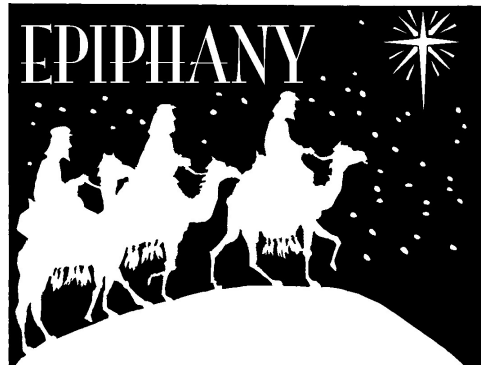


# YOUTH NEWS



Thursday, January 6, 2022

## Sunday School

### Sunday School Classes

Our Sunday School Classes will resume January 9, 2022.

### Midweek Classes

Our Midweek classes will resume on January 5, 2022.



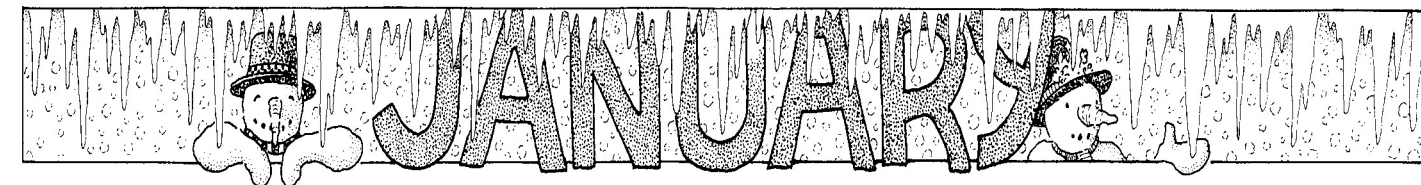
Therefore put on the full armor of God ...

EPHESIANS 6:13, NIV

## National Youth Gathering in July 2022

8<sup>th</sup> grade through high school students are invited to come to the National Youth Gathering. This is a 5-day event delivering Jesus to you. Concerts, games, and breakout sessions covering all kinds of topics, as well as impactful worship, make this a milestone event in your life. The event runs from July 9-13, 2022 in

Houston, TX. We would like to have students signed up and registration paid by January 12, 2022. We will be raising funds throughout the spring and early summer to help with costs. See Pastor Sam or Michael Shoup if you are interested in joining us.



Sent Forth by God's Blessing

# January 2022 Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

## Being a More Complete Person

People who only work, only play, only complain, miss out on the benefits of a more diversified approach to life. If you study a particular subject to the exclusion of all others, you will not be truly educated. The same is true for anything you pursue. If you dedicated your energies to only one facet of life to the exclusion of everything else, you precariously place your energy in only one area without realizing the variety of joys life has to offer.

If you lose that basket into which you've placed all your eggs, you have little left to value. People who pursue multiple interests—the professor who does woodwork on the weekend or the physicist who reads theology daily will find their lives richer. Richer even more when we in "whatever [we] do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17).

Life's rewards do not come from devoting your energies to a single cause or pursuit. Balance and diversified interests—family, friends, vocation, spiritual life, arts, recreation—create a more fulfilling existence and a more complete person. (From *Spiritual Investments* by Gary More)



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."

## “Lift High the Cross”

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). Our Lord speaks these words during Holy Week, just a few days before he will die. In the two thousand years since that event, the meaning and importance of the cross has become clear to Christians. But for the first hearers of our Lord’s words, they likely took great offense to what he said about “being lifted up.”

The cross is a symbol of execution. It was a torturous death reserved for the worst possible types of criminals. The Romans practiced crucifying prisoners for some time before our Lord was born. Bad people were crucified. Men of infamous wickedness would be sentenced to death by crucifixion. But the one person who shouldn’t be crucified is the Messiah.

The fact that Jesus died by crucifixion created a major stumbling block. We have lost the cultural association of crucifixion, so we can more easily see the benefits that come to us in our Lord’s death. But for the first Christians, the method of our Lord’s dying was a problem. St. Paul helps us to understand the issue: “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor 1:18)

You and I, as ones saved by Jesus’ death, can love the cross. We wear this symbol as jewelry in various ways. We don’t love it as a device of execution. Instead, we see that on the cross God has worked our salvation. What appears as a symbol of wickedness and evil (in that only “bad people” were crucified) is to us the means of our salvation. We can remember and even celebrate the cross as the way that God has forgiven our sins and made us members of his eternal kingdom.

