

Faith•times

Monthly Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church and School | January 2021



Pastor Hoepfner's Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Well, that was an interesting year. A year like no other year that I have experienced. It was the year of isolation, sadness, stress and asking ourselves, "Is there more?" As we say goodbye to 2020 and enter into a new year, we continue to give thank and praise to the Lord. In good time and in difficult times, the Lord is always Lord and He alone deserves our praise.

As we have church on Sundays, one of the things that I miss is having a children's message and seeing all of the children in the church sanctuary. I enjoy when there are children in the service and hearing their voices. I miss the sound of children's books falling to the ground. I miss seeing the little ones color their bulletins. I miss watching the little ones race to grab their treats after we sing happy birthday.

I ask as a congregation to keep praying for the children of our church and school. I pray that they would love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. I pray that they may come to know Christ as Lord early in life. I pray they may be protected in their lives; spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically. I pray that they may receive wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and discretion from the Lord. I pray that they may overflow with love, discern what is best as we await the day of Christ. Please pray with me. Dear heavenly Father, I pray for the children of the church. We are Your children through the waters of baptism and I am grateful for that. Bless the children and let them come to you. Let your holy angels surround them and let us be reminded of how they are a blessing to our families, the church and the cause of Christ in the world. Thank you Lord for these children.

Have a Happy New Year,
Pastor Hoepfner

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**Faith Lutheran
Church and School**

Bringing People Together in Faith

*"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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LCMS

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.

Due to Covid 19 the following things have been postponed: - Adult Bible Class - Choir - Commuter Bible Study

- Church Council will be meeting, Thursday, January 21st at 5:30 PM here at Faith.
- To help support Leesa and Bethany Stevens, please go to the following link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-stevens>
- Confirmation meets every Tuesday at 3:30 PM.
- The Commuter Bible Study is postponed until further notice.
- 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.
- If you are new to the congregation or know of someone who is watching the services online and is not a member, please contact Pastor Hoepfner to attend a new member class as we will talk about membership.
- Please check out our updated Church and School website at faithlutheranwatertown.com
- If anyone is interested in joining a Bible Study via zoom, please let Pastor Hoepfner know.

Faith • brations

We Celebrate with January Birthdays

| | | | |
|----------------|----|------------------|----|
| J.T. Folts | 9 | Catherine Carter | 28 |
| Michele Berry | 15 | Kort Schlichting | 29 |
| Don Roell | 18 | Delores Herold | 30 |
| Timothy Nelson | 21 | John Mock | 30 |
| Connor Baneck | 24 | | |



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 or 920-261-8362
Orders for the month due 1/11 and 1/25 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 Election of Grace

Accordingly we reject as an anti-Scriptural error the doctrine that not alone the grace of God and the merit of Christ are the cause of the election of grace, but that God has, in addition, found or regarded something good in us which prompted or caused Him to elect us, this being variously designated as "good works," "right conduct," "proper self-determination," "refraining from willful resistance," etc. Nor does Holy Scripture know of an election "by foreseen faith," "in view of faith," as though the faith of the elect were to be placed before their election; but according to Scripture the faith which the elect have in time belongs to the spiritual blessings with which God has endowed them by His eternal election. For Scripture teaches Acts 13:48: "And as many as were ordained unto eternal life believed." Our Lutheran Confession also testifies (Triglot, p. 1065, Paragraph 8; M. p. 705): "The eternal election of God however, not only foresees and foreknows the salvation of the elect, but is also, from the gracious will and pleasure of God in Christ Jesus, a cause which procures, works, helps, and promotes our salvation and what pertains thereto; and upon this our salvation is so founded that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it, Matt. 16:18, as is written John 10:28: 'Neither shall any man pluck My sheep out of My hand'; and again, Acts 13:48: 'And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed..'"

Stewardship

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Newsletter article – January 2021

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);

Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);

Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);

Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and

With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

-1 Chronicles 16:34

Thanks to all of you who have been so generous and thoughtful in bringing to God your offerings..

"Sent to Serve" Matthew 20:28



Thank you for all the support you have shown our school through our fundraisers this year! It is so appreciated and we are blessed with the best families!

Watch for Spirit wear coming in the new year!

Keeping Up With P.A.C.E

PACE stands for Parents Active in Christian Education.

We are well into our plans for the 2020-21 school year! If you have any suggestions for fundraisers, field trips or family activities, please send them to Kristin Walter at schooloffice4faithlutheran@gmail.com

**There is no school
January 1st
and 15th**



School • news



LCMS

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January 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|---|----------|
| | | | | | 1 No School | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Pizza, yogurt & fruit | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 No School | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 French toast, sausage links, cheese & fruit | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Grilled cheese, tater tots & hot veggie | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

January 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 No School | 2 |
| 3 9 am service | 4 | 5 Confirmation 3:30 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9 am service | 11 Scrip due by noon | 12 Confirmation 3:30 | 13 | 14 | 15 No School | 16 |
| 17 9 am service | 18 | 19 Confirmation 3:30 | 20 | 21 Church Council 5:30 PM | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9 am service | 25 Scrip due by noon | 26 Confirmation 3:30 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 9 am service | | ALTAR GUILD | WA/CA | READER | ACOLYTE | USHERS 1/3 Judi & Carl Hoepfner 1/10 The Baneck's 1/17 Kent & Audra Uttech 1/24 Harry & Kay Kopplin 1/31 Ingrid & Dan Baum |