

Faith Talk!

News from Faith Lutheran Church of Becker, MN

Volume 22, Number 12

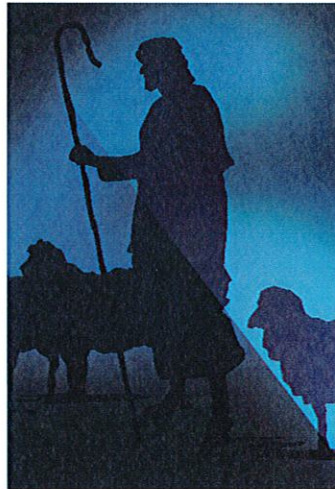
December, 2019

Join us for this year's Christmas Programs:
ALL on Sunday, December 8!

2019 Christmas Cantata...

The Fourth Gift – A Shepherd's Story

We all know about the gifts the three Wisemen brought to give to the Baby Jesus, but did you know that there was another gift given to him as well? A fourth gift? What was it? And who gave it? Come and find out on **Sunday, December 8 at the 9:30 service!** The service will include music from the Joyous Ringers, the Faithful Five and the Christmas Choir.



Immediately following the Cantata on December 8, the Senior High Youth group will be serving a *delicious brunch* from **11:00 – 12:00**

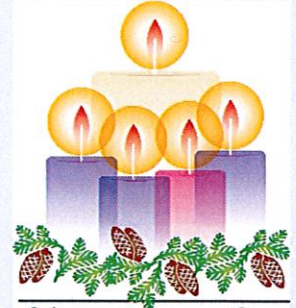
Sunday School and Grapple present...

Jesus and the Rock

What do Jesus and a rock have in common? Join us on **December 8 from 12:00 – 12:30** to find out! The children will be retelling the story of Jesus' birth, a favorite event of the Advent season.



Come and join us for one, two or all three of the events that day... leave filled with the Christmas spirit!



Christmas Eve

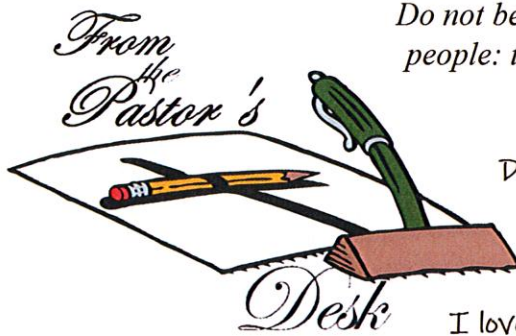
Candlelight Services

As the sun begins to set on Christmas Eve come sing praise to the newborn king – as we celebrate the good news that *'for to you is born this day...a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'*

Christmas Eve services will be at 4 pm and 9 pm

Both will include a children's message, celebration of Holy Communion, and the traditional candle lighting ceremony, as well as the opportunity to sing or hear many favorite Christmas Carols.

So come –
hear the beginning of the Good News of the light coming into the darkness!



Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

Dear #FaithStrong Friends:

Merry CHRISTmas!

I love to capitalize the first five letters of Christmas to remind myself to keep my focus on CHRIST during this holy-day season.

It is so easy to get caught up in a commercialized version of what Christmas is *not* all about. We begin to worry, fret, and fear that the tree isn't up, or it isn't perfect. The presents aren't bought, or they're inadequate. And oh, my goodness, what will we serve for dinner on December 25th?!

Instead of hosting a cosmic birthday party for Jesus, we riddle ourselves with guilt, shame, and fear. *Have mercy on us, O God.*

This CHRISTmas, I want to invite us to try something different. Let's not go into debt, trying to use plastic credit cards, to buy love. Let's not stress ourselves out over food, but remember it is better to dine on hotdogs and beans surrounded by a calm, peaceful, and loving family, than to eat caviar and champagne and be miserable. Let's keep our focus on Jesus this Advent season.

