



## DECEMBER 2023 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 17, 2023  
9:45 AM-10:45 AM

## Special Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Advent 1

8:30 am & 11:00 am

"Restore" Psalm 80

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Advent 2

8:30 am & 11:00 am

"Revived" Psalm 85

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Advent 3

8:30 am & 11:00 am

"Returned" Psalm 126

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Advent 4

8:30 am

"Rely" Psalm 89:1-5

Christmas Eve, December 24

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

Candlelight Service

"Reign" Psalm 110:1-4

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

"Rejoice" Psalm 98



*Unto Us a Child is Born!*





## Yet in Thy Dark Streets Shineth

Christmas preparations are going strong. Our retail stores are offering all sorts of Christmas themed decorations and plenty of tempting items to purchase (they have had such things out for quite a while now). Maybe your tree is already up or it might be at the top of the “to-do” list. Family plans have been set or are being ironed out. You might be out on the road this Christmas battling the snow and wind to make it to your destination. Join us each Wednesday night at 7:00PM, beginning December 6, as we travel to various cities in Israel: Nazareth, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. In each of these cities, God is at work unfolding his master plan of salvation.

God will send his angel Gabriel to visit a young woman named Mary. She will hear the most unprecedented news in the history of creation: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.” God will take upon himself human flesh. Jesus, God’s Son, will be born in the same way as the rest of us. This ordinary young lady from a forgettable town will give birth to the most miraculous baby: Jesus Christ, God and man.

Our journey will then take us to the city of Jerusalem. So much of Israel’s history happens in and around Jerusalem. A good portion of Jesus’ ministry, as well as the week preceding his death, will occur in this town. Yet the angel Gabriel appears to an elderly man named Zechariah. He promises, in words strikingly similar to Mary’s message, that Zechariah’s wife Elizabeth will bear a son. While not quite as miraculous (there is only one God-man, Jesus), this child is no less spectacular. Well beyond the years of bearing children, God will simultaneously fulfill a longstanding desire of this couple and prepare the way for his Son. Their son, John, will “make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

During our third week, we travel to Bethlehem. The ancestral home of King David, God’s people waited for centuries without anyone nearing David’s devotion to God, his wisdom to rule, and his prowess in battle. Even David himself knew about the Greater One promised, speaking prophetically in Psalm 110, “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’” David calls him Lord, yet he is David’s son. The baby, promised to all God’s people and specifically revealed to Mary, is the King of kings and Lord of lords. We welcome this child each Christmas as the one who rules all things in heaven and on earth, the light of the world, Jesus Christ.

I hope that you travel with me as Christmas Day approaches. Our time in these three cities will help to see God’s plan at work in the history of the world as well as his continued work in our lives.

*Pastor Sam*





## ALL IS CALM

Finding Light in Unexpected Places

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:*

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” Luke 2:13 & 14*

We expect inspiration in sunsets, ocean views and fields of South Dakota sunflowers. In turn, we don't expect to find it in the tragic, mundane, depressing or ordinary events in our lives. Certainly, smelly, humble and lowest-of-the-low shepherds, who were tending sheep in the dark fields outside of Bethlehem, didn't expect the sky to explode with light and reveal multitudes of the heavenly host singing praises to God.

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

Recently, the Pierre Players presented the musical, “All is Calm,” a production based on the true story of the Christmas Truce of 1914. The narrative takes place on Christmas Eve of World War I, when soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force heard German troops in opposite trenches across the Western Front singing carols and patriotic songs. Messages began to be shouted between trenches. In an impulsive, but courageous move, British and German soldiers laid down their arms, met in “No Man's Land” and exchanged gifts of rum, candy and tobacco; took photos; buried casualties; repaired trenches, and played an impromptu game of football. The events are based on letters, photos, interviews, journals, and official war documents from the Imperial War Museums.

