

Faith Lutheran Church

The Parish News

This Month's Message from Pastor Josh Davis

Colder temperatures are moving in and the month of December is upon us which means **a new church year is about to begin, starting with the season of Advent.** The word "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming." It is the season of the church year during which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ: First, to celebrate His birth at Christmas, and second, to be ready for His return on the Last Day when He will make all things new.

This Advent season, **we'll be preparing around the theme "Holy Lands, Holy Lives."** During each worship service in Advent, we'll consider a particular Biblical place which has a certain significance in the Scriptures (places like Egypt, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem). Many of these places have been in the news recently given all the fighting and unrest that has taken place in the Middle East (an area sometimes referred to as "The Holy Land"). After considering each place's unique part in God's salvation story, we'll ponder what those places have to teach us today as we prepare for a coming King by leading holy lives (2 Peter 3:11), transformed by God's Spirit and power.

Some details about scheduling: On the three **Wednesday nights** in Advent (December 6th, 13th and

20th), **we'll meet in the church sanctuary for worship at 6:30 pm. Following the service, you're invited to stay afterwards for a time of fellowship with hot cider or cocoa and treats to eat.** On Sunday mornings we'll continue to meet at 8:00 and 10:30 am for worship (and the 9:15 Education Hour), with the exception of December 24th. For that Sunday only, there will be only one morning service at 9:00 am (the 4th Sunday of Advent) and no Sunday School classes. In the evening, we'll offer our regular trio of Christmas Eve services at 3:00, 5:00 and 7:30 pm. On December 31st, we'll return to our regular Sunday morning schedule with worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 am, along with a group Bible class for kids of all ages at 9:15 am (adult Bible classes will still meet). Then, you're invited to ring in the new year with us at the New Year's Eve service that night (7:00 pm).

In addition to so many special worship opportunities, you're also encouraged to join in **Christmas caroling to our homebound members on December 3rd** (right after 10:30 worship) and to attend our **Children's Christmas Program, "It's a Big Deal,"** with music composed by Emily Dunbar, **on December 10th at 2:00 pm.**

Contact us at:

402-462-5044

Visit us at:

AFamilyofFaith.com

Special Service Schedule

Advent Worship Services

Dec. 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30 pm

Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 10 at 2:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Dec. 24 at 3:00, 5:00, & 7:30 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Dec. 25 at 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Service

Dec. 31 at 7:00 pm



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SPECIAL CHRISTMAS Services

Advent Worship Services (Wed.)
Dec. 6, 13, & 20 at 6:30 pm

4th Sunday in Advent Worship
Dec. 24 at 9:00 am
(no Sunday School)

Christmas Eve Worship (Sun.)
Dec. 24 at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:30 pm

Christmas Day Worship (Mon.)
Dec. 25 at 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Service (Sun.)
Dec. 31 at 7:00 pm

LLL Advent Devotions and many other periodical devotional materials for all ages are available on the tables located at the West entrance and at the Southeast entrance.



Advent Devotionals for Families Advent Prayer Star

Advent devotionals for families of all sizes and ages will be available for pick up in the West entry beginning November 22nd. This fun, interactive prayer activity will guide you through the steps of building your own Moravian star and challenge you to pray throughout the season of Advent for people and situations that are in need of the light of Christ. No need for advance sign up!

Giving Tree—

In this month where we celebrate the birth of the Christ child we are working with Providence Place and the Homestead to share gifts with residents through the Giving Tree. Please return items unwrapped by Thursday, Dec 21.



Prayers

Health & Healing

Recently included in our prayers: Diane Barber, John Brooks, Alyssa Burr, Lamoine Einspahr, Tiffany Gilpin, Anna Jank, Myron Peters, Doug Saathoff, Lyle Schroeder, and Lisa Trausch.

We continue our prayers for: Jeff Bachman, Vicki Fisher, Carter Johnson, Julie Kempf, Bob Matthies, Carolyn Prauner, Melissa Svoboda, and Paul Wathen.

Sympathy

We pray for all those who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially: Mark Kimle and Mitch Kimle at the death of Mark's mother; Roger Lemke, Heath Lemke, Michaela Borrell, and Michelle Brooks at the death of Roger's mother; Jim Wiegel and Lindsay Frey at the death of Jim's mother; Courtney Mangels at the death of her mother; Wade Johnson at the death of his father; and Katherine Greenland at the death of her great-grandmother.

Celebrations

We rejoice over babies reborn through the waters of baptism: Mila Jan Butler, daughter of Jaden and Marisa Butler, and McKenna Alyzabeth Toelle, daughter of Taylor and Megan Toelle.

