

# Faith•times

Monthly Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church and School | December 2021



## Pastor Hoepfner's Message

Dear Family of Faith,

December is one of the busiest months for the church and pastors. We have a service one-third of the days of December. There are many opportunities to come for Advent and Christmas Services. It is a special time in the church year as we reflect how God came to us in Jesus and how He comes to us through Word and Sacrament.

God's Word is powerful and it gives birth to faith in Christ's sacrifice. We rejoice in how God gives us comfort and joy through the reconciliation He offers to us. We take this time to look deeper at ourselves and the realization that we can never save ourselves.

On Sundays, we are going through a series called Wait Upon the Lord. In the worship series for Advent, we look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make Himself known.

In our Midweek Advent services, we are going through a series called Symbols of Salvation. We will focus on how every account in Holy Scripture testifies about Jesus. He is the embodiment of the Scriptures. From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus' advent among us in flesh.

Our Midweek services are held on Wednesdays at 6:30. On Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the day school Christmas Program will be held at 6:30 PM. Christmas Eve will be held on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. Christmas Day will be held December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

May the Lord guide you this Advent and Christmas Season,  
Pastor Hoepfner

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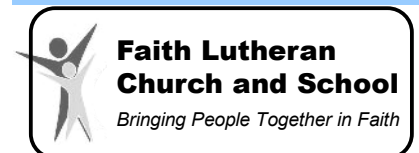
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*"Raise up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from his ways."*  
Proverbs 22:6

## Mission Statement

Faith Lutheran Church and School exists to worship, serve and grow in Jesus Christ.  
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# Announcements

Our English District is launching a new model for funding missions to which every congregation is invited to participate. It is completely voluntary but we believe that as God's people see and hear what is being accomplished specifically and directly in support and development of new missions and enhancing existing missions, more and more of us will want to be involved. This funding model is based on the belief that "there is power and strength in many giving a little." Loving our neighbor includes caring for their spiritual well-being. This is why the need exists for God's people to come together in support of missions that are bearing kingdom fruit. It's simple. Very simple. It is NOT burdensome, nor sacrificial. It involves every baptized member of the Body of Jesus in your congregation, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member. It demonstrates the power of the beautiful body of Christ working together, prompted by faith. It shows how much can be accomplished by many, giving little. \$1/per baptized member/per week. Simple, right? Self-explanatory almost. Not burdensome, nor sacrificial. All can participate. If every baptized member of our district congregations did ONLY this plan, we could produce \$2.5 million in addition to our district's total budget of \$1.8 million. The numbers are staggering. Just think what else we could do! Through the next year, Faith Lutheran will adapt this new model. There will be a plastic case in the back of the church where the money can be placed. This will replace our current mission of the month program.

- Church Council will be meeting, December 16th at 6:15 PM here at Faith.
- There will be a voters meeting on Sunday December 19th immediately following service.
- Thank you for your gift of time and service to the ministry of Faith. Offering envelopes for 2022 are available and will be distributed. Prayerfully consider your contribution to support the Gospel.
- If you have a prayer request, please call the church office at 261-8060.
- If you would like to serve on a cleaning team or be a greeter/usher, please contact Pastor Hoepfner.
- The LCMS YOUTH GATHERING is scheduled for July 9-13, 2022, in Houston, Texas, under the theme "In All Things". The Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus. During the week's gathering, youth spend time together in God's Word, worship, service, and fellowship with others. At our family of Faith, we have three youth that have expressed interest in participating in this event. To help support their effort a special fund has been established. This would provide transportation, food, registration, and lodging. The estimated cost is \$1500. per person. We could possibly have 2 adult youth leaders bringing the total to \$7500. Please pray for our church and our youth because they are the future of the church! To support and provide for sponsorship or partial financial help to our youth, Please include donation to: Faith Lutheran Church %Youth Fund. Blessings and thank you.
- We currently have seven college age students. This is an important age in faith development and spiritual growth as they turn from youth to adults. Please continue to pray for these individuals. If you would like a person to pray for individually and even connect with the parents of the person, please contact Pastor Hoepfner for that information and I can assign one family to you.

## Faith • brations

### We Celebrate with December Birthdays

Tina Remsik	1	Cassandra Daane	17
Sonny Hintz	4	James Baneck	21
Allison Erdmann	10	John Remsik	26
Ella Mock	17	Kendra Uttech	29



*God's Blessings to you*

### Prayer Concerns

For our military, the sick, discouraged, & troubled, For those experiencing major life changes like divorce, unemployment or underemployment, difficulty making ends meet. The well being of the church & state, and whatever rests in our hearts.



# Faith•full

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- Purchase Scrip Gift cards for your favorite places to shop and the things you use every-day.

