



DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



Sunday School & Catechism Christmas Service

Sunday, December 18, 2022
11:00 AM

Special Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 4, 2022
Advent 2

8:30 am & 11:00 am
"Angel Appears to Joseph in a Dream"

Sunday, December 11, 2022
Advent 3

8:30 am & 11:00 am
"Angel Appears to Mary"

Sunday, December 18, 2022
Advent 4

8:30 am
"A Multitude of Angels Announce True Peace"

Sunday, December 18, 2022
11:00 am

Sunday School & Catechism
Christmas Worship Service

Christmas Eve, December 24
2:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:30pm
Candlelight Service

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



Unto Us a Child is Born!



Life Together

This month we'll finish describing our theme "Equipping God's People for Life." Through the message of Jesus crucified and risen, you have the promise of **eternal life**. We have not yet arrived at paradise, but we are moving towards it on a **lifelong journey** where we grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus. As we examine our lives, we all have a unique combination of relationships and responsibilities. Our **daily life** gives us many chances to share the love of Jesus. The month of December is a wonderful time to reflect on our final part: sharing **life together**.

While we are going to look at how our Christian lives join together, we can first see how God is at the center. Jesus is not the kind of God who stands far off. He is God with and among us, God taking on human flesh. Christ draws us to himself. He joins together with us like a body. We share our lives because of him. You might (and I hope that you do) enjoy spending time with other Christians. But even the most social-avoidant of us are still called to gather in the company of Christ's people.

We join together for many different reasons. Our presence in worship is the most fundamental of these. This demonstrates the concept of gathering around Jesus. We come as individuals, yet Christ connects us as more. You sing, you pray, you speak the Creed, but our voices come together and ascend to Christ. We gather to support a family who has lost someone in death. Your presence, whether you speak to the family, gives them encouragement and hope. We celebrate together as new Christians are baptized and confirmed. We greet people who enter our church family and bid farewell to people who move to find a new church family.

Much of our time together takes place in our sanctuary, but it is not limited to that place. Some of the events of the past few weeks also give us the chance to share life together: Trunk N Treat, Harvest Festival, Hymn Sing, Christmas decorating, and more. Then there are the closer groups of people who study God's Word together, the classrooms of students who learn about God's love in Jesus, the conversations in our hallways and rooms. Our lives become more and more intertwined. We begin to regard these fellow Christians on the same level as family. We are brothers and sisters in Jesus.

I hope that you find encouragement both in sharing **life together** with other Christians and as other Christians share their life with you. While our **daily life** may take us to many different places, we return time after time to our Lord Jesus. Throughout our **lifelong journey**, we will learn new things about him and find reassurance and comfort in things we have known for so long. Ultimately, we look forward to **eternal life**, when all problems will be solved, all pains will be healed, and we will enjoy the presence of our Lord Jesus.

Pastor Sam





MEMORY LOSS...OR NOT

“I recall all you have done, O Lord: I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago. They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works.” Psalm 77:11 & 12

Memory loss is something many people fear; not just because it's inconvenient, but it can signal that a once healthy mind is now on the decline. I've become aware of more and more people who are aging and have been diagnosed with dementia, Alzheimer's, or a loss of any number of basic faculties.

As a musician, I have found that reading/playing music has sharpened my memory skills. I remember the first hymns I ever memorized. One of them was “Holy, Holy, Holy” that I learned in VBS. I never had a problem memorizing music in chorus – high school or college. (I also memorized worthless bits of information.) In Sunday School and catechism classes, we were required to memorize a lot of Bible verses and the chief parts of the catechism. Most of that is still with me.

*I will remember; YOUR works and YOUR wonders,
Yes, I will remember all YOUR deeds.
YOUR love is forever, redeeming YOUR people;
And turning YOUR face toward all their need.
YOUR way, O GOD, is holy.*

I've experienced certain things like songs, an object, or an aroma, can ignite a memory. My brother and I are still cleaning out our folks' home, and my nephew had dragged quite a number of boxes out

of the attic. I was going through one box, and there was a little white tutu that I wore when I was in second grade. The entire grade school presented a Christmas operetta called, “The Little Blue Angel,” and eight or ten of us girls wore the white net tutus our mothers had sewn. I hadn't thought about that for, literally, decades! But seeing that tutu brought back memories of footlights and blue floods, music, sparkling glitter on our net skirts, the young girl portraying the angel, the excitement of a live performance, and the crowded gymnasium.

I've watched my 96 year-old father declining the last few years. He has dementia. Dad knows us when he sees us, but doesn't call us by our names anymore. The last time we visited, he said, “Oh, I see your brother is with you.” I'm not sure he remembers much of what he did the day before, or the week before. Yet, he talks about the farm where he grew up, and attending the country church, where he said, “Everyone smelled like silage.” I've been in the nursing home chapel with Dad when our pastor has conducted a service there. On more than one occasion, Dad didn't even bother to open the hymnal – he knew the hymn by heart. That makes me happy.

I recall YOUR mighty power. Oh, what god is great like ours?

YOU call captives into rest, leading them in YOUR righteousness.