We give thanks with Alex and Leah Shaw and with Ryan & Amanda Douglas on their recent weddings, and with Lamoine & Emaline Einspahr on their 72nd anniversary.

We give thanks for the long and fruitful lives of Ruby Trambly (102), Emaline Einspahr (90), and Dean Poppe (80).



Parents Night Out **December 1, 6:00-8:00pm**

The Board of Family Life will be hosting a Parents Night Out on December 1 from 6:00-8:00 pm. This will be a time for parents to do their Christmas shopping while

we enjoy time with your kids! There is no cost for families but space is limited to the first 20 children to sign up. While you're away, the kids will make their own pizzas for dinner (let us know if your child has any allergies), make a craft, and play games. Contact DCE Leah to reserve your spot!



Christmas Caroling

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!
(Psalm 98:4a)

December 3, 12:00 pm.

Join us as we gather together as a family of Faith to bring Christmas joy to our members and friends. All ages are welcome to join! This year, the Board of Family Life will be hosting a taco bar prior to caroling in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin serving lunch at noon and plan to leave for caroling at 12:45pm. Desserts are needed! Please sign up in the forum if you are able to bring a dessert. RSVP to DCE Leah prior to the event.

YAM Christmas Party **December 14, 6:30—8:00 pm**

All involved in the Young Adult Ministry Bible Study are invited to a Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy the fellowship of friends and some fun minute-to-win-it Christmas themed games. Feel free to bring a treat to share! Please RSVP to Leah by Sunday, December 10.

XYF Christmas Party **December 20, 7:30—9:00 pm**

High School youth are invited to a Christmas Party in the Youth Room following the Advent Service on December 20th. Wear your best Christmas sweater and bring a wrapped White Elephant gift (something you already own that you're willing to give away.) Get ready for games, goodies, and a good time with friends.

Community News

Cookie Walk / Bake Sale & Crafts

Saturday, December 2, 8-12pm
Zion Lutheran Church, 465 S Marian Road.

Christmas Abendmusik

Sunday, December 3, 6:30pm
Zion Lutheran Church
4080 S Wanda Ave, Juniata

Join us at Zion—Wanda for an evening of Christmas music and readings featuring Cathedral Brass & Chorus of the Plains.

A free-will offering will be collected and refreshments will be served.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

Saturday, December 9, 9:00am—11:30am

First St Paul's Youth & Family Center
at 4th & Lexington, west door.

No matter how long it's been since a loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. But there is hope. GriefShare offers this free program to help those in grief plan for the holidays. We invite you to join us for an encouraging seminar featuring a video with discussion following, plus a planning book to take home. More information is available at www.Griefshare.org or contact Belva Junker or Frank Koch to sign up.

This event is sponsored by First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Livingston Butler Volland Funeral Home, and a Thrivent Action Grant.

ACLEA Volunteers Needed

If you have been thinking about how you might participate in supporting Lutheran education, **how about volunteering for ACLEA?** We offer many different service opportunities that utilize a wide range of talents with varying time commitments. Opportunity areas & committees include: Decorating Club, Catering Team, Procurement Committee, Event Setup, Cleanup, Registration/Cashier, and learning the auction software. Then plan to attend the FIRE Banquet at the Adams Co Fairgrounds on March 2, 2024. For more information, please reach out to an ACLEA board member.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



DECEMBER *Calendar*

Parents' Night Out - December 1, 6-8pm at church.

See article on page 3 for details.

Christmas Caroling - December 3, 12:00pm

Everyone is invited to join us. For more information, please see the article on page 3.

Priscilla Circle - December 5, 1:00pm in Room 102-103.

All women are welcome to join us for this month's meeting of Priscilla Circle.

TheoPub - December 7, 6:30pm at Steeple Brewing.

All men (21 & over) are invited to join others for informal Bible Study and Christian fellowship.

"It's A Big Deal" Christmas Program - December 10, 2:00pm.

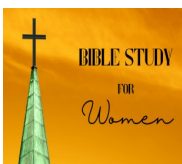
Everyone is invited to enjoy our children retelling the Christmas story in this year's children's program.

YAM Christmas Party - December 14, 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

See article on page 3 for details.

Book Club - December 14, 7:00pm at Dally's on South Street.

We'll be discussing - *Catherine Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman. If you'd like to join the group, contact Deanna Dirks for more information.



Bible Study for Women

The Bible Study for Women that meets at Rivals will not meet in November or December. This study will resume in January.

Looking Ahead

Divorce Care is a weekly seminar/support group that will help you heal from the hurt. It's a warm, caring environment led by people who understand what you are going through. Gain hope for your future! Contact us today for more info.

