

January 2020 Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

NEW
YEAR'S
EVE
WORSHIP



December 31, 2019
New Year's Eve Worship
with
Holy Communion
7:00 pm

Come finish out the year
in our Lord's presence!



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

Philippians 3:10

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



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



One of my favorite things to do each year is to read about the new products for the up-coming year. Each December a great deal of time is devoted toward analyzing the best products of the previous year and the best new products that plan to make an appearance in the new year; a gadget to do this and new electronic devices to do that. Cool stuff indeed.

Yet, if you take a look at all the new inventions year after year for the past 50 years, you will notice many advances but not really any progress. For example, we keep coming up with new drugs to cure our diseases, yet many still deal with different sickness and illnesses year after year. They keep coming up with new and exciting ways to communicate, but yet people talk about the same now as they always have, not a whole lot. There are 10 new devices to make your life easy, yet it takes you so long to figure out how they work that they make your life more complicated. Perhaps Solomon was right, *"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, 'Look! This is something new'? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time."* (Ecc. 1:9-10)

I find it interesting (and quite a bit comforting) that you will never find a new invention for the next year being the Bible, since it never changes. Year in and year out God's Word stays the same. Some may think how boring it must be to never have anything new. Actually the complete opposite is true. Our Bible is far from boring. Every time you read it you are sure to learn something new, or at the very least your faith will grow stronger and healthier. And since God himself never changes and neither does His word. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for-*

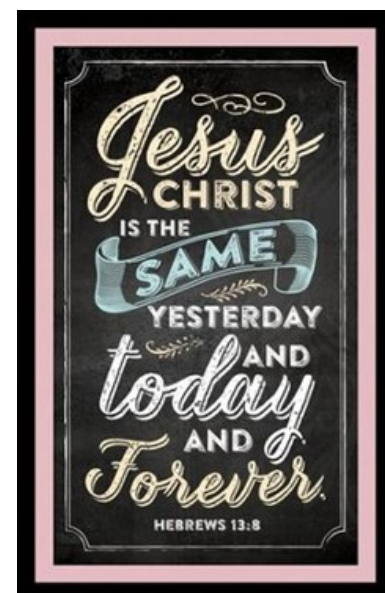
ever." (Hebrews 13:8) This can give us great comfort knowing that our God will always look after us like He has in the past. Our God will always demonstrate His love for us. How wonderful it is to have the changeless God, who does not change His mind concerning our benefit, but rather stays on His changeless course of love.

While God will not change in 2020, we will and must change from all sin and seek the Lord while He may be found in Word and Sacrament. Who knows, 2020 just may be the year the Lord returns! And we, His dearly loved children, ought to be ready for His return with pure hearts and clean hands. Let us make changes for the good in 2020. Let us each make 2020 a new year with our Lord.

I pray God's many and wonderful blessings upon each of you this coming new year. Amen.

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Pastor Coy T. Rji



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“Christ Before Your Eyes”

Last month, you heard about Jesus coming to your ears. The lectern and pulpit make sure that you hear the Word of God. These items in God’s house are designed to deliver Jesus to you. But Jesus comes in more ways than just your ears. Your eyes also see him. In many churches, and especially at Faith, a big focal point in the sanctuary is the cross.

Maybe a question that you have heard or asked yourself is, “Should Jesus be on the cross or not?” There are good opinions on both sides. Jesus on the cross, commonly called a crucifix, helps you to remember the suffering and death of your Lord. A bare cross helps you to remember that Jesus is not dead; he rose victoriously on Easter. One of these choices is not better than the other. This is not an “either-or” type question but a “both-and.” As Christians, we remember and celebrate both of these days. Good Friday and Easter are inseparably linked.

If you look closely, we have both types of crosses. The big one, the one you probably notice first, is a bare cross. Christ is risen; death and suffering are no more for him. But our processional cross is a crucifix, that is, it shows a suffering and dying Jesus. On certain festival days, we use this processional cross to begin and end the service. One of our students carries it from the back of the sanctuary to its place at the front. When we use a processional cross, we invite you to turn and face the cross as it enters or exits. Christians follow their Lord, and the processional cross is a great way to literally express this. You turn your body to face Jesus on the cross; your eyes follow him as he comes into your presence or as he leads you forth into the world.