With YOUR arm save from distress, with a word YOU parted seas;

Continued on page 4



MEMORY LOSS...OR NOT continued

Roamed the earth, yet walked unseen, poured out
water, flashed forth light;

Crashing the thunder from the skies, shook the earth with YOUR great might!

Scripture often speaks of the importance of remembering, regardless of one's age. God says, "Remember that I rescued you from Egypt. Remember that I led you through the desert. Remember my commandments. Do this in remembrance of me. Remember my promises. I will always remember you." A pastor pointed out that, "Faith without memory will quickly morph into something less than faith. Remembering well is essential to an authentic living faith." Our faith is rooted in memory. "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26)

I will remember, YOUR works and YOUR wonders,

Yes, I will remember all YOUR deeds.

YOUR love is forever, redeeming YOUR people;

And turning YOUR face toward all their need.

YOUR way, O GOD, is holy.

Karen Lindbloom



The four Sundays prior to Christmas are the four Sundays of Advent, which begin the church year. The purpose of Advent is not only to prepare you to celebrate the birth of Jesus which occurred over two thousand years ago but also to prepare you for His second coming. Jesus, Who came to you in a stable, will come again when the trumpet sounds in glory on the Last Day. The New Testament stresses that Christians must be ready at all times for the second coming. You are to live with joyful expectation. Whether by Jesus' return or our own deaths, we should always be prepared to meet Him. Peter wrote, "*The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all keep loving one another...in order that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*" (1 Peter 4:7-10).



Fun & Fellowship for Ladies of the Congregation!

SWEET CHRISTMAS



What: LWML Christmas Party

When: Sunday, December 11, 2:00 pm

Where: Faith Lutheran Fellowship Hall

Who: All Women of Faith Lutheran
Church



Please join us for an afternoon of merriment, fellowship, songs and games as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

In gratitude for the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem, we will have an ingathering of monetary gifts for Birthright of Pierre, in lieu of a gift exchange.



Forever Young

Join us at noon on December 15 (the third Thursday of the month) for potluck.

Those members 55 years old and older are encouraged to come for good food and great fellowship with fellow members.



POTLUCK DINNER
FOR SENIORS



December Teachers

meeting will be December 12th at 7 p.m. This is an especially important meeting for all teachers. If you are teaching Sunday School or Catechism, please attend. New and vital information will be shared!



“Music praises God. Music is well or better able to praise Him than the building of the church and all its decoration; it is the Church’s greatest ornament.”

Igor Stravinsky
(1958)

Men’s Fellowship



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

Our gathering is on Monday, December 5 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 CHRISTMAS DRIVE



Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

The Board of Missions & Evangelism requests your help with an in-gathering of gifts for Pastor Utecht to distribute in Rosebud.

Gifts can be gently used or new items (under \$10). Bring the items unwrapped. The Board of Missions will wrap them and mark them as to boy or girl and what age group.

Gifts for children, teens and adults will be appreciated. Some ideas are: books, board games, balls, necklaces, cars, dolls, puzzles, etc.

Pastor Utecht indicated that they do not need any clothing at this time.

Collection boxes are in the Narthex.

Pastor Utecht is so thankful that Faith Lutheran takes such good care of him and the Rosebud community.

Dennis Ryckman plans to deliver the

items before Christmas, likely Sunday, December 18.

The congregation is encouraged to go with Dennis and join in the caroling, puppet show, and help serve a meal.

Deadline to have items turned in is Friday, December 16.

Thank you!





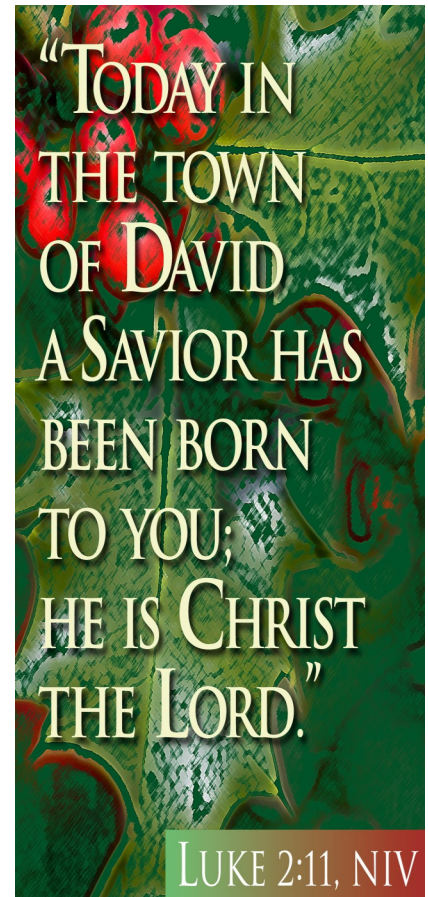
Fed By Faith

Fed by Faith, formerly referred to as the Love Kitchen, actively started 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.