You can pick them up in the office or order online any time at <http://www.shopwithscrip.com/> our school code 7D4EB33L48L9.

Faith earns a percentage of the money spent.

Contact Beth Stendel for more information at [kbdstendel@gmail.com](mailto:kbdstendel@gmail.com) or 920-261-8362  
Orders for the month due 12/6 and 12/13 (This is the last day to get Scrip before Christmas!) by noon. •

Please keep bringing in BOX TOPS & Put the COKE CODES in online!

\*\*\*\* Box Tops is launching their APP based program and will no longer be making box tops that you will cut out. Now, you will need to download the app and scan your receipt to enter your box tops. If you prefer not to do that, you can bring your receipts into the office and I will scan them using my phone! \*\*\*\*

***Every bit helps the church & school!!***  
**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THESE PROGRAMS**

Your offering can be automatically withdrawn weekly, monthly, or even just one time. How convenient is that when you are out of town, but still need to make your offering for the week. Please contact Beth Stendel to get an ACH form that needs to be filled out and on file to do so. We will also have cards in the pew to write down that ONE-TIME offering that you can put in the offering plate if you forgot your checkbook or have no cash on you. You still need to have the ACH paper filled out and on file in order to use the pew cards. Stewardship will still keep track of your giving, just as if it were cash or a check.

## **Doctrinal Review**

### **Of The Holy Scripture**

We teach that the Holy Scriptures differ from all other books in the world in that they are the Word of God. They are the Word of God because the holy men of God who wrote the Scriptures wrote only that which the Holy Ghost communicated to them by inspiration, 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21. We teach also that the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures is not a so-called "theological deduction," but that it is taught by direct statements of the Scriptures, 2 Tim. 3:16, John 10:35, Rom. 3:2; 1 Cor. 2:13. Since the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God, it goes without saying that they contain no errors or contradictions, but that they are in all their parts and words the infallible truth, also in those parts which treat of historical, geographical, and other secular matters, John 10:35.

# Stewardship

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## LCMS Stewardship Ministry - Newsletter article – December 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them” (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. “No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, “If I just had this much then I would be happy.”

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, “Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!” And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God's gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



# School • news



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*"He is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together." - Colossians 1:17*

**Happy Birthday & God's blessings...**

**Abigail Combs 12/12**

**Macy Moulton 12/12**

**Everett Yaresch 12/30**

## WINTER BREAK

There will be NO SCHOOL from  
Wednesday, December 22  
through Friday, January 3rd.  
School will resume Tuesday, Jan-  
uary 4th, 2022!



- Vande Walles Candy Bar Fundraiser -

The candy has arrived! We still have plenty of boxes of candy bars!

Please let Kristin Walter know if you would like more!



The Children's Christmas Program is Wednesday, December 15th at 6 PM. Please have your children to their classrooms at 5:45 PM.





# School • news



LCMS

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hot dogs, curly fries & hot veggie	2	3 Chocolate Cup Pancakes, sau- sage links, fruit, cheese slice	4
5	6  <b>FOR</b> unto us a Child is born UNTO US A Child is born And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.	7	8 Tacos, fruit & yogurt	9	10 Pizza, fruit & yogurt	11
12	13 <b>WONDERFUL, Counselor, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, The Prince of Peace.</b>	14	15 Spaghetti, garlic bread, hot veggie	16	17 Holiday Lunch Cheese, sausage, crackers. Fruit ka- bobs, little smok- ies, mini yogurt cups & treat	18
19	20 ISAIAH 9:6	21	22	23	24	25 
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Advent Service 6:30 PM	2	3	4
5 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	6 Scrip due by noon	7 Confirmation 5-5:45 PM	8 Advent Service 6:30 PM	9	10	11
12 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	13 Scrip due by noon (Last day to order before Christmas!)	14 Confirmation 5-5:45 PM Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am @ Johnson Creek	15 Kids Christmas Program 6:30 PM	16 Church Council 6:15 PM	17	18
19 9 am service - Voter's Meeting following ser- vice Bible Study & Sunday School	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30 PM	25 Christmas Day Service 9 AM
26 9 am service	27	28 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am @ Ocono- mowoc	29	30	31	
				<u>READER &amp; ASSISTANT</u> 12/11 Harry Kopplin 12/15 Dan Baum 12/18 Dan Baum 12/12 Richard Lowe 12/19 Harry Kopplin	<u>READER &amp; ASSISTANT</u> 12/24 Harry Kopplin 12/25 Pastor Hoepfner 12/26 Dan Baum	<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u> 12/15 Kent & Audra Ufftech 12/12 Harry & Kay Kopplin 12/19 Dan & Ingrid Baum 12/24 Judi & Carl Hoepfner 12/25 The Roell's 12/26 The Baneck's