



DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

The Sundays of Advent

*The services will center around the theme of
"From Heaven Above"*

November 27—Advent 1 "The Gift of Hope"

December 4—Advent 2

"The Gift of Love"

December 11—Advent 3

"The Gift of Peace"

December 18—Advent 4

"The Gift of Life"

December 25—Christmas Day

"The Gift of Glory"



YOUTH
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAMS

Dec. 11, 2016

9:30 am N-3 Christmas Program

"To Us a Child is Born"

11:00 am Midweek 4th-8th Grade
Christmas Program

"It's Christmas Everywhere"



Advent & Christmas Schedule

Advent Services

"From Heaven Above"

Wednesday, November 30

"The Gift of Hope"

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7

"The Gift of Love"

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14

"The Gift of Peace"

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

"The Gift of Life"

6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship, Dec. 24

"The Gift of Joy"

Candlelight Service

5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship, Dec. 25

"The Gift of Glory"

With Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. only

New Year's Eve Worship, Dec. 31

With Holy Communion

6:30 p.m.

New Year's Day Worship, Jan 1

10:00 a.m.

Unto Us a Child is Born!



From Our Interim Pastor

Looking ahead

Promise cards will be dedicated on Sunday January 1 during the 10 a.m. worship.

Sunday morning adult Bible Class will resume on Sunday, January 8, at 9:45 in the gym. This is "Bible stories for adults," as most of the stories in the Bible are just that, *for adults*.

Because God knows our hearts and minds better than we do (Romans 8:26-27), the bereaved, ill, and missionaries will begin to be prayed for by groups. You are encouraged to take home a bulletin and pray by name for those in need of our prayers. As Jesus teaches,



public worship has parameters that private prayer does not know (Matthew 6:5-8, James 5:16).

On Ash Wednesday, you will

have the opportunity to receive ashes. Worshippers will not be required to participate, but the service will be structured so that those who would like to receive ashes may.

Thanks and kudos

I would like to thank the boards, congregational leaders, and auxiliaries of Faith for the willingness they have shown to take hold and grapple with issues, take up tasks that are new to them, and to communicate with each other.

Also, a thank you to those who gather in worship for realizing that it is just that. A gathering. And for realizing that any group of gathered anything will not all be alike. Some of you have told me that you *disliked* things that are new/different. Others of you have told me you *liked* the exact same thing. Which is fine. Because the church does not exist for us (who are quite different people), but we, the church, exist because Jesus who fills all things everywhere, and it is He who makes us one (Colossians 1:17-18).

This interim has been filled with learning. Not data (though there has been some of that),

but with human growth, shifting relationships, and renewed realizations. Not everything is perfect (if it were, why would God need to forgive anyone anything?). But the times of life that end up meaning more tend to be imperfect: a new baby, a better job, going off to school, retiring, healing. We can learn better to lean on God and accept the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:6-7).

And further I thank you for your trust. That most often shows itself to me when we disagree and can express it, knowing that Who unites us is stronger than the specific difference of view, calling in life, or opinion that may be causing anxiety.

May the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing and make melody in your hearts to the Lord (Colossians 3:17).

Pastor Dan





From Our Associate Pastor

Colossians 1:19-20 *"For in Him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross."*

"HO! HO! HO!!!...." Not your typical greeting from the Associate Pastor, is it?! Thankfully my physique isn't quite there! No, we know who is supposed to utter those words from the deep recesses of his belly, don't we? Words that ring out with great joy and promise for most... for the most part. Presents for you... and presents for you... holiday cheer for you... but coal for you Mr. Scrooge! Such a word from such a body. It's a word for the here and the now. A word that raises our excitement, at least for the time being, or until the shininess of the new thing we have just gotten wears off.

But we have such a word that brings joy that lasts to eternity! In Jesus, we have such a word from such a body! Grace for you... and peace for you... and hope for you... forgiveness and life FOR YOU! In God, we have the Word Incarnate made flesh. Such a word through such a baby—a gentle word through the lowly babe at

*Focus on Christ
this Season*



Bethlehem. This is the Word by which the heavens and the earth were created. It's the Word by which the angels exclaim: "Glory to God in the highest!" It is truly a Word that brings joy to the world. It's a Word that declares: "As a called and ordained servant of the Word... You are forgiven on account of Jesus' death and resurrection for you." It's a Word by which God forgives your sins, heals your diseases, and redeems your life from the pit. In Jesus' body nailed to that cursed tree, we have promise and everlasting peace with our God. A real flesh and blood promise. **Ho...pe! Ho...pe! Ho...pe!** That's the Word we celebrate at Christmas. May the joy and hope of Jesus be with you now and always dear brothers and sisters in Christ. A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Josh Baumann



Challenge Accepted!