I want to slow down, increasing my gratitude, and decreasing my fear. I want to be generous with my time, talent, and treasure, doing those things that magnify God's glory on Jesus' birthday. I want to put away fear and take up faith. I want to feel amazed like the shepherds, as I get a glimpse of Jesus, and I want to go running through the neighborhood, telling everyone what I've seen! Finally, I want to cradle baby Jesus, Son of Mary, Son of God, treasuring and pondering all that I have experienced in my heart.

I am so excited about my first CHRISTmas as your settled pastor. I am looking forward with great anticipation to worshipping with you as we are blessed by our weekly Advent Services, uplifted by our Christmas Cantata and Sunday School Programs, and immersed in the candlelight of Christmas Eve service.

There is no-thing like being surrounded by family and friends as we worship God, giving thanks for Jesus Christ, who does indeed light up the world with His love.

When the angels told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus they said, *"Do not be afraid, for see..."*

This CHRISTmas, I am issuing each of us a challenge. Won't you please make it your goal to find at least one friend or family member who does not have a church home and invite them to *"Come and See"* Jesus with us, during the month of December?

Great things are happening at Faith Lutheran Church and our best days are surely ahead of us!

Peace be with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "YHB".

Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

Pastoral Acts

Baptism

November 3 Warren Clark Campbell, son of
Rebecca & Colin Campbell

Funeral

November 4 Glenn Eugene Leerhoff

Thank you to:

- ☺ The Money Counters
- ☺ Polly Anderson for helping with the November Newsletter assembly
- ☺ Pat Gedatus for picking up the Sanctuary flowers each week
- ☺ All the worship volunteers each Sunday in November
- ☺ Lynn Wilson for helping in the office



Thank you Faith Lutheran!

Dear Faith Lutheran,

I want to extend a thank you to everyone who has been keeping my family and myself in prayers during my cancer journey. The first round of chemo has been completed and it was fairly uneventful, since my main side effects were hair loss and fatigue.

My second round of treatments started Nov 7. I had severe body aches as a side effect from the first treatment and was unable to receive my second weekly treatment due to low blood counts, so I received a blood transfusion instead of a chemo treatment.

Please continue to pray that I can tolerate my chemo treatments and put this cancer journey behind me.

Thank you again for your prayers and also to those that have contributed to our financial well-being. We are truly blessed.

ReNita (Wilke) Henderson



Blessings on your Birthday!

Dec 1	Bernice Anderson	Dec 15	Sophie Weberg
Dec 1	Jacob Simonson	Dec 16	Kayla Pederson
Dec 1	Mike Elvester	Dec 16	Val Seifermann
Dec 3	Jim Rogers	Dec 17	Gavin Swanson
Dec 4	Leisa Wilke	Dec 17	Katie Wilke
Dec 5	Ava Rogers	Dec 17	Marge Erickson
Dec 5	Jessica Quast	Dec 18	Brooklyn Bolton
Dec 8	Anna Person	Dec 18	Brooks Berning
Dec 8	Chloe Wilson	Dec 18	Dick Sowers
Dec 8	Emilia Bond	Dec 18	Paul Schmidt
Dec 9	Colin Campbell	Dec 19	Hannah Schmidt
Dec 9	Mitchell Johnston	Dec 20	Matthew Cichy
Dec 9	Trish Kealy	Dec 22	Hayden Harmoning
Dec 10	Ali Gunderson	Dec 22	Joyce Sowers
Dec 11	Anna Rogers	Dec 23	Matt Anderson
Dec 11	Caden McDowell	Dec 23	Owen Elvester
Dec 11	Judy Borst	Dec 24	Dennis Pederson
Dec 11	Suzie Anderson	Dec 26	Andrew Schmidt
Dec 14	Cathy Beihoffer	Dec 27	Abi Swanson
Dec 14	Jennifer Edling	Dec 27	Dan Jacobson
Dec 14	Laura Aho	Dec 27	Kayla Meyer
Dec 14	Matt Imholte	Dec 29	Jeff Fingarson
Dec 15	Heather Abrahamson	Dec 29	Levi Anderson
Dec 15	Matthew Moe	Dec 29	Payton Enerson
Dec 15	Mike Abrahamson	Dec 31	Staza Pany



