

## *All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 1*

All Saints' Sunday will have special moments.

New Memorial Stones will be placed in the Memorial Garden. We will do this every All Saints' Sunday. This year we had no new names added.

We will remember, by name, all those Saints of Christ who have entered the Church Triumphant since our last All Saints' Sunday.



- November 25th** – Thanksgiving Eve worship at 7:00pm.
- December 2nd** – Midweek Advent worship at 7:00pm.
- December 9th** – Midweek Advent worship at 7:00pm.
  
- December 16th** – Midweek Advent worship at 7:00pm.
- December 20th** – Sunday worship at 8:30 & 11:00 am
- December 24th** – Christmas Eve worship at 5:00pm and 7:30pm.
- December 25th** – Christmas Day worship at 9:00am
- December 27th** – Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 11:00am
- December 31st** – New Year's Eve Worship at 7:00pm

## *Thanksgiving Eve*

### **Thanksgiving Service Schedule and Change from Previous Years...**

This year's Thanksgiving service will be on **Thanksgiving Eve**, which is Wednesday, November 25th with service time at 7:00 pm. There will be a Chili soup meal before the service beginning at 5:00pm, but come when you are able, lasting until 6:30.

Meal will be served by the Pastors. The meal is followed by a hymn sing at 6:30. The hymn sing is followed by service at 7:00. **THERE WILL BE NO THANKSGIVING DAY WORSHIP SERVICE, ONLY THE EVENING SERVICE THE NIGHT BEFORE THANKSGIVING DAY.**

So again, Wed. Nov. 25th – Meal @ 5; Hymn Sing @ 6:30; Service @ 7:00. Hope you and all your family can make it! *There are NO Midweek classes scheduled for Wed. Nov. 25.*



*By One Hour  
Saturday, October 31*



<sup>11</sup> "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'"

Blessed. We hear that word a lot in church. But have you ever thought, "What does it mean to be blessed?" So often we associate being blessed with being lucky or fortunate. Often, we look at those with great wealth or many things and call them "blessed." After all, they can afford to live the way they want. They never have to worry about paying their bills. Blessed are those who can afford a nice home, a nice car we conclude. When they travel, they fly at the front of the plane and not in coach. In other words, many deduce whoever can afford whatever their heart's desire is "blessed."

But it's not just the rich who are called "blessed." We also think of the beautiful, those who are attractive, as being "blessed." Everyone wants to be with them. If they are an attractive guy, they can get whatever girl they want and vice versa for the attractive girl. We often envy the "beautiful" people of the world and wish we could be like them.

And it's not just the rich and beautiful; we also think of the powerful as blessed; those who have access to privilege and status. Of course, these things often go together: the rich, the beautiful, the powerful; the fortunate ones, the lucky ones, the blessed ones. People like pop stars, movie stars, and sports stars are thought to be blessed. Who wouldn't want to be Bill Gates or Warren Buffet? Or what about Tom Brady or Julia Roberts? Who of us hasn't wondered why we've never received the lucky breaks they have? Who of us wouldn't wish to be more beautiful, richer, and more powerful than we are now? But have you ever thought, why do we desire these things? Perhaps it's because we think that if we have these things, we will be happy, fortunate, even blessed. But are these the things that bring true and lasting happiness? And most importantly, are these the things that Jesus regards as the true hallmarks of happiness?

Yet if being happy is all that blessed means, we are quickly frustrated. You see, happiness is often elusive. The root word of "happy" is "hap," the Middle English word for "luck." Also, from this root word are the words "happen," "happenstance" and "haphazard." Happiness, in the world's eyes, is largely a matter of chance. It depends on the roll of the dice. Blessedness, when it is dependent on happenstance, rises and falls haphazardly.

By now you can probably guess that the way the world sees "blessed" is not necessarily how God sees blessed. Though we may view "blessed" as being filled up with good things and the happiness that results; in the Bible, particularly in Jesus' kingdom, it is "the dead who die in the Lord" who are blessed. And the shocking thing is that the dead own nothing! When it comes to rightness with God, it is a great blessing to own nothing; to be empty of one's own merit, ability, or achievement. Wise are the words of my former professor at seminary, Dr. Norman Nagel, who once wrote in a sermon: *"Sometimes, with drastic mercy, our Father empties our hands so there may be room for his gifts."* At no point in the human condition are we "emptier" than at our death. But, even then, our gracious God fills us with good things.

*"Sometimes, with drastic mercy, our Father empties our hands so there may be room for his gifts."*

In the Old Testament (i.e., Hebrew), the word for "blessed" refers to God's divine enablement, His bestowal upon us of His gifts. The same word group can refer to our response of praise and thanksgiving to God. In the New Testament (i.e., Greek), the word "blessed" refers to the positive, happy circumstances of those declared to be in line with God's will. In other words, according to God's Word, the word "blessed" cannot be separated from God's gifts...particularly His gifts given in and through Jesus Christ.