Again this year we have had one of our families offer a generous Debt Retirement Challenge.

Here is the challenge: The family will match up to \$10,000.00 all gifts given to Debt Retirement from October through December 31.

Our Board of Stewardship has discussed this opportunity for us to double every gift to Debt Retirement and they say, "Challenge Accepted." By our generous gifts may every member of Faith say,

"Challenge Accepted."



LWML Christmas Party

LADIES....The LWML Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2016 starting at 7:00 pm.

New and current officers will be installed. This year's program is titled "A Mother Remembers".

We will be taking a free will offering to benefit the Southeast Community Center.

There will be an inexpensive gift exchange or in lieu of a gift you may add to our offering for the Southeast Community Center.

We will have refreshments and a time of fellowship. Come and join us for a fun evening!



Men's Fellowship

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

It is on Monday, December 12 at 5:15 p.m.

Please bring a snack to share.

Beverage will be provided.



Official Acts

Baptism

Anna Marie Kost 11/5/16



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



Trunk
or Treat

A Trunk or Treat

Thank You

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 and truly gorgeous evening at Faith.



Thank You!!



After expenses the Country Fair raised just over \$7,200.00! The money raised will go towards the following National, District, Local and In-house mission projects...

National

LCMS Disaster Response through gift cards
Mission Central Support of Missionaries
and retreat for R & R

District

Seminary Student Fund for Titus Utecht
Cherry Creek Mission project for Nick Hill

Local

PARS
Missouri Shores

In House

Funds for New Sound System Sanctuary
Faith Circle Goodie Box Postage
Office needs for Helen
Daycare Needs
New Confirmation Gowns
Little Dresses for Africa supplies and
postage
LYF
Pastor Baumann Cash Fund for Emergency
Love Fund – for River City Transit rides



We would like to thank all of those who helped make this possible. Thank you to those who provided items for gift baskets, recipe in a jar, providing lunch counter items, and all of the donations to the booths like, Lutheran Market, Collectibles, Baked Goods, Crafts, Used Treasures and Candy. We would also like to thank those who helped set up, worked the day of the fair, and helped tear down. Finally, we would like to thank all that came, shopped, and enjoyed the meal. Without all of you this wouldn't be possible. Thank you again for making the Country Fair a huge success!



BEHOLD A BRANCH IS GROWING

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." Isaiah 11:10

Years ago, "Behold a Branch is Growing," was found near the back of The Lutheran Hymnal. We'd sing it occasionally during Advent, but it wasn't really one of my favorites. It seemed kind of obscure to me. A different translation, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," was more appealing in my young mind.

Behold a branch is growing of
loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing; it
springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flower in
midst of winter,
At deepest midnight hour.

When I was growing up, it was very common for people to go into the woods to cut down their own Christmas tree. As you know, once the tree is cut down, the stump always remains behind. We didn't take it with us; it was

left in the ground, drained of all its life. Stumps aren't that great, other than maybe providing a place to sit. People pay to have them removed from their property.

Back in 500 BC and beyond, Israel's status was like a stump. The nation was politically and spiritually dead. Israel's reliance on the Lord didn't last. Its individual family trees weren't exactly flourishing either. They were cut down. Mary and Joseph were from Nazareth – and you might recall the quote, "What good can come from there?" In fact, no one opened their door when the young mother was about to give birth.

However, back in the woods, if you were to go back to the site a few weeks later, you might be surprised to find a few signs of life present in the form of little shoots growing out of the stump. Isaiah was speaking of a shoot coming forth from the stump of Jesse, King David's father. This shoot spelled

hope, and it had a name – Jesus! That shoot, that Branch, bore fruit for the purpose of reconciling our relationship with the Father. Jesus produced peace between us and God. We are forgiven and are part of God's family, we are grafted to Him. When we are connected to Jesus, the Branch grows in us.

