

January 2018 Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

NEW
YEAR'S
EVE
WORSHIP



December 31, 2017
New Year's Eve Worship
with
Holy Communion
8:20 & 11:00 am

Come finish out the year



Congregational
Aquatics Night

6:00 pm-8:30 pm
Sunday, January 21, 2018

Pizza, Beverage & Cookies
Provided

Please sign up in the Narthex if you
would like pizza so we can have enough
for everyone.



in our Lord's presence!



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K.Spear

"I'd like to get saved. There's just one problem—
I'm terrified of getting baptized."

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

The words of our text are parting words from St. Paul to the Christian congregation in Thessalonica. He was speaking specifically to Christians about the Christian perspective of life. He encouraged them not to be uneasy about the times and the seasons. While it was very much something for unbelievers to be concerned about, Christians had no reason for concern. He encourages these Christians to avoid carelessness in spiritual matters. They should encourage one another. They should love one another. They should ***¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

It's not easy to give thanks when the weight of the world seems to be bearing down on our shoulders; when families are being torn apart by divorce; when illness strikes our loved one; when both man-made and natural disasters claim the lives of thousands of people on a daily basis. And now a new concern as we face the uncertainty of yet another new year; we may wonder what kind of year might be in store for us. Will it be an easy year or a difficult year? Will this world finally find the peace that has escaped humankind since the fall or will there be more bloodshed? You know, it's not easy to give thanks when the world is being ripped apart at the seams and so much uncertainty swirls about. We may wonder, what was St. Paul thinking? Give thanks in all circumstances? I don't think so.

As the Church turns its attention away from crèche and toward the star, we realize that there is much for which to be thankful. Epiphany is a time when we celebrate the wise men coming to worship the newborn King. Though this world

offers problems, fear not because that little baby adored by the wise men, has overcome this world. And the victory He has won He promises to all who believe.

With each passing year, I become a little more thankful for all that God has done, and continues to do, for me each day. The time of waiting and preparing during Advent, helps me better comprehend the promise that is foretold in Isaiah 9—the birth of God in the flesh. The season of Lent and Easter helps me better comprehend the reality of Isaiah 25—the Lord Almighty has swallowed up death forever and He promises to wipe away all tears.

Finally, it's becoming clear. This is why St. Paul could "***give thanks in all circumstances.***" He knew and believed the message of the Savior. It didn't matter what the world, the flesh, or the devil threw at him. It didn't matter what uncertainty lie ahead, he found hope and comfort in the reality of Jesus.

You too can find hope and comfort in the reality of Jesus. He came for you too. As believers in Jesus Christ, we can give thanks, because we know the end of the story. Christ was born. Christ died. Christ rose from the dead. Christ will come again—and will bring salvation to us. What greater reason than that to give thanks to God in all circumstances.

Speaking of giving thanks, my family and I would like to give thanks to all of you for your kind words, prayers, and gifts to us this past year and especially as we celebrated the birth of our Savior. As we look forward to 2018, I pray God's richest blessings and protection upon and your ones.

*In Everything
give Thanks*

Pastor Coy T. Rji

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

“Lead Me to the Rock!”

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

“From the ends of the earth I call to You, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” Psalm 61:2

Have you ever picked up a book you thought was so good, you just couldn't put it down? Or eaten a steak that tasted so juicy that you just couldn't sink your teeth far enough into it? That's kind of what the Scripture verse of Psalm 61:2 is like for me. I can't get enough of it! For the last few months I've been simmering over, and meditating on what it means for my life, for the people of God, and for His saints at Faith Lutheran. I can't get enough of the hope it gives. I can't get enough of the teaching it provides about trust in the God who is so far above and beyond us, yet so near to us. I can't get enough of the comfort it radiates as I identify with David's longing to be in a place of refuge. We all have that longing to be safe and protected, don't we? Where is my rock, my refuge, my fortress in this harsh and ugly world? —great questions to ask ourselves.