The cross is a way for you to see Jesus and to remember what he has done for you. The sanctuary is filled with ways for you to experience Jesus:

the altar gives Jesus veiled in bread and wine, the pulpit puts Jesus into your ears, and the cross gives your eyes a reminder of what Jesus does for you. Next month, we will look at the way that Christ first comes to you: the baptismal font.

Pastor Sam



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Daycare News

Happy New Year from Faith Lutheran Daycare!

The month of December, as usual, found us with tons of excitement, joy, and hopefulness. This last month we were so blessed by all the donations we received from our families and community – the kids sure are enjoying them! We also had a blast during our Parent’s Night Out Fundraiser; we’re thankful for all the staff who volunteered, the support from the board, and all our parents and kids who were able to attend. In the end, we were able to fundraise a total of \$850.00—this will help us immensely with the funding for the tadpole room! We feel so appreciated and loved, and we want you to know that we are doing our very best to reflect that appreciation and love back on the children in our care tenfold!

2019 brought us growth, awesome staff and families, an incredible new director, and a renewed hunger for having and bringing Jesus into our classrooms. We are hopeful that 2020 will be just as great, and we pray that our daycare family, church members, and community have a wonderful year ahead of them as well!

Blessings!



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.

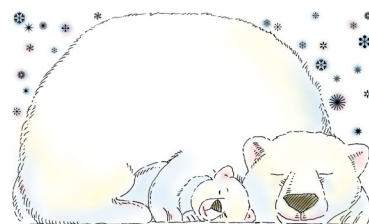
During January this year, we will be emphasizing the color blue, the shape rectangle, the letters K, F, O, H and the number 1. A special activity during January will be Show & Tell each day. It is fun to see what the children have for new toys from Christmas and some favorite ones, too. This month, we will make snowflakes 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). Our intimate connection with Him is seen in every aspect of our lives—spiritual, physical, material, intellectual, and social. Because of who we are

and Whose we are, our purpose is to submit to God and follow His leading.



LAMENTATIONS 3:22, NRSV

Official Acts

Baptisms

Burk Alan Johnson
Lexie Lynn Ogren
Ezekial Armond Paul
Joseph Michael Cwach

Funerals

Mike Vermundson
Ron Lawrence

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MOVIE NIGHT AND OPEN HOUSE

The Board of Missions and Evangelism will be hosting another movie night. This time we will be showing the **Chronicles of Namia** on Saturday, January 25, at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Family Life Center. Food will be provided.

That same day there will be an Open House at the Teen/Tween After School Chi-Ro (pronounced Kairo) house from 4:00p.m.-5:00 p.m. This white 2 story house is located on the corner of Euclid Avenue and 1st Street.

Please join us for these events!

Board of Missions and Evangelism



Please check out the traveling bulletin board for news from our Missionaries to various parts of the world. There are several new newsletters from them.

There is more of the news from the Stinnetts in Ethiopia than is in the article on the next page. Please check out the picture, letter, card and explanation of the card.

What we do to support our missionaries helps many people in ways we can't even imagine.



Missionary News from Ethiopia

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men! (Luke 2:14)

This has been a special year in Ethiopia. The Prime Minister Abiy has won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in surrounding countries as well as in Ethiopia. We are so thankful for his vision for this beautiful country and for forging ahead with his plan to promote peace and unity. These goals of peace and unity have also always been beautiful Christmas themes as Christ comes down to us in love, to redeem us and secure our everlasting inheritance with Him.

Many of the students we meet here at MYS are preparing to tell others of this good news and take the Gospel to the far reaches of Ethiopia and beyond. Those studying for higher degrees in the Master's program have great responsibilities in that they will train the next generation of evangelists, seminary professors and churches or synods that they shepherd. As this church now sits at 9.3 million members, has 9,036 congregations and more than 3,000 preaching stations and less than 8,000 pastors, she is the largest Lutheran church in the world and needs these leaders and the guidance that they will bring. We are blessed to train and give support to the leadership and impact the theological training with the truth that we in the LCMS have long enjoyed. Also, Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) has helped start the groundbreaking for a new building for the Translation Track that started last year. Additionally, on October 31, the new Amharic hymnal was dedicated after five years of joint work between the LCMS and EECMY. Eric taught a two-day workshop to help introduce it to several hundred music leaders and pastors from around Ethiopia. All glory be to God!

Our family personally continues to do well here. Not that we don't have our struggles, but the Lord has provided for our happiness and contentment here too. We recently lost our Amharic teacher to a local international school and are looking for a new teacher. Eric's continued PhD studies have increased the workload, but are coming along.

