



## DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501



*Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him*



Sunday School, Daycare and  
Preschool Christmas Program

### *"Symbols of Salvation"*

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

6:30-7:00 PM

## Special Advent and Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, December 1 (7:00 pm)

"Old Testament Christmas"

(Exodus 3:1-14)

Wednesday, December 8 (7:00 pm)

"The Lord's Tent"

(Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38)

Wednesday, December 15 (7:00 pm)

"Defeat Them as One Man"

(Judges 6:11-12-24)

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship

December 19, 2021

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve, December 24

"The Living Nativity"

(Luke 2:1-20)

3:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:30pm

Candlelight Service

First Sunday after Christmas

December 26

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



*Unto Us a Child is Born!*



"In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:16-17). Our window this month focuses our attention on the Christian life. How are we to live as Christ's redeemed people? What guidance does our Savior give us as we navigate the many challenges of life? This month's window points us in the right direction.

As you read through more of Ephesians 6 (and I encourage this), St. Paul lists many different pieces of armor that God gives us. This month we'll focus on two, since the window so beautifully depicts them: the Spirit and the shield. The sword of the Spirit, or the Word of God, is one of our defensive tools. The shield of faith is another one.

Although a sword might bring images of aggression and attack, it does not necessarily apply to the Christian life. I picture the use of the sword as defensive, as if you are deflecting and parrying the blows of the opponent. This usage falls more in line with the rest of the armor, especially the shield. God gives us his Word and faith, two spiritual tools that work together in wonderful harmony. The one strengthens the other. As you hear God's Word, your faith and trust in Christ grows. As that faith increases, it drives you continually back to God's Word to learn more about the merciful and loving deeds of your God.

The reason for these defensive tools is the spiritual battle that we fight. Earlier in chapter 5, St. Paul reveals our enemy: the devil and all his evil spiritual allies. Christ has already defeated them in his death and resurrection. Even though their end has come, they are still allowed some room to threaten and intimidate. On our own, we would easily fall victim to the devil's lies. But God gives us his armor to deflect all incoming attacks. With God's Word and faith, we can repel the devil's advances.

What happens if you slip up and allow an arrow to hit its target? This happens throughout our lives. We make choices which are not pleasing to God. The devil leads us into temptation and we sin. In these times, we remember the loving mercy of God: we are his forgiven children. Even though we make mistakes and sin, God gives us his forgiveness. He heals the injury that the devil's arrow has created; God readies us to continue our defensive stand. One day we will lay down this armor and stand in the peace and beauty of eternal life. In that place, the devil will no longer attack, and we will not need our tools of defense. But until that day, we remain vigilant.

Come back next month to hear more about the battle.

*Pastor Sam*



## EARTH AND HEAVEN: GREAT NEWS!

*“For Unto you is born this day in the city of David,  
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11*

When heaven touches earth, something is going to change. Shepherds in the field witnessed angels descending, and they fell into great fear. Being startled may have had something to do with it, but like us, they were not holy and worthy to stand in the presence of the Holy One. By our own accord, we are not sinless and something within us knows we have no right to stand before the perfectly holy.

*Out in space  
Away from the earth  
There is no horizon  
No line of reference  
To shape and orient  
the rays of sun  
as they slip into view.  
No dawning  
as we know it.  
A horizon is a planetary phenomenon.  
It is an earthly occurrence.  
Heavens and earth  
seem well separate and established  
by the horizon.  
Well divided and apart  
by that imaginary line.  
From our viewpoint it is so hard to see,  
so hard to imagine,  
that earth is in the heavens,  
that earth is part of the heavens.  
Perhaps it would  
take the power that made them  
to know  
that heaven and earth  
can come together  
in the same space.  
(Welcome, Holy Child.)*

As a musician, I love this poem/psalm/lyric by Susan Palo Cherwien. It helps the eye of the reader; matches the cadences of speech; and allows for pauses and breathing. I love the imagery, too, as well as the fact that something special is happening.

When December approaches, I cannot help but think back on some past Decembers, when I was downhearted and cheerless. Yet, when heaven and earth came together, and I pondered the great news of the shepherds, I felt the rough places that were draining me of energy and joy were smoothing themselves out.

When I was a freshman in high school, a member of our close-knit class of 50 was killed in a car accident a couple of weeks before Christmas. It was my first experience with the death of someone close to me. It was the topic of conversation everywhere in town – from the classroom and on the street, to area businesses and houses of worship. Our school Christmas concert was just days away – something we had all looked forward to, but now our hearts were no longer in it. I don’t exactly remember what our director said, but it was the way he said it. The concert was dedicated to the memory of Ann; there was candlelight and Christmas trees, and above all – there was the music – glorious, comforting, uplifting, a reminder that heaven and earth had come together.

