



# 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

December 2022

*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 Interim Pastor

Greetings to all the servants at Faith Lutheran Church!

In the name of the risen and living God, Jesus Christ, to those who are called to be saints of Faith Lutheran Church and who call on the name of our Lord: Grace and peace to you.

Many people today only have a sketchy idea about a being named "God." People picture an image in their mind of a very old

man with a wrinkled face, a twinkle in his eye and a long white beard, sitting on a cloud with angels playing golden harps. Perhaps this God is looking angrily down upon us because of the mess we are making of the world. That particular imagery has only a very loose relationship to any kind of Christian theology. Yet, it is still remarkable how many people think that is what we Christians talk about whenever we say the word, "God."

Even though we probe and question things about God, no human logic or argument can ever pin down God, get God in a corner, and then somehow force Him to submit to human inspection, reason, and logic.

However, there is a part of the Christian story where indeed God was pinned down. Not only was God subjected to human inspection and probing questions, but God was subjected to an unjust trial, tortured, imprisoned, beaten, whipped, spit upon and finally pinned down to a cross and killed.

Those who come to Christianity with the argument to disprove the existence of God are in danger. They are in danger of the kind of surprise received by the women when they went to the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning.

This is a God who surprises. This is a God who came to earth as a baby to be with us. This is a God who pops into our world and sits right down and doesn't leave. Where is God? He is not up in the sky, not up in another universe, but right here for you!

Merry Christmas everyone! God's peace + to you and yours.

Interim Pastor Scott Block

*P.S.: Read your Bible. Hear God's voice. Receive faith.*

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## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men of all ages are invited to church for breakfast on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30-9:30 AM. Invite your friends and neighbors! Sign up on the information table in the narthex.

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## BAKE SALE

Come enjoy tasty sweets and share some holiday spirit on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM while you shop for Christmas goodies and baked items. At 11:45 AM Immanuel and Silver Creek Community Church are invited to come and shop for baked items.

We need LOTS of bakers! There will be a baking day at church, Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM. Ingredients are provided. Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM we will be packaging a variety of cookies in clear plastic containers also provided. If you make homemade cookies, please bring them to church between 12-2 PM Saturday. Other baked items may be brought that day also or Sunday morning. If you bake something with peanuts or peanut butter, please make a note of that on the item.

We want to make this a huge success and a fundraiser and outreach program for our church. All donations will go to the new flooring fund. So start pondering over those cookbooks and traditional Christmas treats. Faith Church is known to have some great bakers and cooks! There is a sign-up sheet for help needed both Saturday and Sunday. If you have questions, contact Gloria Colbenson.





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## ADVENT TABLE PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

**Week 1:** Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, let these gifts to us be blest.  
Keep us ever in your sight, be our joy, our heart's delight. Amen.

**Week 2:** Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, let these gifts to us be blest.  
May there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen.

**Week 3:** Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, let these gifts to us be blest.  
Guide us on the servant's way, lead us to your dawning day. Amen.

**Week 4:** Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, let these gifts to us be blest.  
Deep within us come to dwell that we might all your goodness tell. Amen.

**Week 5:** Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, let these gifts to us be blest.  
Every day your praise we sing, help us shine the light you bring. Amen.

# SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK

**THANK YOU...** to our generous congregation. Over 100 scarves and 40 mittens were donated to the Monticello Pinewood and Little Mountain elementary schools and the health center. 173 Good Samaritan shoeboxes were filled with needed items for children in Third World countries. It costs \$10 to mail each box. Thank you to our congregation for your donations that covered all the \$1,730 postage.

**THANK YOU...** to Kerry Johnson for installing a "Faith Lutheran Church" sign in Hasty at the intersection of County Road 75 and Elder Ave NW. Expense for the sign was paid for by an anonymous church member and will not come out of the church budget. A huge thank you to Summit Stone for allowing us to put the sign on their property rent-free. If you patronize their business, please tell them thank you.



**THANK YOU...** to the Good Samaritans of Faith Lutheran Church who delivered a meal to us while I was ill! ~Connie Lounsbury

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## LUTHERAN TIDBITS

**THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT:** "You are not to kill."

Here now we leave our own house and go out among our neighbors in order to learn how we should live among them, how people should conduct themselves among their neighbors. This commandment is easy to understand. Christ himself explains it in Matthew 5:20-26, that we must not kill, either by hand, heart, or word, by signs or gestures, or by aiding and abetting. God knows the world is evil and this life is full of misery. Therefore God has erected this commandment and others to separate good and evil. The meaning then, is that no one should harm another person for any evil deed, no matter how much that person deserves it. A brief summary of this commandment is we should not harm anyone, either by hand or deed. We should not use our tongue to advise harming anyone. Our heart should harbor no hostility or malice against anyone in a spirit of anger and hatred. (Adapted from Luther's Large Catechism)

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 2022

The Council meeting of Faith Lutheran Church was called to order by President Kim Garberich at 7:00 PM. Present: Pastor Scott, Kim Garberich, Mark Gilberts, Steve Lichtenberg, Gloria Colbenson, Pat Zierden, Kerry Johnson, Guest Mike Bregenzer

Pastor Scott opened with devotions and prayer.