It is a story of the power of peace in time of war, where barbed wire kept soldiers in their place. The young heroes spent days and nights in three-foot deep, dark, muddy trenches, shivering in the muck and trying to keep warm. They experienced an endless cycle of sleeplessness, fear, stale food and cigarettes too wet to light. “No Man's Land” was the barbed-wire area that separated the armies. On December 7, 1914, Pope Benedict asked the High Commands on both sides that “...guns may fall silent

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## All Is Calm continued

at least upon the night the angels sang.” His plea was officially ignored. The spontaneous ceasefire was relatively small scale, haphazard and entirely unauthorized, but a welcome break from the hell of war.

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar.  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

When we celebrate Christ's birth, there is a sense of renewal that connects us to the roots of our faith. The simple shepherds and the homesick soldiers witnessed a burst of light in unforeseen circumstances. Wherever you are, whatever is happening, whatever thoughts might be racing through your mind, light could be just around the corner. Christ is the Light of the World. Even in dark times, the Light is available.

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from Thy holy face;  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

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!

### An Interview from Station WWJD



**What:** LWML Christmas Party

**When:** Sunday, December 10, 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 cash or food for PARS, in lieu of a gift exchange.



### Forever Young

Join us at noon on December 21 (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.

**Menu:**  
Pork Loin Roast  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Sides and desserts furnished by attendees.

Please sign-up in the Narthex by December 10 as we will need an accurate count.



**POTLUCK DINNER  
FOR SENIORS**



## Men's Fellowship



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

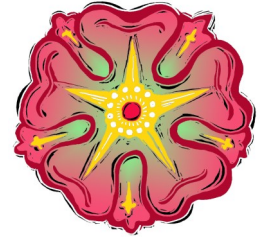
Our gathering is on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. In the Living Room.

We will play some court whist this month.

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 \$20.00 each



“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)



with set-up and preparation. For this once a year event, every volunteer is needed and very much appreciated. It is also a wonderful outreach for our community.

This year Country Fair raised just over \$8200.00! With the proceeds, we can help fund our Mission Projects, from Faith Lutheran In-House projects to the Global/ National level.

### Fall-ellujah! “Praise the Lord!”

Country Fair 2023 was a beautiful day! It took place on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am-1pm in the Christian Family Life Center at Faith Lutheran Church. The booths consisting of baked goods, candy, produce, canned goods, homemade crafts and gift baskets filled the gym.

Entering the church, one found beautiful fall arrangements displayed, a table with greeters, sign up for a door prize and another area with an autumn photo op.

The aroma of fresh baked caramel rolls, homemade soups and pie enticed those who came. It was a great day to take it all in, to visit, browse, shop or have a bowl of soup, pulled beef sandwich, grilled brat, chili dog, a roll and/or PIE. The ladies in the kitchen were happy to serve!

All items are generously donated from the congregation. Country Fair could not happen without booth chairs, greeters, PR people, decorators, and all the volunteers who help

### Fall-ellujah! “Praise the Lord!”

Country Fair Co-Chairs,  
Dawn Koch & Kathleen Monfore

### Entities to be helped by Country Fair Proceeds

**In-house:** Pat Huisman—Mission Trip  
St. Matthew (LWML) Room Renovation  
Priscilla Circle Cradle Roll  
Faith Circle Care Packages  
LYF National Youth Gathering Fund  
Preschool needs  
Daycare needs

**National:**  
Veterans of the Cross  
Orphan Grain Train

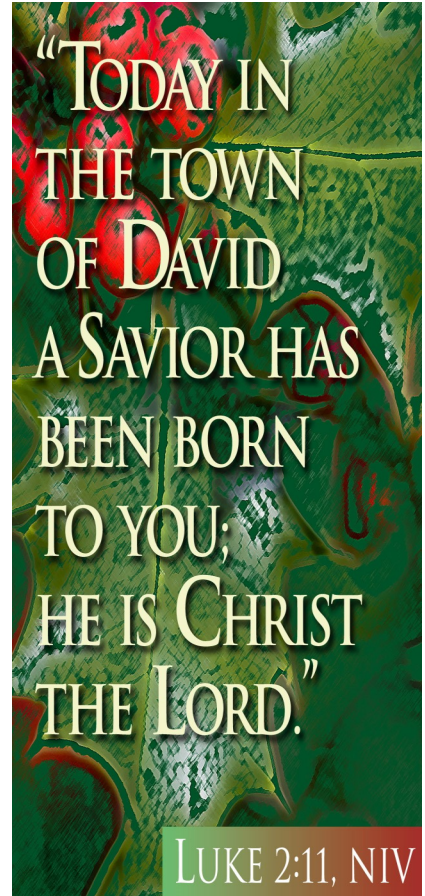
**District:**  
Pastor Nix, Sioux Falls LCMS Hospital Chaplain  
LWML SD Mites (For SD mission projects)