Years later, my Grandmother passed away two days before Christmas. Her funeral was two days after Christmas. My brother and I were her only grandchildren, and when we lived at home, we saw her on a near-daily basis. She was our cheerleader and we were close. She was a widow for many more years than she was a wife, and a wonderful servant of the Lord – well into her 90’s. My heart ached. On the afternoon of

*Continued on page 4*



## EARTH AND HEAVEN: GREAT NEWS!

the viewing, our small family gathered at the funeral home. For some unknown reason, my five-year-old niece (who eventually became a Minnesota State Champion Gymnast) decided to turn a few cartwheels up the aisle toward the coffin. My mother was aghast; my brother and his wife smirked; I snickered; and my husband said, "I'm sure your grandma wouldn't mind." Grandma's funeral service was a Christmas celebration, complete with lights and trees, and our pastor delivered a message that God calls all of us by name and gave us the best gift of all when heaven and earth came together.

Three years ago in December, my husband was called to his eternal home. After battling cancer for nearly eight years, it wasn't unexpected; but I felt like a piece of myself was gone, too. Through the comfort of my church family – those who arrived at the house with food, encouraging words and memorials, to the special friend who showed up with a meaningful devotion – I knew heaven and earth had come together. I immersed myself in the music of the season – after all, I accompanied the Riggs and GMMS choirs at their concerts within the next week, and preparations for our worship services continued. Jesus, the only sinless one, would make us holy so we could stand before God without fear, and feel the utter joy of Emmanuel's presence and enable us to rejoice!

Karen Lindbloom



## Email Addresses Needed

Email is one of our primary methods of communicating with you, our church family. When church members gather, whether in person or electronically, we have the opportunity to share news, to build each other up spiritually and emotionally, provide comfort to each other, celebrate and mourn together as a family of common faith. The better connected we are, the better we can keep you informed of church happenings on a daily and weekly basis. If you are not receiving weekly emails, please provide your email addresses or changes to Helen.

Facebook Group: We also use Facebook to regularly share news with visuals and multimedia regarding events and regular activities and links to YouTube devotions. If you haven't joined this group, please consider signing up to stay connected.

Links to both can be found at the bottom of our website, [faithluth.com](http://faithluth.com)



## Fun & Fellowship for Ladies of the Congregation!

Ladies of the congregation: LWML is hosting our annual Women's Christmas Party, and you're invited!

Make plans to join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

- All new and current officers will be installed.
- Please bring a homemade or inexpensive gift for the **gift exchange**.
- We'll make Christmas brighter for many local children by taking a **monetary offering to benefit the local Backpack Program**; every weekend, the program is currently sending home over 300 food sacks with students in Pierre and Ft. Pierre elementary schools.
- We will also have an **ingathering of winter outerwear** to send to Pastor Utecht to distribute on the Rosebud Reservation — new or gently used coats of all sizes, hats, gloves, and snow boots are welcome!
- PLUS....There will be a program, games, and refreshments.



**Please join us for a jolly good time!**



### dates to Remember

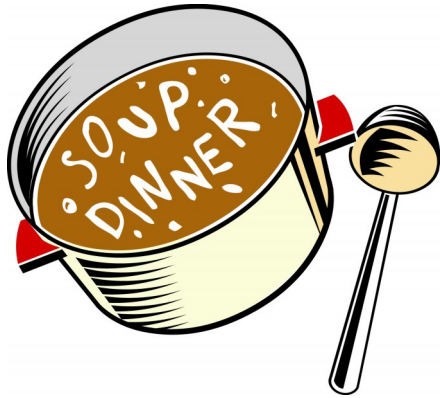
**Wednesday, December 1 (7:00 pm)**  
"Old Testament Christmas"  
(Exodus 3:1-14)

**Wednesday, December 8 (7:00 pm)**  
"The Lord's Tent"  
(Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38)

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**(3:00 pm, 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm)**  
"The Living Nativity"  
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**8:30 am & 11:00 am**

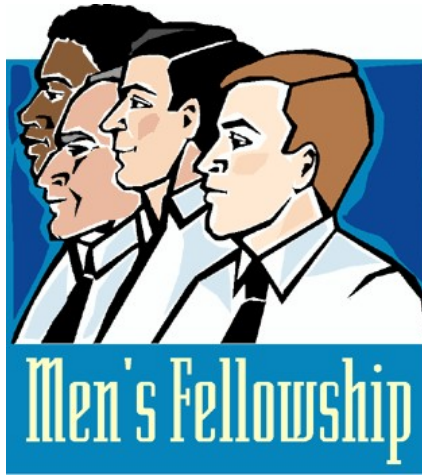


The Board of Missions will be hosting an Advent soup and sandwich supper on **December 15 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. before the Children's Christmas Program.**

The families are welcome to come for supper as they bring their children to participate in the program. We are asking for a free will donation with the proceeds going to a mission project to be determined later.



