



DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



9:30 am N-3 Christmas Program

"Behold the Child"



Unto Us a Child is Born!

Special Advent and Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, December 4 (7:00 pm)

Praying, COME, LORD JESUS, to Him Who Has Come to Defeat the Devil

Wednesday, December 11 (7:00 pm)

Praying, COME, LORD JESUS, to Him Who Comes to Lead Us in Daily Life

Wednesday, December 18 (7:00 pm)

Praying, COME, LORD JESUS, to Him Who Will Come Again to Bring Final Victory

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship

December 22, 2019

8:20 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve, December 24

Praying COME, LORD JESUS to Him Who Has Come to Create Faith

5:00pm and 7:30pm

Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, December 25

Praying COME, LORD JESUS to Him Who Brings the Enlightening Word

9:00am Worship with

Holy Communion





Often our circumstances have great influence on our day to day living. For example, a long period of overcast and dreary weather can influence how we feel. If our personal finances are tight (and whose aren't), we feel those pressures in life. If we are very well to do and major downturns in markets take 30% or 50 % of our net worth, people feel the impact. If we have a sudden turn of events in our personal health or a member of the family, it affects our lives.

It's in the middle of these circumstances that greeting of the season rings out: "Merry Christmas." Though we hear it less and less these days it, nevertheless, carries with it a message of peace, joy, love, and hope.

The words "Merry Christmas" are a greeting of good news for those who believe. But how can we enjoy good news when life seems so difficult? Can there be some semblance of good in a world where only despair and darkness reign?

"Merry Christmas" remind us that good news has indeed come into this world and took on human flesh when God sent Jesus. It reminds us that whatever our circumstance God loves us and wants what's best for us. Jesus came as a powerful light that breaks through the despair and darkness. Forgiveness for sinners and the promise of His care through every circumstance cannot bring to an end the life we have in Jesus. This is what Merry Christmas means for the one who trusts in Christ.

The apostle Paul knew this and had the confidence to proclaim:

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ...²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ...³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ...³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:18-26, 28, 31-35, 38-39)

Whatever your circumstance this Christmas season, I pray God's peace, joy, love, and hope be upon you and your loved ones. Merry Christmas!

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Pastor Coy T. Rji





“Christ in Your Ears”

As we investigate the items in God’s house, we want to describe their purpose. Last month, we looked at the altar. The altar is the focal point of our sanctuary at Faith (along with the cross). What we put on the altar is the most important part of our worship: the body and blood of Jesus. The altar gives us Jesus in a tangible form. We eat him and drink him. But the altar is not the only item that gives Jesus to us. The next item, or pair of items, also do that. The lectern and pulpit give us Jesus in an audible form; they put Christ in your ears.

The lectern is where we hear the readings. The pulpit is where we hear the sermon. Both of these items

flank the altar. As you look from the pews, the lectern is on your left, and



the pulpit on your right. The way they are positioned, you can look directly ahead and see Jesus. His body and blood are present on the altar. And you can also hear Jesus. The sound of his words comes at you from multiple angles. In the readings, you hear the mighty deeds of God. In the sermon, you hear how those words make you into the people of God.

The lectern and pulpit are fixed to the ground and do not move. But God’s Word is not restricted to a single place. Sometimes, the Word of God is spoken in the midst of the people. This happens occasionally at Faith, and you may have seen it at other churches too. Instead of doing a reading from the lectern, the reader may come into the middle of the sanctuary. This is called a “Gospel Procession.” The Gospel lesson is read from the sanctuary instead of at the lectern. But this is more than a different setting for God’s Word. The Gospel Procession has meaning for you as God’s people.

In Jesus, God’s Word

comes down to earth. Most weeks, we hear about him from the front of the church. At other times, it is important that we proclaim Jesus in the midst of the people. The Gospel Procession brings Jesus into the congregation. When this happens at Faith, something is unique in the reading. Next time you see it, try to discern why this reading was read from the middle of the sanctuary, instead of from up in front.