**Local:**  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
Missouri Shores



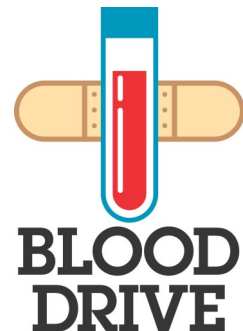
## Mexico Mission Trip

As members of the body of Christ, we all have gifts according to the grace given us. On the Mexico Mission trip, we all have a purpose and contribute according to our own gifts. The mission trip is life changing, both for you and for those on the border whom we will serve. Will you or you and your family join us this year on the Mission trip to Mexico? If so, we would like to hear from you soon. The trip is scheduled for the end of May 2024. Soon we will be coordinating many fall projects to help with raising the funds needed. Please contact the Church office (605-224-2216) with a message and they will have Dennis or Carolyn Ryckman contact you,



## Blood Drive

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive is on Wednesday, December 13 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. To make an appointment: You can go online at [vitalant.org](http://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 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 it's the most wonderful time of the year to learn the true meaning of Christmas! The children love the extra Christian activities we do this time of year. They always have lots of questions and great conversation with their peers and teachers. Although we have very limited space to store our hands on activities for the Christian part our teachers do a great job incorporating extra fun!

We are very excited to add a baking week this year in December which allows the children to learn how to use the equipment in the kitchen. We will be doing 3 to 5 different baking goodies that the children will be preparing themselves.

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 13<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 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are also closed December 25<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup> 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

### Sunday School Christmas Program

December 17, 2023 at 9:45 a.m.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship** December 24, 2023

8:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** December 24, 2023

3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day Worship** December 25, 2023

10:00 a.m.

**New Year's Eve Worship** December 31, 2023

7:00 p.m.

# Blood DRIVE

## FAITH LUTHERAN BLOOD DRIVE

**December 13, 2023**

**11:00 am-4:00 pm**

Those who are able to give (16+ yrs) are encouraged to sign-up to donate blood.



*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.

## Pictorial Directory

Our newest Pictorial Directory is here!!!

Pick yours up in front of the Berea Circle card shelves.

Please sign your name so we know who has theirs.



## 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:*

### Middle and High School Bible Study

**What:** Bible Study for middle/high school youth on the book of Acts

**Why:** To provide a gospel focused community for teens from all walks of life and to help them to grow in their relationship with God and encouragement of one another.

**Where:** The Church House - 639 N. Euclid

**When:** Mondays at 7:30pm

Invite your friends and bring your Bible to come learn what God has to say through the book of Acts!

Contact Cassandra Ryckman (605-222-4895) or Peter Iverson (605-645-0951) if you are interested or have any questions. Look forward to having you attend!

**Bible Bowl 2024** We received word from the South Dakota LCMS district on the 2024 Bible Bowl. The books of the Bible are Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Students from sixth grade to seniors are eligible to participate. The statewide competition is before Palm Sunday. **The Bible Bowl is set for March 23, 2024.** For more information or to register please see Bible Bowl coach LeRoy Kropuenske. He is around on Sunday for Sunday School and Wednesday for confirmation.



**Preschool and Daycare Children's Christmas program** is going to be **Wednesday, December 13** with the program taking place at **4:00**

*Unto Us a Child is Born!*



## Christmas Program and Practice Schedule

The Board of Education is pleased to announce that the children in our Sunday School program will present their Christmas program on December 17 at 9:45 am.

We will have Saturday morning practices from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on December 2, 9 & 16.

The children will be sharing the good news of our Savior's birth.

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

