



DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



9:45 am N-3 Christmas Program
"What Child Is This"



Special Advent and Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, December 5 (7:00 pm)
The Child Who Is Zechariah's Hope
(Is 40:1-5; Lk 1:5-25)

Wednesday, December 12 (7:00 pm)
The Child Who Is a Virgin's Great Son
(Jdgs 13:2-7; Lk 1:26-38)

Wednesday, December 19 (7:00 pm)
The Child Who Is John's Joy
(2 Sam 6:12-23; Lk 1:39-45)

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship

December 23, 2018
8:20 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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

Christmas Day, December 25
9:00am Worship with
Holy Communion



Unto Us a Child is Born!



*"Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long." (Psalm 25:5)*

What does Advent mean to you? For some, Advent will come and go without so much as an afterthought. For others, Advent is the time when we dust off that Advent Wreath for church and in solemn progression light each candle as we approach Christmas Day. Speaking of Christmas Day, I am continually amazed at how eagerly the secular world anticipates the season of Christmas (it wasn't even the first full week in November and I was already hearing Christmas music on the radio and in the shopping centers).

So, what does Advent mean to you? Every year Christians complain about the commercialization of our Savior's birth. Much to the chagrin of businesses, we may even resist the urge to celebrate this joyous event...at least until the very end. For the most part, the secular world has no concept of Advent and at best a distorted view of Christmas. And perhaps that's the best argument we have for celebrating both; in order that we might be witnesses to the world of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.

During Advent we remember to pay attention to the fact that as a follower of Christ we are waiting on Him to return for us. Therefore, we are *not to get distracted* by other matters which pale in importance. Waiting is essential to the spiritual life and how we wait says something about what we believe.

What does Advent mean to you? Did you know that the word patience comes from the Latin verb *pati-* or which means "to suffer." As author Henri Nouwen puts it, "Waiting patiently is suffering through the present moment, tasting it to the full, and letting the seeds that are sown in the ground on which we stand grow into strong plants. Waiting patiently always means paying attention to what is happening right before the first rays of God's glorious coming."

What does Advent mean to you? As a disciple of Jesus Christ, Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the Lord's birth and His coming again. Our waiting is different from most waiting because we wait in confidence knowing that God's promise will be fulfilled. While we wait, we are to be about the business of creating a community that stands ready to welcome Him when He returns!

May you learn how to wait this Advent season and then welcome the Christ-child as we celebrate Him who took on our flesh in order that we might be saved. Anything short of this will only serve to distract us.

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Pastor Coy T. Ritz

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

dates
to Remember

Wednesday, December 5 (7:00 pm)

The Child Who Is Zechariah's Hope
(Is 40:1-5; Lk 1:5-25)

Wednesday, December 12 (7:00 pm)

The Child Who Is a Virgin's Great Son
(Jdgs 13:2-7; Lk 1:26-38)

Wednesday, December 19 (7:00 pm)

The Child Who Is John's Joy
(2 Sam 6:12-23; Lk 1:39-45)

Christmas Eve, December 24 (5:00 pm & 7:30 pm)
Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, December 25 (9:00 am)

Worship w/ Holy Communion



From Our Associate Pastor

“God’s Word for You”

The “Service of the Word” has reached its climax. After preparing your heart and ears to hear God’s word, you have heard from the Scriptures. Each of the readings have looked at the day’s theme according to God’s view. Now, the congregation hears how God’s word forms and reforms them. The first way that you do this is the “Hymn of the Day.”

Each Sunday has a specific hymn appointed for it. This is a way in which the congregation joins in speaking (in this case singing) God’s message for them. The hymns are based on Scripture, usually containing either direct quotations or references that allow for rhyme and rhythm changes. The Hymn of the Day places

God’s message on your lips. You are singing, maybe without realizing

it, what the pastor will speak in the sermon.

After the hymn concludes, the pastor rises to address the congregation. His message, the sermon, is the meeting point of two entities. First, the pastor considers the Scripture readings for that day. The sermon is usually based upon one of those readings (sometimes certain special parts of the service, such as anniversaries or recognitions, will cause a different choice of text). You have heard God’s word speak about the topic. Now, the pastor applies your life to God’s word.