So, what does it mean to be blessed? Again, Dr. Norman Nagel wrote: *"In the Gospel, this word blessed is always in relation to Jesus. It rings with gladness, as is pointed to by the translation that says, 'Happy are those who know their need of God.' But happiness is often something so fleeting or shallow, and here is something from our Lord, a lively, joyful gift for all our living and all our dying. Not spoonfuls, not bucketfuls, but the 'river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb' (Rev. 22:1). 'And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace' (John 1:16)."*

Rejoice, because you are blessed by God through faith in Jesus Christ! Amen.

*Pastor Coy T. Rji*

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

## “The King Who Rose”



This month we have a new window to examine. The previous one depicted Jesus’ ascension, although it did so in a subtle way. This month, our window is straightforward and clear: Christ is risen! The story may be familiar, but the window draws our attention to certain aspects of it.

The tomb is central in the window. Although it is the focus of the window, the colors direct us away from the tomb itself. The tomb’s interior is the only black pane in the window. Every other one is a vibrant color. Even though Jesus was placed in the tomb, he is no longer there. He has risen! We do not look to the tomb but to the Savior who rose from there.

Just to the left of the tomb is a sunrise. The sun is risen! This event occurs so often that we might not even notice it. But we can see reminders of God’s deeds in unexpected places. When you see the sun rising, you can remember that the Son did rise. The glorious light of the sun, and of the Son, enlightens all people.

The next thing I notice is the banner with the red and white flag. But instead of a normal pole, this flag is attached to a cross. The glory of Easter cannot be separated from the pain of Good Friday. Our Jesus, the one who died, is also the one who rose. Our victory comes through both of these events. Jesus’ death and Jesus’ resurrection are vitally important to our lives. In our communion liturgy for Easter, we say, “By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life.” God’s promise to us is clear. We will die, and we will rise from the dead. Christ’s victory will be our victory.

After seeing these things, I also notice the hues of green. It reminds me of a garden. Jesus’ tomb was in a garden, similar to our landscaped cemeteries. In John’s account of the resurrection, Mary Magdalene stays in the garden, weeping. She has not yet seen the risen Christ. The lush green garden, a place of beauty, is for her at that moment a place of torment. But Jesus appears to her, silencing her fears and revealing the full extent of his resurrection. Joy and beauty rush back into her life. As we this fall see green things die, we are reminded that the entire creation waits for life to return not just in spring but on the Day of the Resurrection (Romans 8:20-23). What a wonderful day that will be. Until next time!

*Pastor Sam Handschke*



*Sent Forth By God’s Blessing*

## WHAT'S IN THE SILENCE?

*“The Lord is in His holy temple;  
let all the earth keep silence before Him.”  
Habakkuk 2:20*

Listen to the silence. It has much to say. Silence isn't empty. It's full of answers.

Now the silence Now the peace  
Now the empty hands uplifted  
Now the kneeling Now the plea  
Now the Father's arms in welcome  
Now the hearing Now the pow'r  
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring  
Now the body Now the blood  
Now the joyful celebration  
Now the wedding Now the songs  
Now the heart forgiven leaping  
Now the Spirit's visitation  
Now the Son's epiphany  
Now the Father's blessing  
Now Now Now

From a musical standpoint, we know music as sound. But it is also silence. It is the spaces (commonly known as rests) between notes that create rhythm, melody and meaning. Those rests may be just a fraction of a second, but can be for a longer duration as well – anywhere from one beat to several measures. Those of us who make music know that the silences are as important as the notes. The listener knows it, too.

What happens in the silence? Take a second look at the verse above. It's #910 in the Lutheran Service Book. The music sets the tone for a time of silence before God and is an invitation to empty our minds, seek His face and listen for His voice. It's about preparation for worship, when we turn our hearts and attention to the Lord.



“Now the Silence” was written to be sung at the beginning of worship. In fact, The LSB indicates that it traces the path of the

Divine Service, from confession to absolution, through Word and Sacrament. It tells the worshipers what to expect.

It was written by the hymn poet Jaroslav Vajda, and is not a typical hymn like we're used to singing. The construction of the poetry is unusual; there is no punctuation. Its beauty lies in the simplicity of the text. There are 14 lines; however, its power lies in repetition. The word “now” appears 21 times. When we come to worship, we encounter God – right now. God in the present – not in the past, and not in the future.