402-462-5044

pastorpaul@afamilyoffaith.com

Mondays, 6:30—8:00pm

January 8 – April 1

Find Help—Discover Hope—Experience Healing

DIVORCE *Care*

BAPTISM CELEBRATION

All those who were baptized during 2023 will have photos displayed in the forum during the month of January. Please bring a photo to the church office **by Dec. 31**. Thank you!



IT'S A BIG DEAL, IT'S A BIG, BIG, DEAL!

December 10 at 2:00pm

Everyone is invited to see the children perform in this year's Christmas program, *It's A Big Deal*. An original Christmas play written by our own Emily Dunbar.

2024	
BOOK CLUB	
Reading List	
Jan 11	<i>Demon Copperhead</i> by Barbara Kingsolver
Feb 8	<i>American Dirt</i> by Jeanine Cummins
Mar 14	<i>The Garden of Small Beginnings</i> by Abbi Waxman
Apr 11	<i>Grandma Gatewood's Walk</i> by Ben Montgomery
May 9	<i>The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store</i> by James McBride
Jun 13	<i>Before We Were Yours</i> by Lisa Wingate
Jul 11	<i>Beyond the Hills of Mars</i> by D. R. Haskins
Aug 8	<i>The Girls in the Stilt House</i> by Kelly Mustian
Sep 12	<i>One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> by Ken Kesey
Oct 10	<i>Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers</i> by Jesse Q. Sutanto
Nov 14	<i>Sam</i> by Allegra Goodman
Dec 12	<i>Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus</i> by Dusti Bowling
Bonus Book	<i>Christmas Bus</i> by Melody Carlson

KIDS' PAGE

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The Children's Christmas Program, "It's a Big Deal", is coming soon! Participants include any child in preschool through 6th grade. Sunday and Weekday school teachers, we need your help during the program and at the practices. Please let us know if you are unable to attend. Anyone else who is interested in helping please contact DCE Wade.

Important Dates:


Practices: Sat., Dec. 2 & 9
from 10:00am—12:00pm

PROGRAM:

Sunday, December 10,
at 2:00pm
(kids should be in their
Classrooms by 1:30pm)



Sunday School offerings for the month of December will support this year's Giving Tree chosen charities. For more details, see page 2 of this newsletter.



Word on Wednesday

CHRISTMAS

Sabbatical

Come worship with us this Advent season!
see the full schedule in the December newsletter.

All WOW activities will resume on the
Wednesday after New Year's Day.



Perfect Attendance

Sunday School –

Pre-School: Pria Strand, Elizabeth Nissen.

Kindergarten: Conner Benes.

1st: Autumn Davis, Mathew Nissen.

2nd: Natalie Nissen. **3rd:** Ethan Benes, Julia Jabs, Eli Wills. **5th:** Hannah Jabs.

7th: Abby Jabs.

Weekday School –

Pre-School: Isaac Bulas, Avery Gloystein, Brady Henkel, Jax Hermann, Maddyn Modlin, Connor Shelton, Cody Williams, Clyetta Wilson.

Kindergarten: Conner Benes, Landon Thompson. **1st:** Aubree Brooks, Autumn Davis, Stella Jones, Drake Lemke, Harper Martin, Calley Poppe. **2nd:** Harrison Bartunek, Sophie Bulas, Faith Hoins, Oliver Keilig, Andy Klabenes, Audrey Konert, Eli Kothe, Emma Kothe, James Kothe, Reid Modlin, Natalie Nissen, Laurn Thompson. **3rd:** Blake Gerloff, Boden Gloystein, Julia Jabs, Blake Williams, Eli Wills, Ellie Wilson.

4th: Nolan Bulas, Emma Edwards, Emma Hoins, Emmery Jacobitz, Gentry Timmerman, Claire Valentin. **5th:** Hannah Jabs, Cady Klabenes, Ava Valentin.

6th: Michael Hoins, Ben Kuehn, Ryker Timmerman. **7th:** Beck Gerloff, Abby Jabs, Ava Konert, Josh Muske, Xavier Newman, Macy Shelton, Anna Sidlo, Jaxen Valentin, Emma Wilson.

8th: Kayden Bartunek, Brynn Lemke, Ellie Wahlmeier.

Thank Yous

Dear Family of Faith: We would like to thank you for providing a heartfelt service and luncheon to honor our Dad. It was very comforting during this difficult time.

~The Family of Len Grummert

We are so grateful to our Faith family for celebrating our recent marriage with us! Thank you to all who sent cards, gifts, and expressed well-wishes, we are so blessed by each one of you. Thank you all for the love, support, and care you show us.