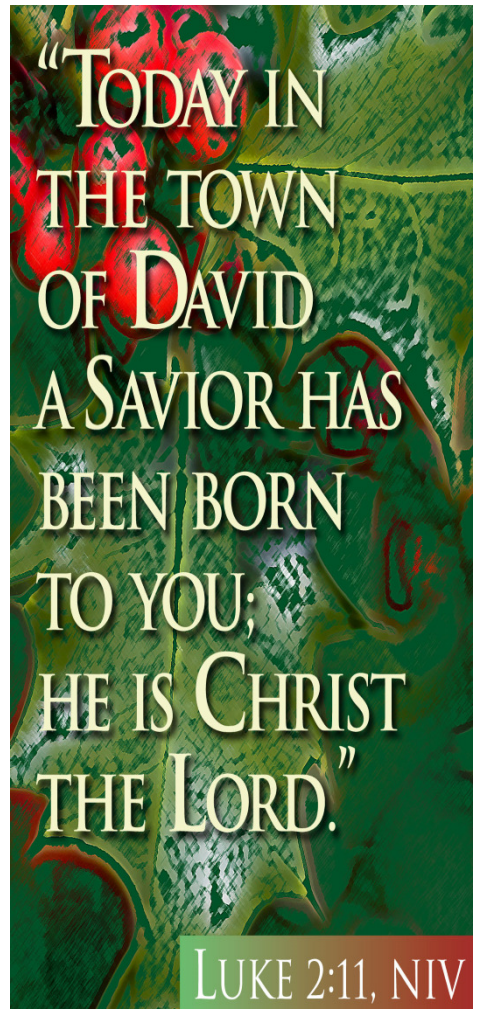
This Flower, whose fragrance
tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the
darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God; from sin
and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

Karen Lindbloom





From Our Faith Lutheran Staff



Blood Drive

Faith Lutheran Blood Drive is on Thursday, December 1st from 11:00 to 5:30. 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 even had a 'Bear Day' when we each brought our favorite bear and did lots of fun things with them.

Our color for December is green, the shape is triangle and the letters are JKL. We will be decorating a tree in the Living Room at Faith again this year. During December we make a gift for our parents, decorate our own tree at preschool, learn the story of Jesus' birth and get ready for our Christmas program. It will be held in the Christian Life Center at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, December 21 and on



Thursday, December 22 at 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM. Please come if you would like and enjoy an old fashioned Christmas 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!

Jan Larson, Director/teacher
jan@faithluth.com



FLC Day Care News

Greetings from Faith Lutheran Daycare!

Fall is in full swing here at Faith Lutheran Daycare! We have been blessed with beautiful weather that lets us go outside in the mornings and the afternoons. The children and staff are excited about the change in weather and in awe of all the colors that surround us this time of year. Before we know it, it will be time to bring snow pants and winter coats to play out in the snow!

To prepare everyone for the upcoming cold weather, we discussed winter and cold weather safety during the week of Nov. 14th-18th. The SD Department of Transportation was generous enough to provide a snow plow truck and pay loader for the children to explore while they discussed their role in winter safety. The children especially loved honking the very loud air horn in the snow plow truck and playing with the yo-yos that were provided by SD DOT.

With the upcoming holidays, we have been talking about how thankful we are for everything that God has given us and doing lots of Turkey themed crafts. Our Thanksgiving Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22nd from 4:30-5:30pm in the gym.

December will bring learning about the birth of

Jesus and many more crafts and projects for the season. We are also busy preparing for our upcoming Christmas Program, date and time are still to be determined. And the holiday season would not be complete without a trip to the Capital to see all of the beautiful trees.

Please continue to keep the daycare in your prayers as we strive to provide the best childcare possible. We are currently asking for donations of any gently used glider/rocking chairs for our nap room. As always, Dakota-mart receipts, box tops and Campbell's labels are always greatly appreciated and offer service to Faith Lutheran Church, our Preschool and our Daycare programs. Happy Thanksgiving everyone and have a great December!

Jen Hovelson
Faith Lutheran Daycare Director





Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

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

Christmas Day Worship

10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship

6:30 p.m.

Christmas Program and Practice Schedule

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

Christmas Programs

Sunday, December 11th

N—3rd Grade

"To Us a Child is Born"

9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary (during regular Sunday School time)

Sunday, December 11th

4th—8th Grade

"It's Christmas Everywhere"

11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

Our Dress Rehearsals are:

Saturday, December 10th

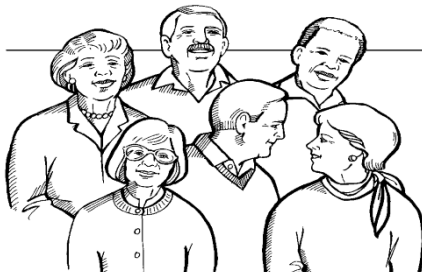
N—3rd grades at 9:30 a.m.