Vajda's text embraces the mystery of the Eucharist. Not only does he provide a visual picture, he also supplies a sensory experience – the essence of the embodiment of the Incarnation, and the joyful celebration that follows. Note also the benediction. The Trinitarian order is reversed; not what we're accustomed to hearing. What are you expecting as you prepare for worship? A little or a lot? Do you catch all the grace, or do you anticipate so little that you miss all the awesome and exciting things that are happening as the service culminates in the Eucharist and Benediction?

Silences within music provide balance, space and drama – maybe a surprise key change, a change in tempo or dynamics. Music cannot be all sound – there must be silent spaces within it. Life is the same. There must be silent spaces. Do you allow for silent space in your own life? During this time of covid, that shouldn't be too difficult. It is in those silent spaces that we are most likely to meet God. Ask God to fill that silence with His presence.

Karen Lindbloom



### In Giving, We Express the Love of Christ

Christian giving comes from the heart, not just from the pocketbook. It is an expression of love, care, and trust. It springs from the recognition that the blessings of our lives are from God. It is a heart that says, "Thank you, thank you, dear God. What can I do with blessings You give me that would be blessing to You?" It is to recognize that God is the ultimate giver! He gave us His only Son. It is to recognize that God does not bless us so that we may simply enjoy our blessings, but rather that God blesses that we may share our blessings.

In writing to the Corinthians about their giving, Paul used the Macedonians as an example. He clearly defined the motive of their giving. "...They gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us" (2Corinthians 8:5).

In their giving, they were led by the "will of God." This indicates their recognition of the Lordship of Christ. They were open to God's direction. They were so thankful to God for all the blessings He had given them that they gave "beyond their means."

May all of us daily celebrate the grace and goodness of God in our lives, and may we express our thanks and worship to the Lord through our giving.

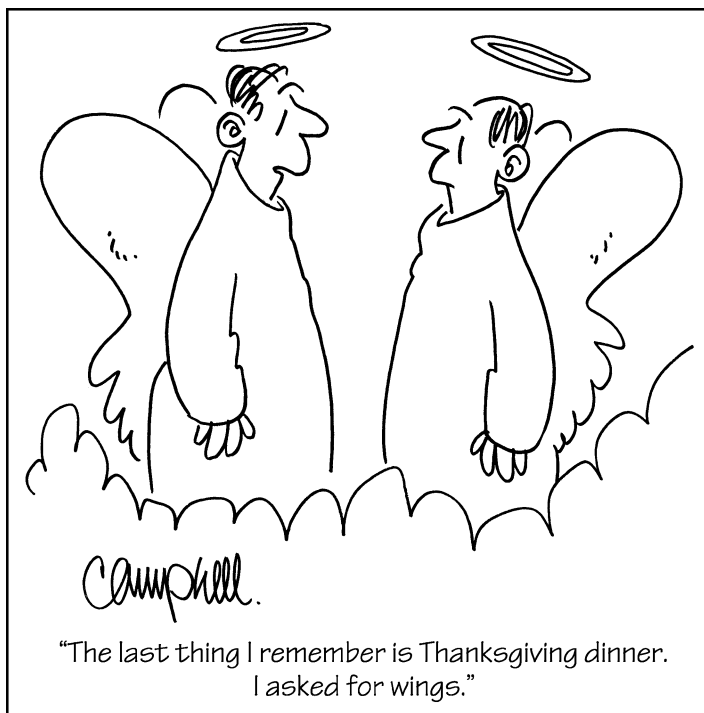
## Official Acts

### Wedding

Cody Shane Mattheis  
&  
Bridgitt Lily Mann



Deadline for the December newsletter is **November 16**. Any articles submitted after this date will not be in the newsletter.



Our usher teams are in need of additional members. All teams could use help but those most in need are:



January/May/September	8:30 service
February/June/October	11:00 service
March/July/November	11:00 service
April/August/December	8:30 service

Please prayerfully consider becoming part of one of our teams. Any confirmed member may be an usher. If interested call the office (224-2216) or contact Matthew Reitzel (222-0200). We would be glad to get you on a team.

## Becoming Successful God's Way

We may be willing to put an inordinate amount of time and effort into being successful because we value success too highly. Many have climbed the ladder of success only to find when they get to the top, that all they have is money, sorrow, and loneliness. Looking down the ladder, they see destroyed marriages, broken homes, and no happiness.

*Webster's New World Dictionary* defines success as: "A favorable result; the gaining of wealth, fame, etc.; a successful person." Scripture does not give a precise definition, but we know that it is God who grants success. "As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success" (2Chronicles 26:5 NIV). We can climb the ladder of success, but we are to climb it God's way. As God's people our success in life begins when we acknowledge that God created us for His benefit, understand that He loves us beyond our comprehension, accept His love, abide with Him in reverence and obedience, and faithfully serve Him and others.