~Alex & Leah Shaw

Thank you to Dale and Karen Pospisil for their Thrivent Grant that provided funds for devotional books given away at the 80+ Fellowship Meal. ~XYF High School Youth

Thanks to all of the Faith members who reached out to my family with kind words, thoughts, and prayers at the passing of my father. You have again shown in many caring ways why our church is aptly called the Family of Faith.

~Wade Johnson



She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger-there was no room in the inn.

Luke 2:7

**“Let’s go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has
happened, which the Lord has
told us about.”**

May the good news of Jesus’ birth
stir you to earnestly seek Him
and joyfully praise Him.

*Merry Christmas
Pastor Paul, Pastor Josh,
Wade, Leah, Heather and Tina.*

**Are you a
member of
Thrivent
Financial?**



Here’s some end-of-the-year ways to give.

1. Designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars:
 - Faith Lutheran Church or
 - Our Place After School Care.

Option 1: work directly with your Thrivent representative or call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836.

Option 2: Go online and designate at thrivent.com/about-us/membership/member-benefits.

2. File for a Thrivent Action Team Grant. This allows you to get up to a \$250 visa card to serve an organization in your community. To file for one go to thrivent.com/about-us/membership/member-benefits.

Contact DCE Wade or DCE Leah if you need ideas for how you can help at Faith Lutheran or how to navigate the Thrivent process.



ADULT Bible Studies



Sundays

FOUND IN THE FIGHT [E-101] - Room 102-103. This is a 6-session study. Led by DCE Wade Johnson. If you've ever tried to fake it 'til you make it, you're not alone. We can all be tempted to hide the truth about ourselves, or change our true identity, to get ahead in life. We long for acceptance, affirmation, and approval because we forget who we really are: loved by God.

THE SUNDAY LESSONS [E-100] - Fellowship Hall
Studying the Sunday Lessons meets each Sunday morning to explore the Bible readings and to give participants a chance to ask those unasked questions.

Did you know...

Right Now Media, a streaming service provided free to our members through a Faith Foundation gift, has several videos centered around Advent and Christmas? Kids, families, and adults can find all sorts of content to help deepen their relationship with our loving Lord, and it isn't only for Christmas! If you haven't already, we invite you to scan the QR code below, set up your free account, and dig deep into the Word of our Lord!

rightnow MEDIA



Tuesdays

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - Russ's Market at 7:00am; done promptly at 7:50am. Gather each week for coffee or breakfast. We are watching and discussing Season 3 of the video series, "THE CHOSEN".

Wednesdays

MORNING BIBLE STUDY [P-200] meets in Room 11 at 9:00am. Pastor Dunbar leads the group. This is a time of prayer, devotion, and sermon discussion. All are welcome to be a part of this wonderful group of friends.

Sponsoring the Website

The website is being sponsored in December by Darin and Tina Clark in memory of loved ones and in adoration of our Lord, Christ Jesus.



Key to Adult Bible Studies



C= Culturalcontemporary issue/current event
E= Exegetical....study of the Bible
H= Historical.... chronological study
P= Practical..... a specific issue/practice in life

100 level- No prior knowledge of subject needed
200 level- Some Biblical knowledge helpful
300 level- More challenging and uses own Bible
400 level- Homework and a "dig deep" attitude

Faith Lutheran Church
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Hastings, NE 68901

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Return Service Requested

 December 
2023



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www.aFamilyofFaith.com
-includes all email addresses

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Leah Shaw, D.C.E.
leah@afamilyoffaith.com

Support Staff

Tina Clark, Admin. Asst.
Heather Jones, Bookkeeper

O SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME!

Our Mission Statement: Faith Lutheran Church is the body of Christ,
called to be the caring hands and loving voice of Christ in this world.

2023 Church Council

Chairman: Cole Bulas

Vice Chairman: Doug Koopman

Treasurer: Adam Jacobitz

Recording Secretary: Lisa Worley

Board of Education: Lindsay Frey, Heather Jones, Marisa Butler

Board of Evangelism: Mindy Wetherbee, Monica Lange, Shannon Nelson

Board of Family Life: Sarah Hoins, Linda Parnell, Liz Karr

Board of Finance: David Bierman, Ron & Linda Hemberger, Rick & Deb Runyan,
Linda Venteicher, Dan & Deb Laux, Kathy Hansen & Scott Hansen

Board of Lay Ministry: Rhonda Rail, Bryce Brodrick, Ellen Jank,
Becky Hamik, Ron Haase, Tony Shafer

Board of Stewardship: Mecala Poppe, Jamee Bockerman, Kayla Edwards

Board of Trustees: Donna Buss, Michele Overy, Dave Utecht,
Deb Bunde, John Bartunek, Eileen Saathoff