Mike Bregenzer gave a report on the Call Committee. A man from Texas will be interviewed next week. Mike will give the congregation an update on Sunday.

## PASTOR'S REPORT:

- A Paschal candle made by Pastor Scott and a friend, and the eternal wall mount candle made by Mike Bregenzer will be dedicated this Sunday.
- Decorating committee has cleaned out storage closets. Discussed funding to purchase new items as needed. A motion was made by Mark to budget \$500. Kerry second. Motion carried.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT:

### Monthly Financial Update as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

	YTD Giving	YTD Spending	Mortgage Balance
General Operating	\$94,636	\$69,737	X
Building Fund	\$34,085	X	\$264,318

Gloria made a motion to accept the report. Mark seconded. Motion carried.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT: Kerry Johnson

- Kerry is still researching new flooring for the narthex floor.
- Painting the front of the sanctuary is complete.
- Matt Brecht submitted a 2023 contract for snow plowing in the amount of \$2000. Contract accepted.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Steve provided a completed Building Emergency Map of the church. The map will be posted around the church.
- The covered wagon is for sale at Elsenpeter Post-A-Bid.
- Sunday, December 11 right after church we will host a bake sale and invite Silver Creek Immanuel and Community Church. All proceeds will go to the new floor funding. Watch the church bulletin for more details.

- Reviewed a church cleaning job description. Discussed a pay rate to hire someone to clean weekly.
- New directional church sign is complete at the Hasty intersection Hwy 75 and Elder Ave NW.
- Sunday school update reporting attendance is low, but will continue to offer Sunday school weekly. No Sunday school December 25 and January 1.
- Nominating committee will call members to fill vacant positions before the annual meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Gloria reported she booked the wRight Ringers Handbell Community Assembly concert at Faith church on Sunday, February 26 at 3:00 pm. Tickets will be sold and profits will go toward the new flooring fund.
- Set the date Sunday, January 22, 2023 for the annual meeting. Meeting begins at 11:00 am.
- Lake Maria made a request to use our parking lot for their annual Candlelight Hike on Saturday, February 4. A shuttle will be provided and paid for by Lake Maria.
- Kerry shared estimates from Olson Electric to add a fire alarm receptacle next to the fire alarm. Kerry made the motion to approve \$1,435.00 for electrical (OSE) and fire protection, provided by Summit Fire Protection, that is for monitoring our building with a cellular dial up to inform the fire department and a call list if we have an event. Steve seconded. Motion carried. Future updates to include improvements for smoke detection were also discussed for 2023.



Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM. Gloria second. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gloria Colbenson, Secretary

**Painting in action...I can't even look at this picture without shaking in my boots!**

# QUILT ROOM

Anyone having vintage or newer tablecloths and/or table runners to hang in the Apostles room in place of quilts this month, give them to Lana Gilberts. Please put your name on the back of each item. If there's some history, story or memory about your cloth, attach it to the item.

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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](mailto:faithlutheran@tds.net).

Thanks!

- 3- Eva Brecht
- 7- Viola Rajendren
- 8- Kayla Pesola
- 15- Jerry Foote
- 17- Matt & Laura Brecht
- 18- Doug Ouverson
- 18- Tim & Kim Landecker
- 27- Lana Gilberts
- 28- Mark & Lana Gilberts

# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

- December 1 – box of cereal
- December 2 – peanut butter
- December 3 – stuffing mix
- December 4 – boxed potatoes
- December 5 – macaroni and cheese
- December 6 – canned fruit
- December 7 – canned tomatoes
- December 8 – canned tuna
- December 9 – dessert mix
- December 10 – jar of applesauce
- December 11 – canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 – cranberry sauce
- December 13 – canned beans
- December 14 – box of crackers
- December 15 – package of rice
- December 16 – package of oatmeal
- December 17 – package of pasta
- December 18 – spaghetti sauce
- December 19 – chicken noodle soup
- December 20 – tomato soup
- December 21 – canned corn
- December 22 – canned mixed vegetables
- December 23 – canned carrots
- December 24 – canned green beans

The Thursday morning Bible study group is participating in a “Reverse Advent Calendar” project and we’d like to invite the congregation to join us!

Advent is a time for preparing for the birth of Jesus. Advent calendars typically are filled with candy and you open one each day from Dec. 1 – Christmas Day. With a reverse advent calendar, the focus is on giving rather than receiving... just as Jesus was given to us as a baby and ultimately gave his life for us.

Each day you gather the food item listed and bring them to church each Sunday. The food will be donated to local food shelves.

Want to make a new Christmas tradition for your family? This is such an amazing way to give back and will not only bless those in need in your community, but also keep your family focused on the true meaning in this season.