The location of the reading does not change the message. It may highlight a part of it with special importance. Either way, you still receive Jesus through your ears. The lectern and pulpit are there to make sure that you hear Jesus. This is their chief purpose. They, along with the other items in the sanctuary, are meant to focus your attention on Jesus. Next month, we will discuss another way that you receive Jesus: through





COME: AN INVITATION

*Come, thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for Thee. LSB350*

COME – a little four-letter word with a host of possibilities:

1. to enter into
2. to move from “here” to “there”
3. to extend/reach
4. to happen
5. to appear/arrive
6. to occur
7. to proceed/advance



At root, Advent is about preparing for the coming of the Lord. It is a rich and complex time in the life of the church. Advent is a season of joyous expectation and fervent hope. He’s coming! Emmanuel! God with us! The expectant happening promises that the Savior is coming to make things better and ultimately lead us to our heavenly home.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! Shall come to thee, O Israel!

I have always loved the season of Advent; especially, the music! We often miss Advent’s power because December days are full of secular events and preparations for Christmas. The busyness of December serves to distract us from fully preparing ourselves for the Promise and celebration of Christmas with all its meaning.

O Savior, rend the heavens wide; come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down; unbar the way to heaven’s crown.

There is a wealth of hymns suited for the time of Advent. The texts are full of anticipation, beauty and strength.

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin’s Son, make here your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

(Continued on page 5)



COME: AN INVITATION continued

Advent is a time of waiting. Because our God is a God of endless patience, we know that waiting can be a good thing. May we learn to use this time of waiting to prepare the way; to prepare a place for the Child to be born; a place in our own impatient and eager hearts.

come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

This gives way, finally, to the beloved Christmas processional, "O come, All Ye Faithful," where we are all invited to:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Behold, I am coming "soon." Revelation 22:7a

Karen Lindbloom



dates to Remember

Wednesday, December 5 (7:00 pm)
The Child Who Is Zechariah's Hope
(Is 40:1-5; Lk 1:5-25)

Wednesday, December 12 (7:00 pm)
The Child Who Is a Virgin's Great Son
(Jdgs 13:2-7; Lk 1:26-38)

Wednesday, December 19 (7:00 pm)
The Child Who Is John's Joy
(2 Sam 6:12-23; Lk 1:39-45)

Christmas Eve, December 24 (5:00 pm & 7:30 pm)
Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, December 25 (9:00 am)
Worship w/ Holy Communion





LWML Christmas Party

All women of the congregation are invited to the

LWML Christmas Party.

Sunday, December 8, 2019
2 p.m. at Faith Lutheran

Come for fun, fellowship and a time to celebrate our Savior.

The ingathering for the women's Christmas party will be books, toys or puzzles for children at Pastor Utecht's mission. Please keep the price at \$10.00 or below for preschool or early elementary age children. If you cannot attend the party and would like to donate, there will be a collection tote in the Narthex next to the party poster on the easel. An offering for Pastor Utecht will also be collected the day of the party if you wish to donate to that. Questions? Call Kristy Deal 280-7004

Men's Fellowship



All men of our Parish are invited to our Men's Christmas Fellowship.

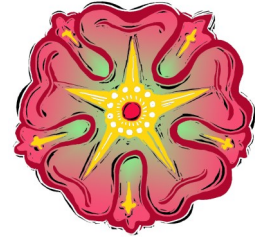
It is on Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Let's play some court whist this month. If not enough want to play cards we will do dart ball.

Please bring a snack to share. Beverage will be provided.



Christmas Flowers



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

The cost is \$16.00 each





Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,
The Board of Missions & Evangelism requests your help!
We will be taking blankets, clothing and Christian children's books and Bibles to Rosebud Reservation. We will have boxes set up in December in the narthex to put items in if you wish to donate. We will take **gently** used books and clothing but request that the clothing be **clean** and that the blankets be **new** and not used. If you have any questions please speak to a member of the Board of Missions & Evangelism: Justin Bell, Luann Zuercher, Dennis Ryckman, Shannon Zeeb, Norma Schilling, Mike Lauritsen, Melissa Neyhart, Connie Bolte or Carlene Barber.