C. S. Lewis wrote, "It is not your business to succeed, but to do right. When you have done so, the rest lies with God."



You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Deuteronomy 8:10



**Sunday School Children's Christmas program** will take place on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-10:45 am. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am for Nursery – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

## On the Lighter Side

Thought provoking church signs:

- ◆ If you want to hear God laugh, tell Him your plans.
- ◆ Atheists are beyond belief.
- ◆ A Bible that is falling apart belongs to someone who isn't.
- ◆ Be an organ donor—give your heart to Jesus.
- ◆ Cars aren't the only things recalled by their Maker.

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

## *Faith Lutheran Daycare News*

Happy November!

October was a blessed month to say the least. We welcomed 8 more children into our daycare program; this brings our total enrolled up to 55. Also, thanks to these 55 friendly little sellers and their families, as well as all the people who contributed to the Little Caesars fundraiser, we were able to raise \$1,140.00! With these funds we were able

to replace broken high-chairs and supply all the rooms with other much-needed items.

The daycare will be closed November 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of Veteran's Day, as well as November 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Thanksgiving. As we move into the season of giving thanks, we want to express just how grateful we are for the

continued support that this church, all of its members, our families, and the Pierre community provide us. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Each and every one of you plays such an important role in our ability to care for and minister to the children enrolled in our program. We could not do this without you.

# November



God Bless!

[daycare@faithluth.com](mailto:daycare@faithluth.com)



## *Faith Lutheran Preschool News*

A blessed Thanksgiving to each of you! I hope and pray that you are able to give thanks for the many 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.

During the month of October, we carved a pumpkin in each class. We shared goodies between classmates and told about our costumes for Halloween. We encouraged the children to attend "Trunk 'N' Treat" and/or to stop by our homes for a sweet treat.

During the month of November, we are learning about trees and bears. We are having "Bear Day" when each child brings a bear from home and we do all sorts of activities such as sorting and counting with them. It will be fun for sure! We are also borrowing a lesson from the Cultural Heritage Center on Cowboys. The children love this lesson!

We will have our Christmas tree in the Narthex again this year. Watch for our special ornaments!

Our shape for November will be rectangle, brown is our color,

our letters are B, N, R and the number is 2. Our Bible lessons will be all about prayers.

It is great to be able to tell the children the story of the first Thanksgiving and the real reason for the holiday—thanking God for all that He gives us. God's richest blessings to each of you.

Hope LaForest, Director/Teacher  
Faith Lutheran Preschool  
[preschool@faithluth.com](mailto:preschool@faithluth.com)



*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

## FAITH LUTHERAN YOUTH PAGE

**\*Reminder\*** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Midweek student should be completing sermon outlines – 20 are required for 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 18 are required for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Yellow sheets are available out in the Narthex and on the website. Please hand them in to the church office or to your Pastor during Midweek class.

### **\*Upper Grade Christmas Program Assistants\***

We are asking students in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade to help out with the Lower Grades Christmas Program. We need volunteers to dress up, like Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and angels. We also need a few students to read during the program. You would need to be at dress rehearsal, Dec 19 from 9:30-11:00, and then at the program, Dec 20 from 9:45-10:45. This is a great way to fulfill service hours for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Please speak with Pastor Sam if you are interested.

**\*Reminder\*** LYF: (Lutheran Youth Fellowship) Meets Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran. Any and all high school youth are welcome to come! Typically meets in Jon's Place.

## A Very Wise Money Principle

We can give, save, or spend our money. How we give, save, or spend indicates a lot about our values and interests. Are we willing to give generously to our church? Is saving important? Do we need to live in luxury? Our Christian values help us determine the wise use of our money.

A wise money principle to follow with our money is the 10-10-80 principle which is to give 10 percent, save 10 percent, and live on the remaining 80 percent. After we give the Lord His firstfruits, we put aside the second 10 percent in savings. If we need to modify the percentages some, that is fine; however, the principle should never change. Giving to God is always first, followed by a disciplined effort to put money aside in savings for the future, and then using the remainder.

Lord, I thank You for all of my gifts, including my money. Help me develop a proper attitude toward my money and to be a generous giver and a prudent spender. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



### **Advent Services and Midweek Class:**

This year, the Advent Worship services leading up to Christmas will occur from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and December 16<sup>th</sup>. Students will attend Midweek classes from 6:00-7:00 and then also attend the Worship services with their family.

**Christmas program:** Students in Nursery – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be participating in the Christmas program. They practice as needed during the



Sunday School time for Nursery-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The program will take place on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-10:45 am. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am for Nursery – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**Advent Wednesday Services:** Students in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade will be assisting with various parts of the Wednesday service. Serving in worship replaces the upper grade Christmas program. Each grade is assigned a certain Wednesday for serving. The students will be able to sign up for different roles, which include usher, playing music, or writing a part of the prayers. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*