## Men's Fellowship



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

It is on Monday, December 6 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





## ROSEBUD CLOTHING DRIVE



Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,  
The Board of Missions & Evangelism requests your help! **We will be taking clothing, coats, hats, mittens, gloves and boots 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 clothing but request that the clothing be clean.** If you have any questions please speak to a member of the Board of Missions & Evangelism: Luann Zuercher, Dean VanDeWiele, Shannon Zeeb, Jolynn Haberling, Kelly VanDeWiele, Bernie Crusier, Megan Goltz, Anita Spitzer or Yvette Lafrentz.

**Deadline to have items turned in is December 20.**

Thank you!



## LWML news....Little Dresses for Mexico- co!



Little Dresses will be returning this year! We will again be making sewing kits for you to take home and complete for our Little Dresses project. The kits will be available later in February. This year, we will not be sending them to the Little Dresses for Africa organization, but instead will be sending them to Mexico with our mission team. **We are looking for colorful, new or nearly new pillow-cases.** When you are donating these, keep in mind that we will be sending these to Mexico with our mission team, so we prefer them to be bright colors or patterns if possible. More details will follow in the coming newsletters, but we wanted to let you know





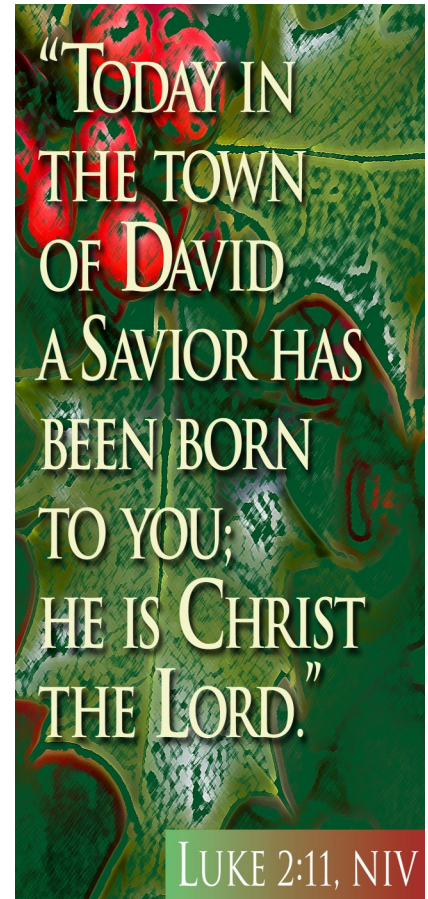
## Fed By Faith

Fed by Faith, formerly referred to as the Love Kitchen, will be actively starting in January 2022 to prepare meals for congregants and family members in need. These meals will consist of a frozen entrée that can easily be reheated in the oven or the stovetop, or microwave if thawed; frozen vegetables; canned, jarred or fresh fruit; buns/breads; and bars/cookies. These are meant to be used at times when someone has an illness or recovering at home, a new baby or a death in the family, or just a general need.

The ministry is based on Matthew 25:35-36 and will be used to share God's love through nourishment of body and faith. The congregation can be helpful by notifying Nancy Shoup at 280-2091 or call the church office regarding those who can be served by the ministry. This ministry will only be successful if we are aware of those in need and are provided with those names.

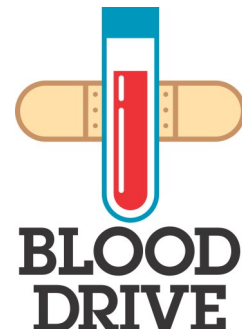
Members may also bake at home and divide cookies or bars in portions of a dozen and place in a freezer bag. These can be brought to the church office and placed in the dedicated freezer in the kitchen. It is requested you not use nuts or peanut butter in your baked goods, but if you do, they must be properly labeled to indicate that fact. If you desire monetary assistance regarding the preparation of those bars/cookies please let Nancy know and that can be arranged.

We pray God's blessing on this ministry as we move forward to serve our Lord through Word and action. Thank you!



## Blood Drive

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive is on Wednesday, December 15 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. To make an appointment: You can go online at [bloodhero.com](http://bloodhero.com) then enter link: pierrefaith. We are always looking for new donors so give us a call.







## 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! We love all the different answers the students give of what they are thankful for!!

In the month of December, we have so many things planned. We will make ornaments for Christmas trees, gifts for our parents, and learn about Jesus’ birthday and the true meaning of Christmas. Our color for December is green, our shape is star, and we will be working on the letters G and Q.

This year our Christmas program is going to be a little different, we are



going to have one big Christmas program with preschool, daycare and Sunday school students. This is the first year we will be doing this, it will be such a blessing to have everyone together. The children will get to have a Christmas party in class, they will wear their pajamas, drink hot cocoa, decorate and eat Christmas cookies, and watch the movie THE STAR.

