

Faith•times

Monthly Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church and School | January 2023



Pastor Hoepfner's Message

Dear Faith Family,

As we start a new year, I like to have a personal theme verse for myself. One morning I was skimming through the Book of Matthew. I came upon the passage of Matthew 19:14. Then Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of heaven." As I reflected on this verse, I started to count the words. There were twenty-three English words. (ESV) I thought this would be a great twenty-three word passage for the year 2023.

As Jesus welcomed the little children, he received them and blessed them. It reminds me personally to do everything in my ability to welcome children and let them hear the beautiful Gospel message. Jesus died and rose even for the youngest child. In fact, they are some of the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

I will have this theme verse on my yearly calendar to help me be reminded of how God welcomes and receives children. I ask that you also encourage each of the children or youths in our congregation. Even if you are three or four generations older than them, tell them what Jesus means to you in your life. Pray for the children of Faith Lutheran that they may see Jesus clearly and be a light in this dark world.

We will begin our Sunday School in January and also have our Wednesday Night Gathering on January 11th and 25th from 6-7 pm. Please join us for our Midweek chapel services on Wednesdays at 10 am.

Let the little children come to Jesus!

Blessings,

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.

- There will be a voters meeting on Sunday, January 8th immediately following the worship service.
- Church Council will be meeting, January 22nd at 8 am here at Faith.
- Thank you to all of you who have continued in your generous giving and service to our Lord, which enables our church and school to continue to be a source of hope and caring at Faith. There is something gratifying about helping others. Studies have shown that helping others improves our wellbeing. Statements of Offerings will be available by the end of January.
- Join us for Faith, Family Gatherings Wednesday January 11th from 6-7pm. Shannon and Ingrid will be leading the group through the book, "Women of the Bible." Another group will be studying the "Red Letter Challenge"- "Being". There are activities for children. Everyone is welcome! The second Faith, Family event will take place on January 25th at 6:00pm at Faith. Please plan to attend.
- Do you have a birthday, anniversary or special event in the future? Would you like to provide treats for fellowship or flowers for the altar? The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, so pick the day that you would like!
- Would you be willing to use your gift of time and talent to serve Jesus by helping on one of the leadership teams at Faith? The nominations committee will be meeting soon and if you are called to serve on a team please prayerfully consider the opportunity because the Lord has called us for such a time as this! For information, please contact Kent Uttech or Carl Hoepfner
- Join us every Wednesday for Chapel and Fellowship at 10 am.
- 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.

Faith • brations

We Celebrate with January Birthdays

Michele Berry	15	Catherine Carter	28
Don Roell	18	Kort Schlichting	29
Timothy Nelson	21	Delores Herold	30
Connor Baneck	24	John Mock	30



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 everyday. 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 1/9 and 1/23 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 Jurisdiction

Holy Scripture sums up all its teachings regarding the love of God to the world of sinners, regarding the salvation wrought by Christ, and regarding faith in Christ as the only way to obtain salvation, in the article of justification. Scripture teaches that God has already declared the whole world to be righteous in Christ, Rom. 5:19; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Rom. 4:25; that therefore not for the sake of their good works, but without the works of the Law, by grace, for Christ's sake, He justifies, that is, accounts as righteous, all those who believe, accept, and rely on, the fact that for Christ's sake their sins are forgiven. Thus the Holy Ghost testifies through St. Paul: "There is no difference; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Rom. 3:23, 24. And again: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law," Rom. 3:2.

Through this doctrine alone Christ is given the honor due Him, namely, that through His holy life and innocent suffering and death He is our Savior. And through this doctrine alone can poor sinners have the abiding comfort that God is assuredly gracious to them. We reject as apostasy from the Christian religion all doctrines whereby man's own works and merit are mingled into the article of justification before God. For the Christian religion is the faith that we have forgiveness of sins and salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, Acts 10:43.

Stewardship

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LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – January 2023

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

*“For we walk by faith, not by sight”
- 2 Corinthians 5:7*

Faith’s School Encouragement Ministry

“Encourage one another daily...” Hebrews 3:13

A couple years ago, Mrs. Shannon started a pen pal program with students at Faith. Not only letters, but at times gift cards were sent. This program has grown! We invite you to also become part of the “encouragement ministry.” Even our kindergarten students want a pen pal. Here’s a couple excerpts from letters we have recently received:

Winona Fye, a former student at Faith, moved from Watertown to Alaska with her parents and twin siblings Eliana and Owen, who were also students and baptized at Faith. Winona’s faith has grown over the years; she is now a freshman at an Alaskan Bible college. She writes: “the college is located in Palmer, Alaska which is six hours away from Seldovia (her home) and a boat ride. It is north of Anchorage and very cold. I live in the dorms here with some of the other students, it feels like a family. I have been attending St. John’s Lutheran Church, which is very nice. It reminds me of Faith Lutheran. Thank you so much for the letter and support, it means so much to me.”

Another letter came from Evergreen Lutheran Church and School. Pastor Danowski writes: “We remain a viable ministry as the last Lutheran school in the city of Detroit. Our church and school continue to serve the poorest of the poor in our community. When asked what were some of the pit-falls of living in the city, they responded with many negative things such as murders, robberies, stealing and fighting, etc. When asked if there was anything positive living here, they replied, ‘Yes, coming to school.’” He mentioned his heart was touched after watching some of the younger students eating some of the leftovers found in the trash.”

We sent a letter and gift card and the pastor wrote a thank you back saying our encouraging letter was “heaven sent.”

Through this pen pal program, I have seen such beautiful relationships develop! I often find the children will take their letters out and reread messages. They will express concerns and prayers for their pen pals. This encouraging ministry is an example of what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ!

If you would like to be apart of the pen pal program, please contact Judi or Shannon Hoepfner.

Thank you for your support of the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church and School.

Judi Hoepfner

School • news



LCMS

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 NO SCHOOL	3	4	5	6 Pizza Day! Yogurt & fruit	7
8	9 Chocolate Chip Pancakes, sausage links, cheese cubes & fruit	10	11	12	13 Crescent Dogs, mac n cheese, & hot veggie	14
15	16 Grilled Cheese, hash brown patty & hot veggie	17	18	19	20 Spaghetti, garlic bread & hot veggie	21
22	23 Tacos, Spanish rice & fruit	24	25	26	27 French Toast, bacon & fruit	28
29	30 Chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, dinner rolls & fruit	31				

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 am service	2 No School	3	4 Chapel & Fellowship 10 am	5	6	7
8 9 am service Voters Meeting	9 Scrip due by noon	10 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am @ Johnson Creek Confirmation 5-6 pm Elder's Meeting 10 am	11 Chapel & Fellowship 10 am Wednesday Night Gathering 6-7 pm	12	13	14
15 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	16	17 Confirmation 5-6 pm	18 Chapel & Fellowship 10 am	19	20	21
22 Church Council 8 am 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	23 Scrip due by noon	24 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am at Panera in Delafield Confirmation 5-6 pm	25 Chapel & Fellowship 10 am Wednesday Night Gathering 6-7 pm	26	27	28
29 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	30	31			<p>READER/ASSISTANT</p> <p>1/1 Norman W & Carl H 1/8 Nathan H & Dan B 1/15 Harry K & Carl H 1/22 Carl H & Norman W 1/29 Harry K & Dan B.</p>	<p>USHERS & GREETERS</p> <p>1/1 Dan & Ingrid 1/8 Judi & Carl 1/15 The Baneck's 1/22 Kent & Audra 1/29 Harry & Kay</p>