

January 2019 Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

NEW
YEAR'S
EVE
WORSHIP



December 31, 2018
New Year's Eve Worship
with
Holy Communion
6:30 pm

Come finish out the year



I want to know
Christ and the **power**
of his resurrection....

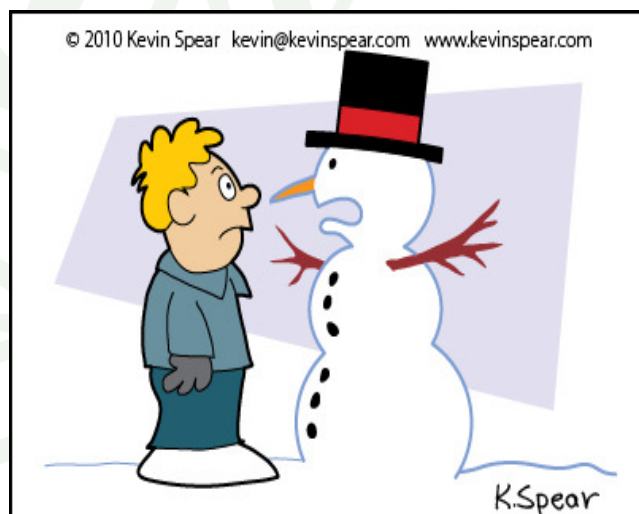
Philippians 3:10

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



in our Lord's presence!

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"I'd like to get saved. There's just one problem—
I'm terrified of getting baptized."



I don't know about you, but I always struggle with each New Year. First, I know for the next 2 months, I will be signing my checks with 2018. Second, I've got to change my calendar (thankfully I was given a 2019 calendar!). And third, I know that all the resolutions I make will be violated before the end of January. The coming of a new year is such a pain!

Needless to say, with every New Year there are changes. For example, by the time the New Year rolls around, many people begin to put away the Christmas decorations and hunker down for the last leg of winter. I guess the one good thing about the coming of a new year is the idea of a new start (even if that new start is short lived). What will the New Year hold? Some more than others are eager to leave behind 2018 and are gearing up for a fresh start. But who of us really knows what the future holds?

What changes (if any) are in store for us with a new governor? Will there be any more terrorist attacks in our country? Will my health improve? Will I lose those extra pounds? Will my children be safe and healthy? Some of these things we have some level of control over, but others... well, let's just say it's like accurately predicting the South Dakota weather. By the way, good luck on that front!

While we can't be sure *what* the future holds, we do know *who* holds the future! And the One who holds the future also holds your hand!

Ponder the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 73:23-26.

Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire be-

sides you.

**My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

Isn't it comforting to know that we have someone who has already taken us by the hand? God has a wonderful and tender way of calming our troubled and worried hearts when it comes to matters that are out of our control.

With God at the helm, what worries can there be? God has already promised to be with you and to lead and guide you all your days. He has promised to come again and graciously bring you into eternal glory. There is nothing earth can offer that is better than the gifts which flow from God's hand.

While none of us knows what the future holds, we have One who holds on to us through it all; especially as we prepare to enter the New Year.

God's blessing and peace be upon you in 2019 and beyond!

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Pastor Coy T. Rji



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“Given for You”

In our investigation of the Divine Service, we have crossed between the two major subsections. The first, the Service of the Word, delivers God’s word in a variety of ways. Its greatest concern is hearing God’s design on a certain topic. Through the readings, the hymns, the prayers, and the sermon, God’s word is clearly heard. Now the Divine Service makes a transition. While most of the Service of the Word changes from week to week (to hear about many different topics), the next portion, the Service of the Sacrament, is by comparison standard and uniform.

The Service of the Sacrament is concerned with only one topic: delivering God to your mouth. In this part of the Divine Service, God comes in a different way. The Word is heard through your ears. The Sacrament is tasted, eaten, and becomes part of you. Just as God’s words entered your ears, so now

Christ’s body and blood unite with your own. If you should have any doubt whether you are God’s child, the Service of the Sacrament gives a clear and bold answer: you are God’s, and God even gives himself for you and in you.

Every part of the Service of the Sacrament, which we will see in the coming months, highlights and focuses your attention on the eating and drinking. The beauty of this message, “Christ for you,” is enhanced in a number of ways. One of them is song. Whereas song plays a strong but supporting role in the Service of the Word, song now takes the forefront. Next time you are in worship, page through the Divine Service in the hymnal. Song abounds in this part of the service. Notice especially Setting Three, where the entire Service of the Sacrament can be sung by pastor and people. The other

settings follow along with many opportunities to sing what Christ has done in this meal.

Each of these parts, sung or spoken, has a purpose that leads up to receiving the body and blood. In this bread and wine, Christ himself comes into your body. You become one with Christ and with the entire Church, which is itself the mystical body of Christ. The importance of this meal cannot be overstated. Receive it often. We will

Psalm 51:12, NIV



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Daycare News

Happy New Year from Faith Lutheran Daycare!

This month our children will be learning about Jesus and his disciples, as well as different things we can do to follow the path of God.

Our toddler groups will be beginning to work with the ABC Jesus Loves Me Curriculum. They will be starting with the story of Noah's Ark and work into the Story of Moses in the month of January.

We would like to say thank you to those who donated and time to the daycare in December, with the holidays being such a busy time we truly appreciate the time, thought and prayers given to the children and staff.