The pastor stands at the intersection between God’s word and you, his hearers. The sermon is God’s word FOR YOU. The pastor takes into account your joys and struggles. His sermon highlights God’s word in such a way that you are formed more fully into God’s people. The pastor calls out situations where you might have strayed from God’s design for living. He announces how Christ has accomplished what you could not. Then the

pastor guides you in continuing to live according to God’s design.

Now the “Service of the Word” is finished. You have heard God speak from the Scriptures and the sermon applies you to God’s word. Before the second half of worship, the “Service of the Sacrament,” the church joins in offering prayer to God. These prayers reflect upon the day’s theme and usually include some references to it. All of this hearing has prepared you to eat and drink God’s word, his son Jesus Christ. In the next few months we will investigate how God comes to you in holy communion, the “Service of the Sacrament.”

Pastor Sam





WAITING FOR THE LIGHT

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined." Isaiah 9:12

As I sit here writing this, and try to pull some thoughts together, I'm waiting for my husband to make a decision – whether I should take him to the emergency room or not. Throughout his struggle with cancer and age-related issues, I've found that waiting can be a daily occurrence, and patience is definitely a virtue. It brings to mind our Tuesday morning women's Bible Study, "Waiting." It is an excellent topic for our present culture, where everything is instant, and we are accustomed to getting everything we want NOW.

Throughout history, God called on His people to wait for His timing, and His will. Our study focuses on several biblical women who waited, hoped and wished. It wasn't always easy to remain calm and serene when their lives were put in a holding pattern. Through their stories, one can learn to draw closer to God, and surrender worry to Him.

The night will soon be ending; the dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens, with guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens and bids you sing again.

Waiting and the season of Advent are synonymous. Already, as far back as in the Garden of Eden, God promised that One, born of a woman, would come to destroy the devil's work. Rather than focusing on the commercial aspect of the season, the four weeks of Advent should draw our attention to the coming of Christ. This contemplative time reminds us of our fallen, sinful condition – the reason we need a Savior.

The earth in sure rotation will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation glows in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation – this child its seal and sign.

The Advent season is a favorite of mine; it rather captures my heart. The themes of preparation and hope bring comfort to the murkiness of the world – the unending and senseless violence, disease, death and natural disasters – consequences of sin. Christ's light pierces the darkness. Winter is often associated with gloom. It is no accident that the darkest days of the year fall right before the birth of the Christ Child. A dark and hurting world is lit by a Savior who loves us and redeems us today and every day.

God dwells with us in darkness and makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness and turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us, however far we run.
God claims us still as children through Mary's infant Son.

This Advent season, may you be reminded of what we truly wait for. Karen Lindbloom





LWML Christmas Party

All women of the congregation are invited to the LWML Christmas Party.

Sunday, December 9, 2018
2 p.m. at Faith Lutheran

Come for fun, fellowship and a time to celebrate our Savior.

Please bring a small, inexpensive gift to exchange.

There will be an ingathering of pillows this year at our Christmas party to fill several pillow cases that a member has made. Please bring your pillows the day of the party - **standard size new pillows are what is needed.** The completed pillow sets will be donated to the Missouri Shores Domestic Violence shelter here in Pierre. A cash offering will also be collected with the proceeds going to the local PARS.

Men's Fellowship



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

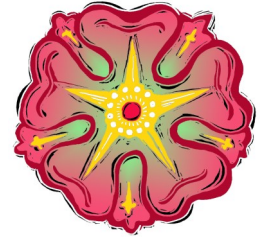
It is on Monday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m.

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

The Altar Guild would like to thank Jan & Tim Larson for the fall mums that have been so beautiful in our Chancel area.