We take comfort knowing that Jesus died on the cross so that we can live. But this knowledge is not meant to be kept to ourselves. Instead, we share with friends, family, and neighbors the hope that we have in Jesus. We tell them how the suffering of Jesus has created peace between us and God. We speak in the hopes that they too would see the cross as a beautiful symbol and as a life-giving event.

“Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore His sacred name” This refrain from the hymn “Lift High the Cross” reminds us of the importance of the cross. We thank God that his Son was lifted up for our sake. Join us next time as we continue to investigate the windows in our beautiful sanctuary.

*Pastor Sam*

*Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*



## Endowment Fund

It has been requested that we give an explanation of the Endowment Fund and the options within that fund.

**This is truly about leaving a legacy.** A donation to any part of the endowment would insure that you could support the ministry of this church well after you have passed on or left the church. The different accounts within the endowment were created to help a giver to have the opportunity to be specific about the areas where their investment is directed. Additionally, the giver is not limited to these specific accounts. Other fund accounts may be added (example: Scholarships for the daycare or preschool). **The Board of Endowment wants this to be flexible and accommodating to the givers desires for their donation.**

**Blessings in Faith** is the **original Fund** and is where any **undesignated** gifts to the Endowment fund go. The earnings are disbursed as follows: the first 15% to Missions (District/ Synod), the second 15% to Seminary student aid, the rest goes to numerous projects within the congregation as requests are received and the Board designate.

**Generations in Faith** gifts go into the **Endowment General Fund**. The earnings here are used for general operations of the church. Just as if you were designating your offering for the general fund.

**Foundations in Faith** gifts go toward the **Endowment Building Fund**. Earnings from this fund go for building and maintenance projects.

**Future in Faith** gifts go toward **Education**. Earnings here are used for the support of Christian education within the church.



**Our February newsletter** will be the Annual Report. All entities within the church are to submit their report to the office by **January 18**. I know some of you are new to this process so if you need an example of previous submissions let me know and I will print one for you.

These are usually a summary of events or other actions taken by the entity reporting. Thanks in advance for submitting your reports in a timely manner. Helen



*Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*

# Experience the Joy

Watching your favorite sports team win the big game is an exciting, joyful experience. If you are in the stadium, the joy is contagious. Everyone is clapping, celebrating, and singing. It is wonderful to be part of the crowd and share in the joy of the moment.



Such is the joy of the body of Christ as it is in the process of being built up. Such growth progresses as the Church's various parts function to the glory of Christ as the Gospel is preached, people are served, and the members share their faith and love for Christ with one another and those outside the church doors.

Yet do we see such joy often in the Church? Is such a demonstration of joy out of place in the Church? Perhaps we

would be uncomfortable with a "pep rally." But do we experience the joy of seeing others serve as the Holy Spirit has called them? Or are we programmed not to be joyful? Maybe we have come to view Christ's work as an obligation, as drudgery, and not as a thankful response to the grace which has called each of us to the body of Christ. Regardless of the reason for our lack of joy, Christ is always with us, ready to touch us with His joy. He constantly comes to forgive us and empower us through the Holy Spirit to be joyful.

We can indeed sing along all year long with the Christmas choir, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!" That joy is contagious in the church because the Body of Christ is truly being built up.



Sent Forth by God's Blessing



LAMENTATIONS 3:22, NRSV

## Official Acts

### Baptisms

Randall Oliver Hartmann  
Samara Caroline Elizabeth Paul  
Christopher Glen Armond Paul  
Isabella Diane Rose Paul

### Funeral

Larry Diehm

# THIS IS THE DAY

*"This is the day the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24*

January has arrived, and winter is fully upon us. It's not as warm outside, and there's not as much life in nature. If you live where winter is cold, you might be growing tired of boots, hats, mittens and puffy, shapeless coats. There's more maintenance to your vehicle – warming it up, scraping your windshield – and driving can be a challenge. The heating bill for your dwelling may soar. Many people experience a letdown after Christmas. Looking outside, there may not be much to feel particularly joyful about.