4th—8th grades at 11:00 a.m.

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



Forever Young



Seniors' Gathering

Our December Forever Young will be held December 15, 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!



Youth News

Dec. 10th & 11th L.Y.F. Kuchen Bake Sale at church \$10 Each!

December 10th Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 9:30-11 am N-3rd grade; and 11:00-12:30 for 4th-8th grade

December 11th Children's Christmas Programs N-3rd grade 9:30 service; 4-8th grade program at the 11 o'clock service

Dec. 10th & 11th L.Y.F. Kuchen Bake Sale at church \$10 Each!

Dec. 14th Swim Night at the Aquatic Center for Midweek grades 2-8th 6:45-7:45 p.m.

Dec. 18, 25, Jan. 1 No Sunday School Class

Dec. 21 & 28 No Midweek Classes

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

Dec. 25th Christmas Day Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 31 New Years Eve Worship - 6:30 p.m.

The LYF High School Group is raising funds for youth group activities as they will be selling 200 Kuchen on Sat. Dec. 10th and Sun. Dec. 11th. Some possible flavors that might be available include: peach, apricot, plum, or blueberry. The LYF high school youth group would like to thank you for your support in advance.

Kuchen Bake Sale The LYF high school group would like to share with you an exciting opportunity to support their bake sales. Please partner with them in raising funds to support the youth activities they like to do throughout the year. Our youth will be spending their Saturday baking Kuchen and can't wait to share their efforts with you on Dec. 10th and 11th. Not only are these fresh baked Kuchen great tasting, but they would make a lovely Christmas gift as well! They can also be frozen and saved for enjoyment at a later date. The LYF high school youth group

Swim Night at the Aquatic Center... All our midweek youth here at Faith are invited out for a fun evening of swimming and water activity at the Oahe Aquatic Center Wednesday, December 14th at 6:45 pm. This will be in place of our regular Midweek class time for that week. The Faith Lutheran staff and teachers are so thankful for all the efforts of our students and parents. This is a small token of our appreciation for all your hard work. Faith Lutheran Church will be paying for all those wanting to come that evening who do not have a Y mem-

bership. If so desired, a friend may also join along and the church will pay for that friend to be with us as well. Parents, please drop your son or daughter off at the Aquatic Center between 6:45 and 7:00 and please come get them anytime between 7:45 and 8:00 pm.

Advent Services and Midweek Class: This year, the Advent Worship services leading up to Christmas will take a different start time than in years past. On Wed. Nov. 30th, Dec: 7th, 14th, and the 21st Advent Services will begin at 6:30 p.m.

ACOLYTES

December 4

Early: Nate Hill, Madyson Titze

Late: Melissa Hedglin, Jesse Jares

December 11 Children's Christmas Programs; N-3rd @ 9:45 & 4-8th @ 11 a.m.

Early: Cassandra Ryckman, Pacen Banuat

Late: Kassie Tronvold, Kailee Schultz

December 18

Early: Rebecca Norris, Kenzie Trujillo

Late: Britney Hicks, Bailey Siebrasse

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 (need 5) Nathan Shoup, Tucker Berens, Joseph King, Daniel Voita, Cassandra VanDeWiele

7:30 (need 5) Hannah Lingle, Need 1 more, Cassie Axtell, Biale Siebrasse, Samantha Axtell

December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Kassie Tronvold, Kailee Schultz

December 31 New Year's Eve

6:30 Trever Hayes, Adam Schochnemaier

instead of 7:55 pm and end in roughly 45 minutes or less. For 2 of those 4 Wednesdays (Nov. 30 & Dec. 7th) leading up to the Children's Christmas program, Midweek class will go from 6:30-7:30 pm only. At 7:30 children will be done with class and should be picked up/ taken home. This will occur for Wed. Nov. 30 and Dec. 7th. We would hope that all parents would take advantage of worship opportunities while their child is in class and then when you're done, you both would go home at 7:30. For parents who aren't able to attend Advent Service we ask that you still pick your child up at 7:30 on Nov. 30th and Dec 7th. Aquatic Center pool party will be Dec 14th at the Y from 6:45 until 7:45. No Midweek classes on Dec.

Unto Us a Child is Born!