There are so many other questions this one verse evokes for me such as: *Who am I with and without a rock of refuge? What is the refuge David speaks of, and what is “the rock” he desires? What is our Christian attitude and posture before God, not only when*

times are bad, but also when times are good? What is it like to know that you don't have control over your life or the things that may happen to it? What does it mean that God lets David, the Psalmist, and lets us, the reader, experience times when we call out to Him but He doesn't seem to answer? When we are led through periods of hardship and agonizing growth, what continues to drive us forward and drive us to “the rock?” There are so many questions and thoughts to extract from this one verse.

If you really believe the Scriptures to be true and to be the holy, inspired, infallible Word of God, then you must consider their trustworthiness as they point us to God's faithfulness. I trust God's Word and the testament it is to His faithfulness to His people. Look at the story of the Exodus. In the Exodus, the entire narrative is about a God who remembers His people. God is faithful to His promise to deliver His people and to lead them to a Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. What drives us forward in the dark and dead hopelessness that can befall us in our families, in our jobs, in our relationships, and in life? What makes us call out to our God for hope against all hope? It's God's track record of faithfulness. God does things that we wouldn't expect from Him and then uses those things to mold and shape our hearts to better trust Him, to better lean on His Word, and to better serve Him. God surely did that with the Israelites. God was their Rock.

When we look at God's

faithfulness throughout time, we see a neat connection that St. Paul makes clear to us. The Apostle Paul confidently says that the same faithful Rock that was with His people then, is the One who is surely with His people now, even you! Hear the awesome connection St. Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 concerning the Rock of Psalm 61 with the Rock that was with the Israelites during the Exodus. He says, **“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.”** We sing about this in LSB hymn 677 v. 2, *“Thou was their rock, their fortress, and their might; Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight...”* Christ the Rock—The One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever! “Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.” Don't you need a rock in your life? Sure you do! That's my prayer for you in this coming new year. God lead you and guide

Pastor Josh Baumann

you by Christ who is your Rock. God lead you as you encounter Christ in your routine worship life, your daily reading of God's Word, your frequent use of prayer, and your consistent partaking of Holy Communion. When you cry out and are faint, it's the Rock of Jesus Christ that will defend you, sustain

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ALL IS WELL

All is well, all is well.
 Heaven and earth rejoice!
 For tonight, darkness fell
 Into the dawn of love's light.
 Sing Alleluia!

At one time or another, most of us have read about, or perhaps viewed a scene in a movie, where a sentry announced, "Midnight, and all is well!" A sentry is a sentinel, a soldier, or watchman, who is stationed to stand watch, and guard his post to prevent the passage of unauthorized persons. Sentinels also keep watch for fires or other dangers.

"All is well," the watchman's cry
 Breaks the midnight's slumberous spell,
 And the answering words reply,
 "Twelve o'clock and all is well."
 Undisturbed, the city sleeps
 Unalarmed by clanging bell.

We've all heard "Taps," the solo played by a single bugle. Taps is played by the military at burial and memorial services to accompany the lowering of the flag. It is also played at dusk to signal the "lights out" command at the end of the day. Did you know that "Taps" has lyrics? Here is the first verse:

Day is done.
 Gone the sun
 From the lakes
 From the hills
 From the sky, All is well,
 Safely rest,
 God is nigh.



All is well. What does that mean? In laymans' terms, simply everything is in good or acceptable shape. As Christians, we just celebrated the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ, the event that changed the course of the world. The nativity was the single most important turning point in history – God Made Flesh. He is Sovereign. Ephesians tells us "...far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age, but also in the one to come." He is sovereign over all that happens. All is well.

All is well, all is well.
 Let there be peace on earth.
 Christ is come, go and tell
 That he is in the manger.
 Sing Alleluia!