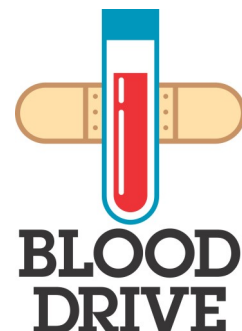
Members may also bake at home and divide cookies or bars in portions of a dozen and place in a freezer bag. These can be brought to the church office and placed in the dedicated freezer in the kitchen. It is requested you not use nuts or peanut butter in your baked goods, but if you do, they must be 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 14 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. To make an appointment: You can go online at vitalant.org then enter code: pierrefaith. We are always looking for new donors so give us a call.





FLC Preschool News

We are so excited for the month of December, It's the most wonderful time of the year!! We get to talk about the birth of Jesus with the kids and spread his love. Talking about the true meaning of Christmas with all the kids is one of my favorite stories to talk to them about. We have so many things planned in December we will be working hard to get them all done. We have some fun crafts that involve baby Jesus in a manger and a nativity scene. We will be making ornaments for our Christmas tree and will be taking them home for our parents at Christmas break as their gifts. This month we will also be working on the letters G and Q, we will also talk about the color



green and the shape of a star.

The kids are working hard on practicing their Christmas songs for the program we will be having on December 14th at 6:00 PM here at the church. We invite you to come and listen to the kids sing the joy of Jesus. We will also be having class Christmas parties where the kids will get to wear pajamas, eat Christmas cookies and enjoy watching the movie "The Star".

I pray you all have a wonderful holiday filled with love and joy.
Mrs. Kampfe
Preschool Director/ Teacher



FLC Day Care News

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

November 28th-December 9th: 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.

December 12th-December 23rd: 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. 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 are in the making, our teachers are excited to do a little extra to spread the holiday cheer: a Christmas program with the Preschool will be Wednesday December 14th 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 23rd. We are also closed December 26th for an extra day to spend with family.

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

Many Blessings,

Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen





Christmas Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship December 18, 2022
8:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Catechism Christmas Service
December 18, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship December 24, 2022
2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Christmas Worship December 25, 2022
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



Christmas Service and Practice Schedule

The Board of Education is pleased to announce that the children in our Sunday School and Catechism programs will lead the 11 o'clock worship service on December 18.

We will have Saturday morning practices from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on December 3, 10 & 17.

The children will be sharing the good news of our Savior's birth. It is an exciting time for them to learn how important it is to be a part of the church and participate in worship. Parents this is a fantastic opportunity to get the last-minute Christmas shopping, baking, or wrapping done while the children are at church!

One Small Child



Over two thousand years ago, the world received its greatest gift. That is when God gave His Son to be born in a manger to fulfill the plan for our salvation. God's gift was planned centuries before it was given. God didn't give His leftovers. What is the greatest, best gift He could give? Himself! And so He did in the Person of His Son, Jesus. He gave His Son Who gave His life. What gift could be more appropriate? Christ is exactly what we need! What He wants from us is our hearts.





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. They are on the tables in the Berea cards area. If you don't find your name on a box of envelopes let Helen know and she will issue you a box. 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:

Children's Christmas Worship Service - Children in Sunday School and Catechism in grades Nursery through 8th grade will be leading the late worship service on December 18. **To get ready for this important task we will have Saturday morning practices on December 3, 10 and 17 from 9 to 11 am.** Please try to attend as many practices as possible we want everyone to participate.

Junior Youth Ministry (JYM) for 6th, 7th and 8th grades will be held on **December 18 from 1-3 in the afternoon.** We will be playing Reindeer Games. Bring yourselves and bring your friends. We might even find a couple of red-nosed reindeer along with some reindeer feed. Guaranteed to have lots of laughs and screams for a merry time.

Adventure Club for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will be held on **Thursday, December 22nd from 1-3 in the afternoon.** We will be having a birthday party for Jesus. You don't need to bring gifts, just yourself and lots of friends. We will have a party with games, cake, and ice cream. All the fun things that help you celebrate the most important birthday!

Preschool and Daycare Children's Christmas program is going to be **Wednesday, December 14** with the program taking place at **6:00 pm.**



One of my favorite Christmas memories is watching "A Charlie Brown Christmas." My favorite song from that show is "Christmas Time Is Here." The song says, "Christmas time is here, time for joy and cheer, fun for all..." well, that is what the song says. The reality is that Christmas time can be hectic, chaotic, and packed with many things to do and places to go. I know how easy it is to get caught up in all the things you need to do and get so busy you forget the most important part of Christmas. Hint, it is the birth of Jesus.

Jesus' birth is so important it divides the whole history of the world. It is a key part of God's plan of Salvation for all of us. Fully God and fully man, the perfect sacrifice. This birth is such a wonderful miracle for all of us sinners in desperate need of saving. We can't do anything to save ourselves, but God in his love provides the solution to our problem of sin.

So as we go to concerts, buy presents, bake cookies, sing carols, get together with our families, please take a moment to remember that in the midst of all the stuff that Christmas time is a time for joy because our Savior is born. It is a time for cheer because we are now able to be part of the family of God. We can have fun in the hustle and bustle because we are saved and loved.

Have a blessed Christmas, have fun, and take a little time to reflect.

Julie Kongslien

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive
Wednesday, December 14 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.

Unto Us a Child is Born!