Thank you in Jesus' Holy Name for keeping us here in Ethiopia. The students here are so eager for the truth, and it is plain to see how God is working through His Word to enlighten, strengthen, encourage and prepare them as leaders and as His bearers of the Light. May God be with you and your loved ones this Christmas and grant you joy and peace throughout the New Year!

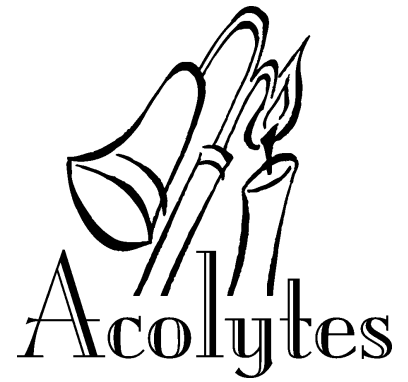
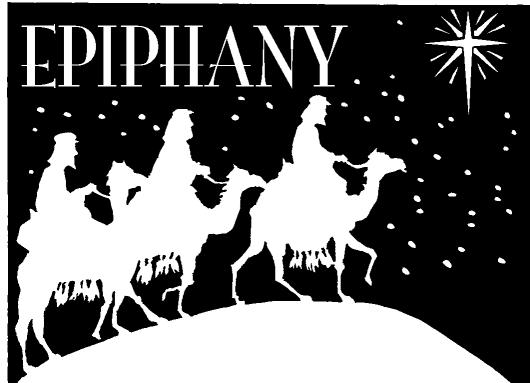
Eric, Johanna, Rachel, Naomi, Luke & Levi Stinnett

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YOUTH NEWS

High School and College Retreat

High school and college students are invited to an overnight retreat at Faith on Jan 3-4, 2020. We will have worship, games, meals, and learn about different ways of knowing and finding truth. Rev. Matt Richard (author of "Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?") will lead the classes. For more information, visit highthings.org, "Retreat" tab, or speak with Pastor Sam.



January 5

Early: Jacob Larson and Elliot Leif
Late: Rylan Derry and Jesalyn Zimmerman

January 12

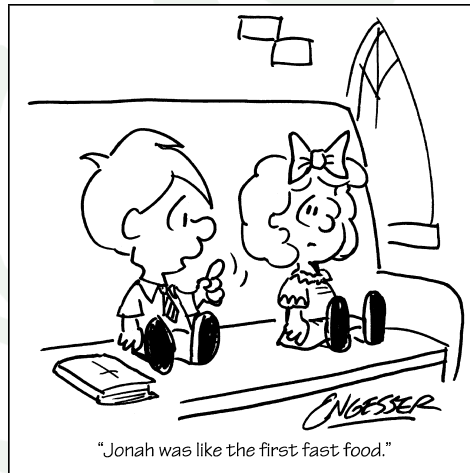
Early: Ain Peterson and Emiley Rajek
Late: Dayna Martinmaas and Molly Neyhart

January 19

Early: Jayden Nickerson and Kaylie Rathbun
Late: Joshua Ryckman and Daysen Titze

January 26

Early: Drew Schuchard and Brilie Schulz
Late: Shelby Roman and Michael VanDeWiele



Sunday School

Our Sunday School Classes will resume January 5, 2020.

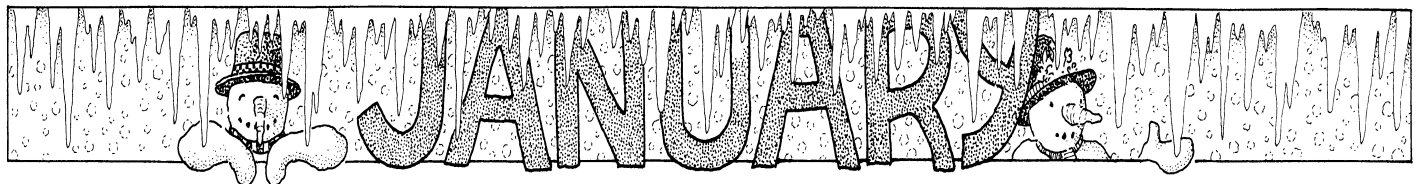
Midweek Classes

Our Midweek classes will resume on January 8, 2020.



Therefore put on the full armor of God ...

EPHESIANS 6:13, NIV



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