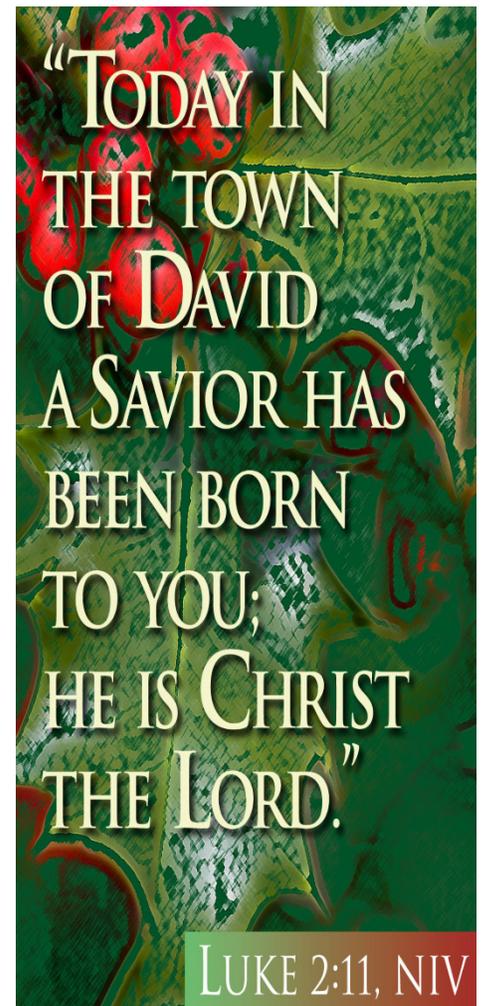
Sunday, December 13
7:00 p.m.

The LWML will also have its Installation of Officers and Coordinators This evening.

Official Acts

Deaths

Mavryck Steven Olson



Blood Drive

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive is on Thursday December 3rd from 11:30 to 5:30. To make an appointment call Char Russell @ 224-1160 or Sandy Bales @224-4245. You can go online at blood-hero.com then enter link pierrefaith. We are always looking for new donors so give us a call.





FLC 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 view the trees at the Capitol and to feed the geese. The highlight of the month is our Christmas programs which will be held Mon-

day, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22. Each session has its own program in which the children act out the first Christmas. Everyone is welcome to come to our program!

We also made stars for a tree in the church Narthex – please 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

FLC Day Care News

Greetings, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, from Faith Lutheran Daycare!

Circle lessons in November were Pharaoh’s Dream, Joseph Saves His Family, A Baby in a Basket, and A Burning Bush. The stories can be found in Genesis and Exodus. Our Lessons for December are An Angel Visits Mary, Baby Jesus is Born, Shepherds Visit, and Simeon and Anna Meet.

In November our crafts and art project focused on giving thanks in the many ways we have to give thanks for. In December our crafts focus on Jesus’ Birth! Our center’s wall art is constantly changing. Please stop in to see some of the crafts on display in and around the daycare. The children are all so proud of their projects!

Please continue to keep the daycare in your prayers as we strive to provide the best childcare possible. If you have any craft items, tissue, baby wipes or gently used toys you would like to donate; please let Katie know. We will make use of every resource offered. As always, Dakotamart receipts, Box Tops, and Campbell's labels are always greatly appreciated and offer service to Faith Lutheran Church, our preschool, and our Daycare programs.

Give thanks to God! December is going to be a fun time for Faith Lutheran Daycare.

Katie Barker

Faith Lutheran Daycare, Director





Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship

7:00 p.m.



*"Bethlehem...
out of you will come...
one who will be ruler over Israel."*
MICAH 5:2. NIV

Forever Young



Seniors' Gathering

Our December Forever Young will be held December 17, the third Thursday at high noon. This will be our regular potluck. All retired and semi-retired members are invited to come and enjoy good food and great company! Come join us for food and Christmas carols!

Christmas Program and Practice Schedule

Music practices will be held during regular Midweek and Sunday School times throughout the month of December.