Dec 1	Ethan Reed	Dec 18	Dick Sowers
Dec 1	Otto Seifermann	Dec 18	Karin Pauly
Dec 5	Nolan Konerza	Dec 18	Madison Imholte
Dec 7	Abigail Dove	Dec 20	Heather Abrahamson
Dec 8	Colton Johannes	Dec 21	Kaylee Welker
Dec 8	Glenn Radeke	Dec 23	Bennett Austing
Dec 9	Anna Rogers	Dec 24	Brennan Handeland
Dec 10	Alex Lange	Dec 26	Cole Benson
Dec 10	Catrina Holm	Dec 26	Kaejen Tatge
Dec 13	Kayla Dierkhising	Dec 27	Emilie Elvester
Dec 14	Bailey Amundson	Dec 28	Alleah Leonard
Dec 14	Betsy Ziemer	Dec 28	Bobbie Leonard
Dec 14	Zachary Anderson	Dec 28	Laura Bond
Dec 15	Chris Weberg	Dec 30	Marge Erickson
Dec 15	Gavin Dove	Dec 31	Emilia Bond
Dec 16	Jake Sable		



October 2019 & Year-to-Date Financial Analysis

Month of October

			+ / (-)
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>vs. Budget</u>
Contributions	\$13,016	\$14,658	\$ (1,642)
Facility Use Income	\$ 0	\$ 154	\$ (154)
Other Income	\$ 71	\$ 77	\$ (6)
Total Income	\$13,087	\$14,889	\$ (1,802)
Expenses	\$15,994	\$16,752	\$ 758
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,907)	\$ (1,863)	\$ (1,044)

<u>Mortgage Fund</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>vs. Budget</u>
Contributions	\$ 3,787	\$ 4,912	\$ (1,125)

Year-to-Date

			+ / (-)
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>vs. Budget</u>
Contributions	\$134,553	\$157,536	\$(22,983)
Facility Use Income	\$ 625	\$ 1,654	\$ (1,029)
Other Income	\$ 7,077	\$ 8,327	\$ (1,250)
Total Income	\$142,255	\$167,517	\$(25,262)
Expenses	\$154,941	\$167,523	\$ 12,582
Net Income (Loss)	\$(12,686)	\$ (6)	\$(12,680)

Mortgage Fund Transactions & Balance Summary

Initial Mortgage Fund balance 1/1/19	\$ 21,894
2019 Mortgage Fund Contributions to-date	\$ 58,430
Less total 2019 Mortgage Payments to-date	\$ 53,210
Equals Mortgage Fund balance 10/31/19	\$ 27,137

Simply Giving Program...

The gift of generosity

We thank everyone who has supported **Faith Lutheran Church** this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a



convenient way to make regular offerings, or if you plan to make an additional gift, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make your contributions.

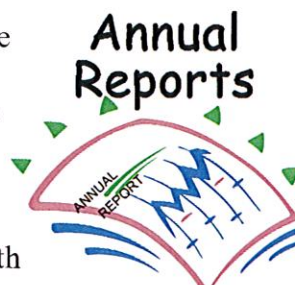
Visit <https://faithlutheran-becker.org/simply-giving>, or find enrollment forms available on the kiosk, or contact Donna in the church office for more information.

Call for Annual Reports!

The 2019 Annual Meeting of Faith Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday January 26, 2020. Please send your complete report, preferably by email, to Donna Brown at donnab@faithlutheran-becker.org by **January 12, 2020.**

Plan on attending to participate in the mission and ministry review of 2019 and the launch of our mission and ministry focus for 2020. Participation of all members is essential to the vitality, strength and growth of the Faith Community.

See you on January 26!



Prayerfully Consider...

Coming in January there will be three positions open on the Church Council – all are two-year terms. Open are: *President,*

Secretary and one At-Large position. If you would like to know more about the positions and what they entail, please contact any of our current council members. The names and numbers are on page 8.