Country Fair 2018

"Gather with Grateful Hearts" was the theme for this year's Country Fair. And gather we did....from the start... by providing Recipe in a Jar, items for the lunch counter, gift basket items, all the way through to providing an abundance of jellies, jams, canned vegetables, squash, mouthwatering baked goods, scrumptious candies, beautiful crafts and even helping us by cleaning out your closets, we are ever so grateful for the congregation's continued support for this worthy endeavor. I cannot begin to thank all the people who donated goods, the wonderful helpers we had setting up, tearing down, and working the day of the Fair, and the Country Fair Committee members for the time and effort they put into preparing for Country Fair. And so with grateful and happy hearts we share we raised just over \$8000 and were able to fund all our Mission Projects! They are as follows:

National:

Seminary Scholarships (Financial help for students while in the Seminary)

TIM (Together in Missions) Missionary Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett, Carl Winkler's Great Nephew)

State:

CWEDA (Church Workers Education Debit Assistance) Financial assistance for church workers to help cover expenses while getting established after college.

Rosebud Missions – Pastor Andrew Utecht

Local:

Brown Bag Lunch Program (Provides sack lunches for children in need during the summer.)

St. Mary's Suicide Prevention Program

In House:

Ceiling mounted projectors and installation in Matthew or Mark classroom - \$1000

Faith Lutheran Daycare - \$500

LWML Delegate Fund for Convention - \$1000

LYF Scholarships for conventions - \$1000

Faith Lutheran Preschool - \$500

Board of Education – new Bibles and new version of the Luther's Small Catechism - \$1000

*In Grateful Gratitude,
Kristy Deal
Country Fair Chairman*





Light in the World

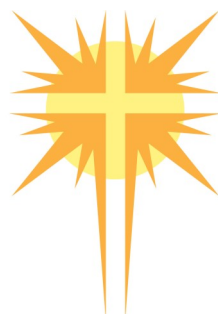
Regardless of how you decorate your Christmas tree, the one essential is that it has lights—the more, the better! As you drive around your city during this Christmas time, you see homes with various reminders of the season, and the common ingredient is lights—the more, the better! As stewards who celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we understand that these lights are but dim symbols of the One True Light, the Light of the World, Who has come into our world and into our hearts. Jesus told us, *“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me may not remain in darkness”* (John 12:46).

Our celebration at Christmas is much more than gatherings of families and friends and the exchange of gifts, although that is part of it. Our earthly celebrations have eternal roots. Before we were claimed by our Savior, we were in darkness. His appearance has changed all that, and we are now *“light in the Lord.”*

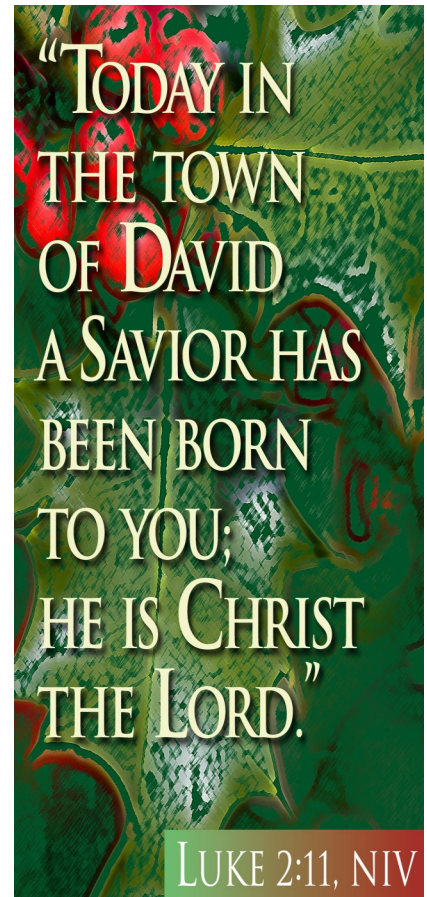
Because of who we are—Christ’s redeemed called to be stewards of all His gifts—the Apostle Paul continues the statement of identity above by writing, *“For at one time you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord”* (Ephesians 5:8-10).

May the light of this Christmas season continue to remind us of our high calling.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for being our light in a dark world. Grant us Your strength to be a beacon of light to others. In Your name we pray. Amen.

