



THE MESSENGER

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life. John 3:16*

THE NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2021

*Faith's Mission is to reach people, young and old, who need Christ
in their lives, and to help them know, love and serve Christ.*



from the Pastor's desk

Dear Members and Friends of Faith Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

2020 is finally over, and 2021 is finally here. We hope and pray that the next twelve months will be easier than the last twelve months. But only God knows what 2021 holds in store for our congregation, for our families, and for our world.

As we stand on the threshold of this new year, I have been contemplating the words which God once spoke to Joshua, as the Israelites stood on the threshold of the Promised Land. The Israelites were about to cross over the River Jordan, and enter into the unknown territory of Canaan—just as we are about to enter into the unknown territory of 2021. This is what God said to the Israelites:

"Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:5-9)

These words were not just words for the Israelites. They are also words for us.

As we enter 2021, Jesus promises us: "I will not leave you or forsake you...the LORD your God is with you wherever you go!" (Joshua 1:5, 9).

No matter what comes our way in the year ahead, Jesus Christ will stick by our side. We are never alone. The Lord is with us.

As we enter 2021, Jesus encourages us: "be strong and very courageous!" (Joshua 1:7). We can face the future with confidence! Jesus has already won the battle on our behalf. By his death and resurrection, Jesus has already defeated sin, death, and the devil. And whatever might happen in 2021, nothing can steal Jesus' victory.

As we enter 2021, Jesus commands us: "this Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it" (Joshua 1:8). In 2021, stick with the Bible! The Bible is God's Word. If we meditate on God's Word day and night—if we *obey* God's Word day and night—then we will never go astray.

Together, we are crossing into the year 2021. And with Christ by our side, the future is bright.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nichol



The annual meeting of Faith Lutheran Church will take place immediately following the worship service on January 24th, 2021. Please plan to join us as we review the year past and look forward to the year ahead.

Annual reports are due to the secretary by **Monday, January 18th**. Please email them to faithlutheran@tds.net. Reports are due from the Treasurer, Pastor, Sunday School, and Audit Committee. The names for the ballot from the nominating committee members are due then as well.

Have You Made Your 2021 New Year's Resolutions Yet?

Here are some suggestions to add to your list...

- **Read a chapter of the Bible every day.** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).
- **Memorize the explanations to the Ten Commandments in the Small Catechism.** "I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).
- **Start a TSP—Thanks/Sorry/Please—prayer journal. Each day, write down one gift for which you are thankful, one sin for which you are sorry, and one situation for which you need to ask God "please help!"** "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- **Make a practice of thoughtful, prayerful self-examination before receiving the Lord's Supper.** "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28).
- **Invite five friends, family members, or neighbors to listen to the Faith Lutheran Church Gospel Hour on KRWC, AM 1360, Sunday mornings at 10.** "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15).
- **Decide to pray for—rather than complain about!— our political leaders.** "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- **Donate to your local food shelf on the major holidays.** "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17).

Bible Quiz

What did Jesus say brings greater joy in heaven than 99 righteous people?

A. The singing of angels
B. One sinner who repents
C. 100 righteous people
D. None of the above



Answer: B (See Luke 15:7.)

Monthly Financial Update

As of November 30, 2020

	Nov 2020 Giving	YTD Giving	YTD Budget	YTD Spending	Mortgage Balance
General Operating	\$11,180	\$111,644	\$125,094	\$99,743	X
Building Fund	\$6,140	\$53,745	\$55,000	X	\$372,376

Church Council Minutes

November 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order a by President Kim Garberich at 6:59 PM. Members present were Pastor Paul Nichol, Kim Garberich, Randy Havel, Mark Gilberts, Gloria Colbenson, Chuck Bray, Kerry Johnson, and Patrick Zierden.

Pastor Paul led the council with a reading from John 15:1-2 and prayer.

The meeting minutes for Oct. 15th were reviewed, Kerry made a motion to approve minutes and Gloria seconded the motion and the motion was accepted.

REPORTS:

Pastor Paul Nichol presented the monthly Pastor's report.