The daycare is currently hiring substitutes, if you or anyone that you know of would be interested, please let Shelby know.

Thank you and God bless!



Preschool News

A Blessed New Year from Faith Lutheran Preschool! We had a wonderful time in December getting ready to share the story of Jesus' birth with our families at our Christmas programs. This has been one of the best parts of the year for me. I loved seeing how excited the children were to learn about the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus Christ. I pray that your Christmas was a blessing too.

During January this year, we will be emphasizing the color red, the star shape, the letters MNO and the number 5. A special activity during January will be Show & Tell each day. It is fun to see what the children have for new toys from Christmas and some favorite ones, too. We will continue on with our tree study of raccoons. We will be making snow and snowmen projects during our art time.

The stories that we share with the children are all from the New Testament now, starting with Jesus visiting the temple. I like to tell the children about how Jesus was once a little boy just like them.

Stay warm and have a wonderful January. God's blessings,

Hope LaForest, Director/teacher



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We Are Here for a Purpose

Living for self is self-destructive, and it gives no long-term peace, contentment, or security. Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes that he tried everything to find happiness in life, but all his attempts led only to fleeting earthly joys and dissatisfaction. Solomon had everything and tried everything, leading him to say that all is *“vanity and striving after the wind”* (Ecclesiastes 2:25). Such is a selfish life which ignores spiritual purpose and relationships. After having accumulated everything that he wanted, Solomon said, *“Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun”* (Eccl. 2:11).

Although God made Solomon the wisest person in the world, Solomon chased after things that brought no lasting fulfillment. Nothing has changed; materialistic and consumeristic lifestyles of our day are just as pointless as in Solomon’s time. Security, satisfaction and purpose in life can be gained only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Paul wrote,

“I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). He is telling us that our old “I” is nailed to the cross with Jesus as our new Master, putting us under new management. Now we have a new existence with Christ. Christ’s love changes the direction of our lives—from self to Him who has made and redeemed us. The compelling love of Christ pulls us away from gratification of our old nature and strengthens us for using all the spiritual resources He has given to serve others. God’s love is the energizing power that is essential for every life. Indeed, He died for all people so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for the Man Who died and was brought back to life for them.

So, from now on, our perspective is that through faith we are all new creations. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through

Christ and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships (2Corinthians 5:15-18).



LAMENTATIONS 3:22, NRSV

Official Acts

Baptisms

Julia Anastasia Handschke
Trale Allen Pries
Charles Alexandar Berg

Funerals

Jennifer Davis
Lanny Blake

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YOUTH NEWS

National Youth Gathering

We have a good group of students signed up to attend the gathering in July. This event is a huge milestone in your Christian walk, and a great way to connect with other high school students who share the faith. Any student who is currently in 8th grade through 12th grade is eligible to go. Please come talk to Pastor Handschke or Mike Shoup if you are interested.

Fundraising for Youth Gathering

We would like the students to be leading our fundraising efforts for the youth gathering. This is your time to think creatively and help raise support. Bring your idea (a “what” and a “when”) to Mike Shoup or Pastor

Handschke. We will help polish the details.

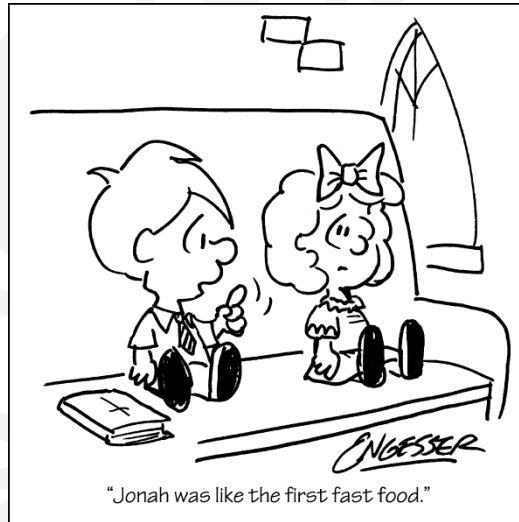
Youth Night at Pastor Handschke’s

Come out to Pastor’s house for food and fun on January 18 at 6:00PM. Pastor Handschke will be grilling hot



Midweek Classes

Our Midweek classes will resume on January 9, 2019.



“Jonah was like the first fast food.”

dogs and hamburgers. We had a lot of fun with the last night, so come over again. Address is 814 W 3rd St.

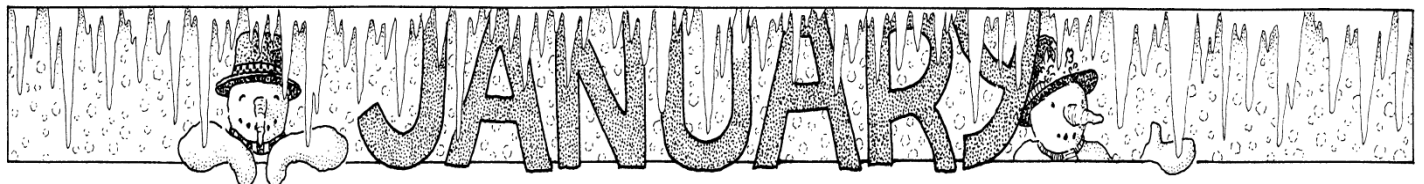
Sunday School

Our Sunday School Classes will resume January 6, 2019.



Therefore put on the full armor of God ...

EPHESIANS 6:13, NIV



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