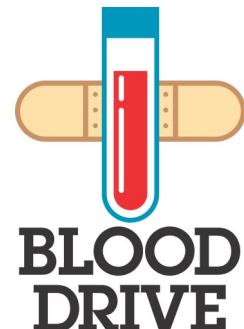


THE MEANING OF
CHRISTMAS



Blood Drive

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive is on Tuesday, December 11th from 12:45 pm to 5:15 pm. To make an appointment call Char Russell @ 224-1160. You can go online at 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 and learned several nursery rhymes. We went on a field trip to the library. We even had a "Bear Day" when we each brought our favorite bear and did lots of fun activities with them.

During December, we make a gift for our parents, decorate our own tree at preschool, learn the story of Jesus' birth. Our field trip for the month is to view the trees at the Capitol and to feed the geese. Our color for December is green, the shape is triangle and the letters are JKL. We also made angel ornaments for a tree in the church Narthex. The highlight of the month is our Christmas programs which will be held



Wednesday, December 19 at 10:30am and Thursday, December 20 at 10:30am and 2:30pm. Each session has its own program during which the children act out the first Christmas. Everyone is welcome to come to our program! The best part of this time of year is teaching the children the real meaning of Christmas and how much Jesus loves each of us.

Praying that your Advent and Christmas holidays are bright with the love of Jesus! God Bless you for all your support and prayers.

Hope LaForest, Director/Teacher
Faith Lutheran Preschool



FLC Day Care News

Happy Holidays from Faith Lutheran Day-care!

We here at the daycare are feeling blessed to have had such a great year seeing the children in our care learn and grow as they learn God's word. We have been especially grateful to our parent's and our church community for the tremendous amount of support we have received by way of donations of time and materials through this year.

This month the children will be learning about praise and worship through the birth of Jesus. We will be talking about how to worship with our thoughts, actions and feelings.

The daycare as a whole has been focusing on the purpose of this daycare center, which is to provide a caring atmosphere for young children in where they can experience that they are loved by God and loved by people. As we end this year and begin the next, we look forward to focusing in on our purpose and seeing the children grow and learn more about the love God has for each and every one of us.

Have a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!!



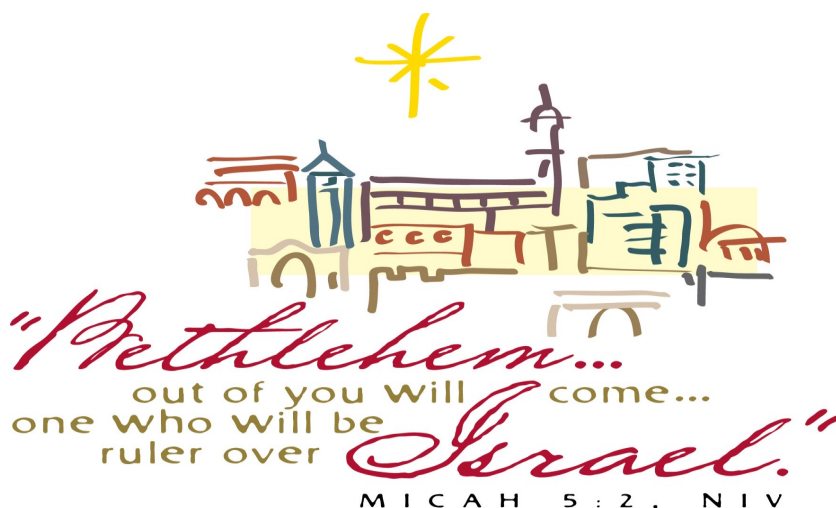
Christmas Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship December 23, 2018
8:20 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship December 24, 2018
5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship December 25, 2018
9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship December 31, 2018
6:30 p.m.



Forever Young



Seniors' Gathering

Our December Forever Young will be held December 20, the third Thursday, at high noon. This will be our regular potluck. All retired and semi-retired members are invited to come and enjoy good food and great company! Come join us for food and Christmas carols!