- I. Pastoral acts, 10/15/20 to 11/18/20:
 - a. (5) "Faith Lutheran Gospel Hour" programs broadcast at 10 AM on KRWC 1360 AM.
 - b. (5) indoor worship services; Holy Communion was observed on 10/18, 11/1, and 11/15.
 - c. (2) baptisms:
 - i. Hadley Josephine Pesola (10/18)
 - ii. Paul Michael Cox (10/18)
 - d. (6) pastoral visits.
- II. Sunday school, confirmation, and all-ages Bible study are ongoing.
- III. Except for emergencies, I am conducting the majority of pastoral care via phone or at church. All members of the congregation are invited to call me for pastoral care needs, or to make an appointment to see me at church.
- IV. Thank you for your flexibility with respect to my schedule. My family continues to navigate quarantines when our children get sick, and changes to daycare and school routines.

The pastor's report was reviewed, Chuck made the motion to approve and Randy seconded the motion and the motion was accepted.

The treasurer's report was reviewed, Gloria made the motion to approve and Randy seconded the motion and the motion was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Updates with the septic system have been completed to include new pump, misc. electrical and new insulated cover on tank. Many thanks and appreciation to Pete Schmitz for his contribution in covering cost and labor. THANK YOU!!
- Weekly cleaning schedules are in place, thanks to all those who are volunteering to cover, for those that would like to be involved for an hour or two of cleaning from time to time it would be greatly appreciated. This is a cost savings and a requirement during these Covid times.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Covid 19 update: Infections are way up across the country, state and now local. With record spikes we will continue to rely on MDH guidelines, mandates and continue to monitor where this is headed within our community.
- Sunday morning Bible study will be suspended after Romans, a break will take place. This will cut down on time spent in group gatherings, the longer we share the same air the risk goes up.
- Thanksgiving is scheduled for Wednesday night as planned.
- Christmas worship will have three services. On Christmas Eve, worship service will be held @ 3 pm, and also @ 7 pm. Christmas morning worship will be at 10 am. There will also be a radio service Christmas Eve @ 4 pm on KRWC 1360 AM.
- Stewardship Campaign: a letter to the congregation has been prepared by the council. Thank you for your continued generous financial support and giving for the year ahead!
- Our 2021 Annual meeting is scheduled for January 24th.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:35 PM. Chuck made a motion to adjourn and Randy seconded, motion accepted.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Minutes submitted by Kerry Johnson



JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

God bless you on
your special day!

If you see a mistake or an
omission, please contact the
secretary so she can update the
records:

763.878.2092 or

faithlutheran@tds.net. Thanks!

- 5- Tami Foote
- 5- Paxton Johnson
- 7- Brenda Olson
- 12- Gloria Triebwasser
- 14- Ray Knutson
- 20- Rebekah Hasbrouck
- 21- Harlan Hamson
- 24- Ben Bauer
- 26- Brooke Publitz
- 26- Mike & Linda Bregenzer
- 31- Hannah Nichol

Nations shall come to your

LIGHT,

and kings to the

BRIGHTNESS

of your dawn.

ISAIAH 60:3, NRSV

Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, _____ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come _____ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear _____ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it _____ .

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

_____ PROVERBS 23:4

A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.

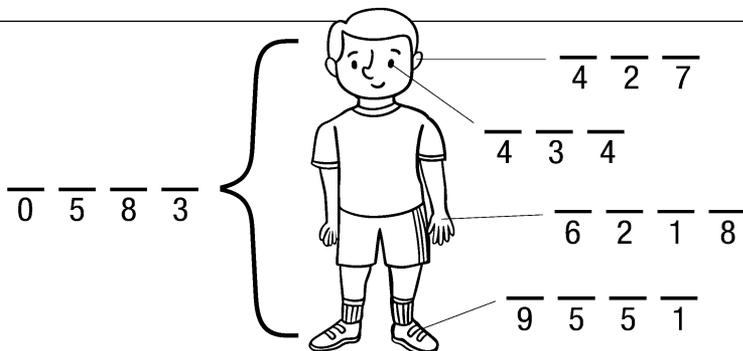
Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the $\frac{\quad}{20}$ should say, “Because I am not a $\frac{\quad}{17}$, I do not belong to the $\frac{\quad}{16}$,” ... And if the $\frac{\quad}{13}$ should say, “Because I am not an $\frac{\quad}{11}$, I do not belong to the $\frac{\quad}{16}$,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the $\frac{\quad}{16}$. If the whole $\frac{\quad}{16}$ were an $\frac{\quad}{11}$, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole $\frac{\quad}{16}$ were an $\frac{\quad}{13}$, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one $\frac{\quad}{16}$.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 16, ear = 11, hand = 13, foot = 17, leg = 20