Karen Lindbloom

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



A new Bible study starting on Monday, January 15 at 6:30 PM in the Young's conference room. This is a small group women study that is entitled, "Family Trees & Olive Branches, Creating a Culture of Grace in Your Family" by Christina Hergenrader. This study is for those who want to create a culture of grace in your families. This is for you, wherever you are in your family tree - the roots, the branches, the soil, or the thorns.

If you would like to join us please log onto CPH.org and order your book prior to our first night. The cost is \$14.99.

Beth Moore Study

We will be doing Beth Moore's New Bible study, Quest, starting Monday January 8, 2018, at 5:30 pm at Faith Lutheran Church. See details here:

<http://www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/The-Quest-Bible-Study>

It is a six week study with approximately 60 minutes per session for the opening and closing sessions and 15-20 minutes for sessions 2-5. By starting on the 8th, we will be able to wrap up the week of Lent.

Books will be \$17 (\$14.99 plus a little extra to cover taxes and shipping).

Please either sign up at the sign up sheet in the narthex (will be there soon!) or email me (Vona Johnson) by December 29 so I can get books ordered.

Note, there will not be a Thursday night session of this study

Official Acts

Baptisms

Arianna Lillian Bell
Easton William Waldron
Augustus Austin Gross

Food for Thought

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, Pastor." he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?"

The pastor replied, "well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked,

"Which service, the 8:20 or the 11:00?"

Our words do not always convey our correct meaning to those listening. In this case, Armed Forces may have been a better description than service.

In this New Year it may be good for all of us to think what we say before we say it. That would lead to less confusion or hurt feelings that really was not what we meant at all.

Take time to think first. Blessings on your new year!

Audio/Visual Upgrade

At the December 2017 Voter's Assembly Meeting, the congregation voted to approve the process of purchasing, upgrading, and installing audio and visual equipment for the sanctuary through a bid contracted with Haggarty's out of Rapid City, SD. The bid was a little over \$42,000 for the project. This upgrade would stand as a special project to be funded and completed outside the regular work program. The vote included the following provisions: 1) work for the project will begin once 50% of the needed funds have come in, and 2) a portion of undesignated memorial funds would be applied to help offset the total costs. The congregation is asked to prayerfully consider supporting this needed update to the Sanctuary. A \$5,000 challenge grant has been put forward to make this project complete. Please specify in the memo line: *Audio / Video* for any contributions given toward the project.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

A Letter of Thanks



Dear Members of Faith,
 Thank you, Thank you for your generous outpouring of clothing and books for our Rosebud Reservation drive! We knew we had very loving people in our church but the amount that was donated was unbelievable! Dennis Ryckman (Board of Missions and Evangelism) is pictured with Pastor Utecht. The donations filled a flatbed trailer and Pastor Utecht's pickup! Thank you again for helping the people of the Rosebud Reservation.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 Board of Missions & Evangelism



Preschool News

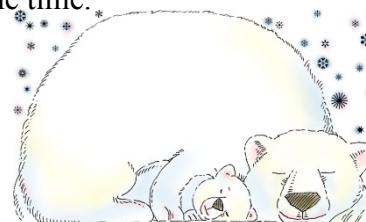
A Blessed New Year from Faith Lutheran Preschool! We had a wonderful time in December getting ready to share the story of Jesus' birth with our families at the Christmas programs. This is one of the best parts of the year for me. I love seeing how excited the children are to learn that Jesus was born as a baby for them. I pray that your Christmas was a blessing too.

During January this year, we will be emphasizing the color blue, the rectangle, the letters MNO and the number 2. A special activity during January will be Show & Tell each day. It is fun to see what the children have for new toys from Christmas and some very favorite ones, too. We will be looking at dinosaurs, mammoths, and penguins.

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 that Jesus was a little boy just like them at one time.

Thank you for the generous gift from the congregation. My family and I are truly blessed to be part of such a kind community.

Stay warm and have a wonderful January. God's blessings,



Sent Forth by God's Blessing

**Save
the
Date**



Upcoming Board of Parish Fellowship Events

Watch for more information and sign-up sheets to come soon!