Christmas Programs

Sunday, December 13th

N—3rd Grade

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary (during regular Sunday School time)

Sunday, December 13th

4th—8th Grade

"Message in the Manger"

11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

Our Dress Rehearsals are:

Saturday, December 12th

N—3rd grades at 9:30 a.m.

4th—8th grades at 11:00 a.m.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Baumann at the church office at:
(605) 224-2216.



Youth News



Children's Christmas Programs... are going to be Sunday, December 13th with the Nursery – 3rd grade program, *Joy to the World*, taking place at 9:45; and the 4-8th grade program, *'Hark the Glad Songs'*, happening at 11 o'clock morning service. Christmas program dress rehearsals will be Saturday, Dec. 12th from 9:30-11 a.m. for Nursery – 3rd grade, and 11:00-12:30 p.m. for 4-8th grades. Thanks in advance for the wonderful ways in which each parent encourages and allows their child to share their faith and the Gospel story at Faith Lutheran.

L.Y.F. Kuchen Bake Sale... The High School Youth Group will once again be selling fresh baked Kuchen the morning of Dec. 12th and 13th. In years past they've offered: blueberry, cottage cheese, and apricot. At \$10 each, what's not to like!?! Please help support if you are able.

Crèche festival is Dec. 6th! Please come from 1:30 to 4:00 with our live nativity at 3:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran. A crèche is a group of figures arranged to represent the birth of Jesus Christ.



Midweek Christmas Party at the Aquatic Center... Class on December 16th will be substituted with a swim party at the Aquatic Center from 6:45 to 7:45p.m. Kids are welcome to stay longer to swim but MUST be accompanied by an adult after 7:45. Those not staying with a parent or guardian after 7:45 should be picked up by a parent or guardian at the Aquatic Center **no later than 8:00 p.m.** There is no cost for the evening. Faith Lutheran will be covering the entrance cost. Those who have memberships at the Aquatic Center should use those. We will have drinks and snacks

available as well. Our way of saying thanks for a job well done at our Children's Christmas programs.

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive Thursday, December 3rd from 11:30 to 5:30 p.m... Those who are able to give (16+ yrs), are encouraged to sign-up to donate blood.

Advent Services... Please join the congregation for Advent worship Wednesday evenings on Dec. 2nd, the 9th, and the 16th at 7:55 p.m.

ACOLYTES

December 6

Early: Jonathan Geuther, Kimberlee Geuther
Late: Melissa Hedglin, Jesse Jares

December 13

Early: Cassandra Ryckman, Samuel Ryckman
Late: Kassie Tronvold, Kailee Schultz

December 20

Early: Rebecca Norris, Kenzie Trujillo
Late: Britney Hicks, Bailey Siebrasse

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 (need 5) Caiden Jost, Tucker Berens, Joseph King, Daniel Voita, Cassandra VanDeWiele

7:30 (need 5) Hannah Lingle, Megan Pease, Wyatt Loesch, Jaden Filler, Samantha Axtell

December 25 Christmas Day

10:30 Kassie Tronvold, Kailee Schultz

December 27

Early: Cassie Axtell, Dillon Axtell
Late: Chloe Kaiser, Carson Tschetter

December 31 New Years Eve

7:00 Austin Mammenga, Adam Schochenmaier

Your worship life will be blessed because of it. Lord, stir our hearts.

Upcoming Youth Dates to Keep in Mind:

Dec. 12th & 13th L.Y.F. Kuchen Bake Sale!
Dec. 13th Children's Christmas Programs N-3 @ 9:45; 4-8 @ 11:00 o'clock
Dec. 16th Midweek Swim Party at the Aquatic Center, 6:45-7:45
Dec. 20 & 27 No Sunday School Class
Dec. 23 & 30 No Midweek Classes
Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Worship - 5:00 / 7:30
Dec. 25th Christmas Day Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Jan. 3rd Sunday School Resumes
Jan. 6th Midweek Resumes