I love getting to teach the children the meaning of Christmas and see all the joy in their eyes. Praying that your Advent and Christmas holidays are bright with the love of Jesus! God Bless you for all your support and prayers.



Mrs. Kampfe



## FLC Day Care News

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! I’m so excited for all of the fun things we have planned for the month of December.

Our Curriculum Themes are:

November 29<sup>th</sup>-December 10<sup>th</sup>: Hot Cocoa and Penguins. We created a bunch of center activities based around this theme and found a few awesome Christian-based penguin and hot cocoa discussions and activities. We will be sipping hot cocoa during one activity while talking about how God’s love mixes into us – like candy canes in hot chocolate. We will also be reading Tacky the Penguin and then discussing how God made each of us unique and special; We shouldn't look down on anyone including ourselves because we are different in some way. Another lesson includes four different types of penguins: The Gentoo penguin which is the fastest swimmer of all the penguins and excellent at catching fish. Jesus wants us to be fishers of men and

share the gospel with other (Matthew 4.18-22); The Emperor penguin towers over all the other penguins, the biggest and the tallest of their kind. God doesn’t want us to be prideful, but to humble ourselves before him and others (Matthew 20:20-28); The Galapagos penguin lives on the equator where it’s warm. God wants us to have warm, loving hearts and not be cold to others (Luke 10:25-37); The Rockhopper penguin loves hopping its way to rocky peaks. God wants us to rise above our world and live a higher calling (Matthew 17:1-8).

December 13<sup>th</sup>-December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas / Jesus is Born. We will enjoy plenty of activities with our visiting elves, Santa Claus, gifts and more, but our focus will be on Jesus’ birth and what that means for us.



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## Christmas Schedule

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship** December 19, 2021  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** December 24, 2021  
3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday Worship** December 26, 2021  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**New Year's Eve Worship** December 31, 2021  
7:00 p.m.



### Daycare continued

We don't have all our activities planned for these two weeks yet, but we're excited to teach the children about the true reason we celebrate Christmas! (And of course, enjoy the excitement of all the other things that come with this celebration too).

Additional activities we're planning for this month include a Parent / Staff Night where all of our families and our teachers can spend an hour or two getting to converse and get to know each other outside of the classroom, eating delicious food, and just enjoying good company; a Christmas program with the Preschool and Sunday Schoolers December 15<sup>th</sup> that we're sure is going to be so much fun for the children and an awesome experience for our children's families as they watch; and a Pajama / Movie Day on December 23<sup>rd</sup> before we close for Christmas on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We are also closed December 31<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Eve.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Many Blessings,  
Moriah Kiepke

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



### Christmas Program and Practice Schedule

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

#### Christmas Program Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School, Daycare  
& Preschool

#### "Symbols of Salvation"

6:30-7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

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

### One Small Child





## 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 Board of Missions, our LYF Youth, those who do-

nated 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 and your number is already assigned. There are special envelopes for Building, Missions, Lenten, Advent 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:

**Advent Services** Dec. 1 / 8 / 15 at 7:00 p.m.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** Children's Christmas Program:  
**Sunday School, Daycare & Preschool**  
**6:30-7:00 PM service**

**Dec. 20, 27, Jan. 3** No Sunday School Class

**Dec. 22 & 29** No Midweek Classes

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Worship -  
**3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm**

**Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>** First Sunday after Christmas -  
**8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

**Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** Midweek Resumes

**Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School Resumes

**Advent Services...**Please join the congregation for Advent worship Wednesday evenings on Dec. 1, the 8, and the 15 at 7:00 p.m. Your worship life will be blessed because of it. Lord, stir our hearts.

There will be a light supper offered from 5:30-6:30 pm Wednesday, December 15.

**Sunday School, Preschool and Daycare Children's Christmas program** is going to be **Wednesday, December 15** with the program taking place from **6:30-7:00 pm.**



*Unto Us a Child is Born!*

As God's children, you are taught in the Bible about the importance of giving. God gave the world the best and biggest gift possible when He gave the world His Son Jesus.

Scripture tells us how, on that Christmas day more than two thousand years ago, the angels, shepherds, and wise men all gave. The angels gave Jesus the gift of music as they told the world of Jesus' birth through their songs, the shepherds left their flocks to give honor to baby Jesus, and the wise men brought Jesus gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh.

The wise men brought Jesus gifts but before presenting their gifts they first gave Him honor through the giving of themselves. *Matthew 2:10-11 says, "When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."* Before you give God your quarters or dollars, do what the Wise Men did first. They knew who Jesus was, and they thanked Him for coming to us. This is the meaning of stewardship. God wants your praise and adoration.

Read the Christmas story found in Luke 2:1-20.



**Faith Lutheran Blood Drive**  
**Wednesday, December 15 from 11:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Those who are able to give (16+ yrs) are encouraged to sign-up to donate blood.