Invite a friend.

January 21, 2018
6:00-8:30 pm



Pizza Pool Party
At YMCA

February 4, 2018
12:00 pm

Souper Bowl



February 13, 2018
5:30 pm



Mardi Gras

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YOUTH NEWS

Happy New Year!!!

How have you asked God to help you grow closer to Him this new year?

Write it down. Pray about it. Perhaps the words of John 3:30 can be a model for you this year: "He must become greater, I must become less."

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! ... A BIG word of thanks and appreciation to all those who helped with our Children's Christmas Programs. Your time and commitment is a gift to our congregation and to the Lord Jesus. From Heaven Above to Earth I Come!

Mardi Gras is right around the corner. The day of our Mardi Gras Festival this year is Feb 13th (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). We welcome all youth and adults to come for an evening of fun activity with the family. Our High School L.Y.F. group will be leading games and stations! There will be *gourmet* hot dogs, doughnuts, festive beads, prizes, games, face painting, and something for the whole gang. Be looking for further details in our Feb. Newsletter.

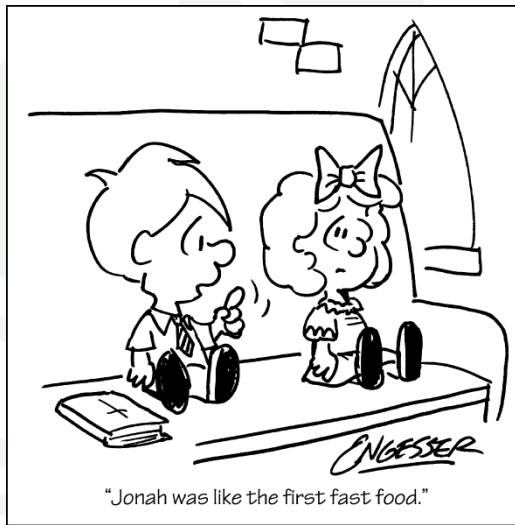
Sunday School Sings Here are the Sundays the N-3 grade Sunday

School will be singing at the 11 a.m. service: **Jan. 14th; Feb. 18th; Mar. 25th (Palm Sunday); Apr. 15th; and May 13th (Midweek Children Sing on May 13th)**

6th-8th JYM YOUTH!

Our January activity will be games up in Jon's Place on Sunday, January 21st from 2:00 – 4:00.

FUN/GAMES/
DEVOTION/ACTIVITIES/



"Jonah was like the first fast food."

SNACKS

Hope you can come! Bring a friend!!

Lenten Services... begin with Ash Wednesday on Feb 14th. Services will be at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday in Lent, and Midweek class will go from 6:30-7:45 on Wednesdays through-



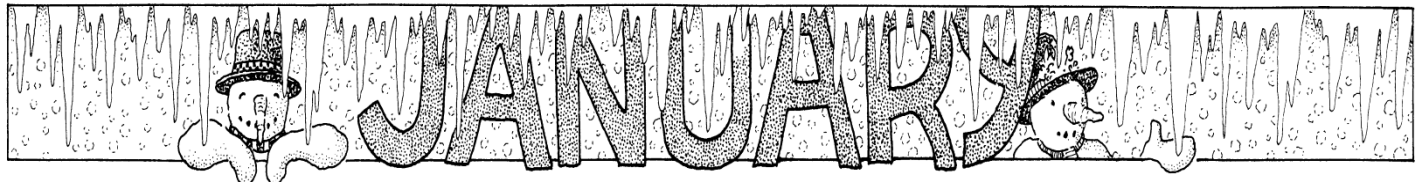
out Lent with Lenten worship being a component of class time.

January 7

Early: Dayna Martinmaas,
Michael VanDeWiele
Late: Nathan Haberling,
Emily Haberling

January 14 (Sunday School Sings at 11 o'clock)

Early: Hannah Schochenmaier,
Samantha Axtell



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