Deadline to have items turned in is December 20.

Thank you!





Light in the World

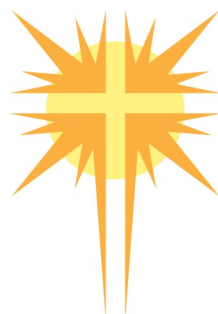
Regardless of how you decorate your Christmas tree, the one essential is that it has lights—the more, the better! As you drive around your city during this Christmas time, you see homes with various reminders of the season, and the common ingredient is lights—the more, the better! As stewards who celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we understand that these lights are but dim symbols of the One True Light, the Light of the World, Who has come into our world and into our hearts. Jesus told us, *“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me may not remain in darkness”* (John 12:46).

Our celebration at Christmas is much more than gatherings of families and friends and the exchange of gifts, although that is part of it. Our earthly celebrations have eternal roots. Before we were claimed by our Savior, we were in darkness. His appearance has changed all that, and we are now *“light in the Lord.”*

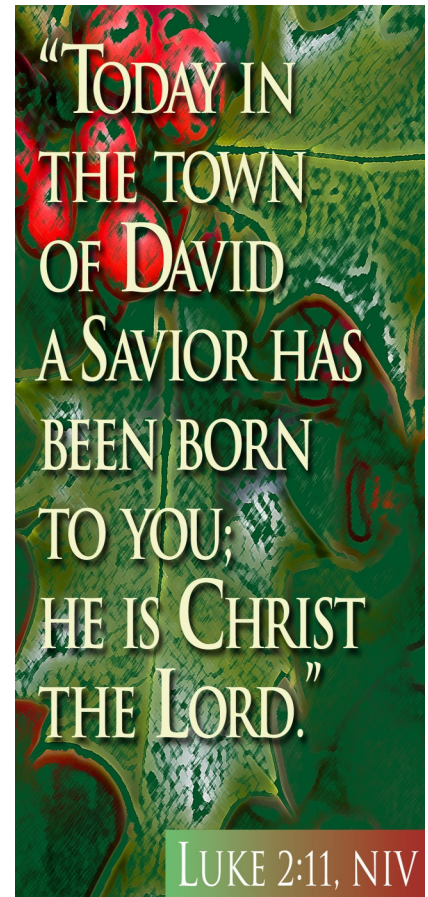
Because of who we are—Christ’s redeemed called to be stewards of all His gifts—the Apostle Paul continues the statement of identity above by writing, *“For at one time you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord”* (Ephesians 5:8-10).

May the light of this Christmas season continue to remind us of our high calling.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for being our light in a dark world. Grant us Your strength to be a beacon of light to others. In Your name we pray. Amen.

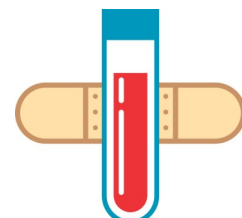


THE MEANING OF
CHRISTMAS



Blood Drive

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive is on Tuesday, December 10th from 10:30 pm to 2:30 pm. To make an appointment: You can go online at bloodhero.com then enter link: pierrefaith. We are always looking for new donors so give us a call.



BLOOD
DRIVE



FLC Preschool News

Faith Lutheran Preschool had a busy and fun filled November. We talked about the first Thanksgiving; 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!

During December, we make a gift for our parents, decorate our own tree at preschool, learn the story of Jesus’ birth. Our field trip for the month is to view the trees at the Capitol and to feed the geese. Our color for December is red, the shape is the star and the letters are R and D. We had Doughnuts with Dad to celebrate the letter D. We also made ornaments for a tree in the church Narthex. The highlight of the month is our Christmas programs which



will be held Wednesday, December 18 at 10:30am and Thursday, December 19 at 10:30am and 2:30pm. Each session has its own program during which the children act out the first Christmas. Everyone is welcome to come to our program! The best part of this time of year is teaching the children the real meaning of Christmas and how much Jesus loves each of us.