*The old year now hath passed away; we thank Thee, O our God today  
That Thou hast kept us through the year when danger and distress were near.*

Growing up in the farming and lake country of Minnesota (also referred to as Minne-SNOW-ta), cold and ice and snow were common in January and beyond. As a kid, there was a lot to look forward to in the winter. For one thing, my birthday was in January and I was preoccupied with a party and presents. Also, the ice rink was open, and that's where we headed to after school and on weekends. Many evenings were spent skating under the stars and the string of lights over the rink; the loudspeaker blasting the latest tunes. Kids crowded around the wood-burning stove in the warming house, thawing out their fingers and toes. The odor of wet mittens permeated the air.

*Take not Thy saving Word away, our souls' true comfort staff, and stay.  
Abide with us and keep us free from errors, following only Thee.*

As a teen and beyond, January offered a lot. There were upcoming basketball games and wrestling meets that bred longtime rivalries between all the small towns in the area. The junior class always sponsored a waffle feed to fund the prom. The fire department from the tiny burg of Leaf Valley held a potato pancake supper that drew people from miles around. We still met at the ice rink and went snowmobiling and took part in all kinds of activities at school. Youth group meetings at church meant hot chocolate and sloppy joes. Life was good.

*Oh, help us to forsake all sin, a new and holier course begin;  
Mark not what once was done amiss; a happier, better year to this.*

I think about those past years from time to time. Sometimes winter saps my energy. I'm tired at the end of day. Some days I don't care for the cold and the darkness, or the inconvenience that six inches of snow brings. However, I have learned to appreciate the beauty of January and the winter season. Winter's beauty is more subtle. There is less color, but a full moon is crystal clear. Icicles glisten in the sunshine, and a winter sunset spreads shadows and pastel hues on the snowy hills. Winter is for resting. Even nature takes a break and animals hibernate. I think about my folks in long term care and wonder what they are thinking about in January. Dad loved ice fishing and shoveled a lot of snow in his day. Both parents used to recall epic blizzards from their past. They are in the "winter" of their lives and looking forward to being with Jesus. January is a month of new beginnings, the first month of a new year. You may groan when you think of January or dread the season of winter, but remember that God makes each day. He also made it with you in it. Remind yourself that each day is purposed by the Lord.

*There shall we thank Thee and adore with all the angels evermore.  
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith to Praise Thy name through life and death.*

Karen Lindbloom



Sent Forth by God's Blessing

## 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. Normally we will meet the first Thursday every month as needed. However, our cooking date in January will be held on the second Thursday, January 13, due a scheduling conflict.

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!**



*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

## Daycare News

December was a busy but blessed month. We hosted a Family / Staff Night and served soup and treats for supper. Most of our teachers were very generous and helped provide parts of the meal. We had families vote on their favorite decorated classroom door, and the room that won received a classroom prize (fidget toys). We also had all our teachers and families sign up for door prizes; 6 of our families and 6 of our teachers received some sort of family game. We counted the sign-up tickets and there were at least 79 people who were in attendance! It was a blast and it's definitely something we will do again.

As you know, the daycare participated in this year's Christmas Program. Our Schoolers sited the Candy Cane Poem, and our Preschoolers and Toddlers sang "Watching Sheep." We are so proud of how well they did at both practice and the actual program and hope to be a part of next year's program too.

Curriculum Themes – December:

December 1<sup>st</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> : Penguins and Hot Cocoa  
December 13<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas / Jesus is Born

December 26<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Celebration

Curriculum Themes -- January:

January 3<sup>rd</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup>: Snowmen and Winter  
January 17<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>: Space  
January 31<sup>st</sup>-February 11<sup>th</sup>: Postal / Valentines

We're looking forward to all the great things to come in 2022. Happy New Year! I hope you all had a blessed holiday season. God Bless,

Moriah Kiepke daycare@faithluth.com

Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

## Preschool News

A Blessed New Year from Faith Lutheran Preschool! We had a short but wonderful time in December. We learned about Jesus' birth and the true meaning of Christmas. The kids had lots of fun putting on a Christmas Program for their parents, friends, and family. They kids did wonderful and we are so proud of them.

In the month of January, we will be emphasizing blue, rectangle, letters S, M, and I along with numbers 12, 13 and 14. In this month we will also be letting the kids bring a show and tell, its always fun to see what they love to bring and show the class.

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 blessed January!

God's Blessing

Kelsey Kampfe, Director/Teacher  
[Preschool@faithluth.com](mailto:Preschool@faithluth.com)



*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*