

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 20 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



**AS WE GATHER** We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It doesn't appear on any list of greatest novels or plays written by earthly authors. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But as we prepare to review the mystery of God—the Son of God becoming incarnate in our human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary—the greater mystery is that He, Jesus, looks over your shoulder now in the retelling and hearing of Christmas. The greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. The Gospel—the wisdom and mystery of God—is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

*Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. Romans 16:25-27*

If there are prayer concerns for you, your family, your friends, or your neighbors, please put them on the yellow prayer request card. Our Board of Elders are prayerful with our pastors about these joys and struggles of our earthly journey.

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16b*

**Welcome to Faith Evangelical Lutheran on this Fourth Sunday in Advent!** We are delighted to have you in worship with us. If you are visiting from out of town, we bid you welcome and God-speed on your journey. Should you be from our community, and have no church home, we invite you to make Faith your church home.

**Preaching today** is Reverend Cory Rajek, our Senior Pastor. Reverend Samuel Handschke, our Associate Pastor, is our Liturgist.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at our 8:30 service this Sunday. In this Sacrament, our Lord gives His true body and blood for our forgiveness. Those who confess the faith declared at this altar and who desire to receive communion today are asked to read our communion statement found in the bulletin. Thank you.



**Want to listen to our worship service via livestream?** Go to: [www.faithluth.com](http://www.faithluth.com). Click on livestream and it will take you to the service or if you have missed the service it will take you to the archived services. We livestream our 8:30 service each Sunday.

**Want to listen to our worship service on your phone?** Call **1-888-502-3453** and follow the prompts. It will get you to the live streamed service or if we are not livestreaming it will guide you to the last service recorded. Please let everyone know of this service. For those without a computer this is a way for you to stay up on Faith's worship services.

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER

**Wed. Dec. 9, Att. 68;** General Fund \$625.01; **Sun., Dec. 13 Att. 199;** General Fund \$15,749.84; Building Fund \$240.00; Love Fund \$1100.00; Contingency Fund \$100.00; Thanksgiving \$30.00; Utecht Ministry \$1,000.00; Mexico Mission \$600.00; Board of Ed. T-shirt sales \$133.77; Advent Soup Supper (Rosebud Mission) \$252.00; Flowers \$16.00; Endowment Fund (Blessings in Faith) in memory of Shirley English \$120.00; Endowment Fund (Generations in Faith) in memory of Shirley English \$50.00.

**Endowment Fund** When giving to the Endowment Fund **PLEASE** make it a **SEPARATE CHECK**. Must be a **CHECK** as the account doesn't accept cash for the deposit. It is not always easy to find a check for the correct amount to substitute for cash or for a check made out for multiple purposes that includes an Endowment donation. The counters would greatly appreciate your help in this matter. Thank you.

**2021 Offering Envelopes** are now on tables in the Narthex. **Please pick yours up today.** They are arranged numerically and semi-alphabetically. If you are not attending services due to the Covid situation you may come up any time during the weekdays or weekends and pick them up. This way you can avoid contact with others. **If you give automatically by EFT or phone you still need to pick up your envelopes.** There are special envelopes for Missions, Advent, Lent, Christmas, etc. that may be used. If you cannot find your envelopes let Helen know. She will find them or if you do not already have envelopes, she will issue you a number. Thanks!



**Epiphany Worship Service** January 6, 2021 is the day of Epiphany. Since Epiphany falls on a Wednesday and we already have Wednesday services, we will have a special Epiphany celebration instead of the regular Wednesday service. Join us to celebrate the coming of the Light of the World.



**Christmas flowers sign-up cut-off is today.** Tomorrow they will be entered into the announcements for Christmas Eve. If you would like to sign-up please do so today. Thanks!

**Thank you,** Faith family, for your generous support of the LWML blanket ingathering for Pastor Utecht's ministry at Rosebud. We are sending 65 blankets their way! Bless you for your thoughtfulness!

**Main Street Living** **Did you know** the Main Street Living program is broadcast throughout South Dakota and into bordering states on two TV stations: KDLT in Sioux Falls at 10:00 AM central and KEVN at 8:00 AM mountain in Rapid City? **Did you know** you can see the Worship Service and Kid's Crossing on our website at anytime? All programs are streamed on [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com), and are available the day before they are broadcast.

**Dec. 20, 2020**

**10:00 AM-** Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series-Christmas Is-A journey back in time to the first Christmas with Benji and Waldo to rediscover the feeling and message of this significant day.

**10:30 AM-**Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod brings a special Christmas message. The program is interpreted and closed captioned for the hearing impaired. For more information go to the web site: [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com)

**Life Quotes** "As we look forward to Christmas dinner and the celebration of our Savior's birth, let us remember that Christ's coming into the world began with an unexpected pregnancy. Mary of Nazareth was unmarried and certainly had reason to be confused and afraid when she was asked to carry the Son of God. But she courageously let God's plan unfold for her and her Child and brought our Savior into this world, despite her uncertain circumstances." *Right to Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

***This Week at Faith Lutheran***

**Today: Dec. 20**

8:30 am Communion  
 9:45 am **N-4 Sunday School Christmas Program**  
 11:00 am Worship  
 1:00 pm Board of Stewardship  
 5:00 pm Board of Education  
 5:00-9:00 pm Capitol Cheer

**Mon: Dec. 21**

5:30 pm Board of Early Education  
 5:30-7:00 pm Predators BB  
 6:30 pm Christ Care  
 7:00-8:30 pm 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> girls BB

**Tues: Dec. 22**

8:00 am Staff Devotions  
 5:30-7:00 pm 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls BB

**Wed: Dec. 23**

NO Midweek  
 NO Worship Services

**Thurs: Dec. 24 Christmas Eve**

8:00 am Staff Devotions  
 11:00 am Christmas Eve Worship  
 2:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship  
 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship  
 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship

**Fri: Dec. 25 Christmas Day**

9:00 am Christmas Day Worship

**Sun: Dec. 27**

8:30 am Worship  
 11:00 am Communion

# Faith Lutheran Youth

*Here's what's happening with the youth of Faith Lutheran...*



**Bible Bowl** Increase your knowledge of God's Word in a friendly competition with other students from around the state. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through seniors in high school are eligible for the competition, which will be in March or April. LeRoy Kropuenske will begin coaching interested students now, either in person or through Zoom. Please contact him or Pastor Sam with questions or to sign up.

**High School and College Retreat** High school and college students are invited to an overnight retreat at Faith on Jan. 1-2, 2021. We will have worship, games, meals, and learn about the gift of our bodies, especially our gender. Pastor Michael Salemink, president of Lutherans for Life, will lead the classes. For more information, visit [higherthings.org](http://higherthings.org), "Retreat" tab, or speak with Pastor Sam.