Praying that your Advent and Christmas holidays are bright with the love of Jesus! God Bless you for all your support and prayers.

Hope LaForest, Director/Teacher
Faith Lutheran Preschool



FLC Day Care News

Article Not Submitted

Have a very
Merry Christmas!

And a
Happy New Year!!!





Christmas Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship December 22, 2019
8:20 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship December 24, 2019
5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship December 25, 2019
9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship December 31, 2019
6:30 p.m.



Christmas Program and Practice Schedule

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

Christmas Program Sunday, December 15th

N-3rd Grade

"Behold the Child"

9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
(during regular Sunday School time)

Our Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, December 14th

N-3rd grades at 9:30 a.m.

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



*"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 19, 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!



A Trunk or Treat Thank You



*Trunk
or Treat*

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, if a bit chilly, evening at Faith.



Offering Envelopes

If you have not already done so, please pick up your offering envelopes for next year. If you don't find your name on a box of envelopes let Helen know and she will issue you a box. Your envelopes will not be mailed to you. You must pick them up. If you give through Simply Giving or through Give+ there are still envelopes in the box that you can use. There are special envelopes for Building, Missions, Lenten and holidays so please pick up your envelopes today.



And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ..."

LUKE 1:46-47, NIV

Youth News

Upcoming Youth Dates to Keep in Mind:

- Dec. 1** No Sunday School (Thanksgiving weekend)
- Advent Services** Dec. 4 / 11 / 18 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- December 14th** Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 9:30-11 am N-3rd grade
- December 15th** Children's Christmas Program: **N-3rd grade 9:30 service**
- Dec. 15, 22, 29** No Sunday School Class
- Dec. 26** No Midweek Classes
- Dec. 24th** Christmas Eve Worship - 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm
- Dec. 25th** Christmas Day Worship - 9:00 a.m.
- Jan. 5th** Sunday School Resumes

Advent Services...Please join the congregation for Advent worship Wednesday evenings on Dec. 4th, the 11th, and the 18th at 6:30 p.m. Your worship life will be blessed because of it. Lord, stir our hearts.

Sunday School and Midweek Children's Christmas program is going to be Sunday, December 15th with the Nursery – 3rd grade program taking place at 9:30. Christmas program dress rehearsals will be Saturday, Dec. 14th at 9:30 a.m. for Nursery – 3rd grade. Thanks in ad-

vance for the wonderful ways in which each parent encourages and allows their child to share their faith and the Gospel story at Faith Lutheran.



Unto Us a Child is Born!

ACOLYTES

December 1

Early: Katelynn Axtell and Emma Reitzel
Late: Jesalyn Zimmerman and Cassidy Miller

December 8

Early: Kamden Carter and Kaycee Carter
Late: Ladd Kramme and Lane Kramme

December 15

Early: Maria Noyes and Ellie Noyes
Late: Ayvrie Kaiser and Alyssa Stahl

December 22

Early: Collin Pope and Paige Brandt
Late: Natalie Fawcett and Jazmine Yaeger

December 24 (5:00PM, 7:30PM Christmas Eve)

I am looking for 3 acolytes at each service. If your student will be available please call me.

5:00: _____, _____

7:30: _____, _____

December 25 (10:00AM Christmas Day)

Taylor Warriner and Samantha Zeltinger

December 29

Early: Kennady Hanig and
Late: Trenton Gore and Nathan Haberling

December 31 (7:00PM New Year's Eve)

Lane Hedglin and Ajaye Hicks



Faith Lutheran Blood Drive
Tuesday, December 10th from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Those who are able to give (16+ yrs), are encouraged to sign-up to donate blood.