Christmas Program and Practice Schedule

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

Christmas Program
Sunday, December 16th
N—3rd Grade
"What Child Is This"
9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary
(during regular Sunday School time)

Our Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, December 15th
N—3rd grades at 9:30 a.m.

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



LWML news....Little Dresses for Africa

LWML will **not** be putting together kits for Little Dresses for Africa in 2019. We have decided to take a break from this mission outreach project. We will continue to accept donations of pillowcases, buttons, and rick rack; as we have every intention of returning to this fun and worthwhile pro-



ject. A tote labeled "Little Dresses for Africa" will remain in the coat closet in the Narthex. For those people that sew the dresses on their own, LWML would be more than happy to collect them in April 2019 and ship them off.



Thank You, LWML



Passion Play of Oberammergau

Janice Erfman invites anyone interested in traveling to join her as she hosts an 11-day tour of Alpine Europe (Switzerland, southern Germany and Austria) including the world-famous Passion Play of Oberammergau from September 21-October 1, 2020. The Passion Play is performed every ten years, as it has been for the past 380 years, by the villagers of Oberammergau in fulfillment of their promise to God for sparing them from the Black Plague. Heidelberg, Rhine Valley, Lucerne,

Innsbruck, Salzburg, Munich and Rothenberg are some of the stops also included. **Space is limited so reserve your spot now.** For a detailed brochure and more information, contact Janice Erfman, Secretary, Trinity Lutheran Church, Miller, SD at 605-354-3911 or email jkerfman@hotmail.com. Cost: \$4449 (Air/land tour price is \$3979 plus \$470 government taxes/airline surcharges)





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 "Trunks", our Board of Missions, our LYF

Youth, those who donated 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. There are special envelopes for Debt Retirement, Missions, Lenten and holiday envelopes 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. 5 / 12 / 19 from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

December 15th Children's Christmas Program
Dress Rehearsal 9:30-11 am N-3rd grade

December 16th Children's Christmas Programs:
N-3rd grade 9:45 service

Dec. 16, 23, 30 No Sunday School Class

Dec. 26 No Midweek Classes

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Worship - 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Dec. 25th Christmas Day Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 2 Swim Night at the Aquatic Center for
Midweek grades 2-8th 6:45-7:45 p.m.

Jan. 6th Sunday School Resumes

March 30th Bible Bowl at Faith

July 2019, 11-15th LCMS National Youth Gathering - Minneapolis, MN

Advent Services...Please join the congregation for Advent worship Wednesday evenings on Dec. 5th, the 12th, and the 19th at 7:00 p.m. Your worship life will be blessed because of it. Lord, stir our hearts.

Sunday School and Midweek Children's Christmas program is going to be Sunday, December 9th with the Nursery – 3rd grade program taking place at 9:45. Christmas program dress rehearsals will be Saturday, Dec. 9th at 9:30 a.m. for Nursery – 3rd grade. Thanks in ad-

vance for the wonderful ways in which each parent encourages and allows their child to share their faith and the Gospel story at Faith Lutheran.



Unto Us a Child is Born!

ACOLYTES

December 2

Early: Nathan Shoup and Samantha Zeltinger

Late: Adam Forman and Trenton Gore

December 9

Early: Trevor Hayes and Jacob Larson

Late: Tucker Berens and Ajaye Hicks

December 16

Early: Emily and Nathan Haberling

Late: Drew and Zane Schuchard

December 23

Early: Caiden Jost and Jayden Nickerson

Late: Brady Hoftiezer and Joshua Ryckman

December 24 (5:00PM and 7:30PM Christmas Eve)

I am looking for 5 acolytes at each service. If your student will be available please call me
Need 5 each service

5:00 (need 5) _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____

7:30 (need 5) _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____

December 25 (10:00AM Christmas Day)

Lane Hedglin and Jordan Thompson

December 30

Early: Emily Lingle and Hannah Lingle

Late: Ethan Hill and Simon Hill

December 31 New Year's Eve

7:00 _____, _____

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive
Thursday, December 11th from 12:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Those who are able to give (16+ yrs), are encouraged to sign-up to donate blood.