The Women of Faith Would like to THANK YOU!

The Women of Faith would like to extend their gratitude of thanks to everyone who helped before, during, and after the Annual Craft and Bake Sale in November. The Sale was a huge success again this year – this event could not be done without all the help from the members of Faith Lutheran Church.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!



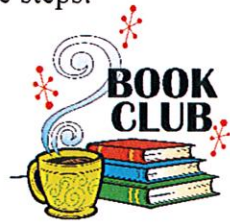
December Book Club

Title: *Non-Violent Communication: A Language of Life*

By: Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD

Faith Lutheran Church (FLC) will be reading *Non-Violent Communication: A Language of Life* during the month of December. You are invited to order the book on your own or pick one up in the church office. The cost is \$12. This book will teach us how to communicate well at home, church, or in the community. NVC utilizes four basic steps.

1. I observe...
2. I feel ...
3. I need ...
4. Will you please?



Together we will practice utilizing these steps to share our hearts, and bring forth peace, when it is needed most. Please plan to join Pastor Yolanda on *Wednesday, January 8, at 7:30pm or Sunday, January 12, at 10:45am* for the book discussion.

Looking Forward: Our January Book Club reading will be *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by Brené Brown.

The confirmation youth invite everyone to join them for Christmas caroling on...

Wednesday, December 18, from 6:30-7:30pm. We will meet in the Narthex and then fan out to the trailer homes on our left and townhomes on our right. At 7:30pm we will reassemble at the church for cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, and fellowship! Please



Christmas Caroling Party

bring yourself, a plate of cookies, and your best singing voice for fun and fellowship with our youth and neighbors.

Living Lutheran –

Article on White Privilege in the ELCA

Coming Soon: I have co-authored an article with Shari Seifert for Living Lutheran. The article tackles White Privilege in the ELCA and names some of the many ways in which European decent people and culture are privileged within our denomination. I am excited that the article will be read nationally, and the photographs of Shari and I were taken right here at Faith Lutheran Church!

I hope that FLC will be proud that I am helping to engage a national conversation about the ways in which we can make our churches more welcoming and affirming to people of all ethnic backgrounds. Please join me as I pray that readers will feel informed and not defensive, challenged and then motivated, to do this important Spirit-led work, in Jesus' Name.

Pastor Yolanda

Safe Harbor for All of God's Children

Here at Faith Lutheran Church we want all of our children to be as safe as possible. To that end, it is the express policy of our church, and synod, that if you work with children, you *must* be annually background checked. Rest assured, that Faith will absorb the cost of the background study and all of the information therein will be kept strictly confidential.



If you are currently serving the Sunday School, Grapple, Confirmation, Senior High, or Mission Trip programs of our church in *any* capacity, including as a parent volunteer, please see Donna Brown by January 1 to fill out your background check application. Unfortunately, if you have not been background checked by February 1, 2020, you will not be able to work with kids in our building until you do so. If you have questions/concerns, please see Pastor Yolanda and/or a member of the FLC Council. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this endeavor. #followtheyouth



Faith Lutheran Church

Our Best Days Are Ahead!

God's Work. Our Hands.

The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, and in this place, I will give peace. Haggai 2:9

November 24, 2019

Dear #FaithStrong Families:

Thank you for taking the time to pray about and make a commitment to Faith Lutheran Church for the year 2020. Our church is completely dependent upon the tithes and offerings of the families who attend to ensure that we are able to worship God, preach the gospel, administer the sacraments, teach our children about Jesus, share the good news, and care for people in need. Alone, none of us has enough money to accomplish these important ministries, but together we can do all things through Christ who will generously provide for all our needs.

As you pray about your financial commitment, we want to encourage you to believe that your investment in God, and God's church, will truly make a difference. If you currently give \$5 per week; please consider \$10. If you currently give \$50 per month, please consider \$100. Any gift, no matter how large or small, will allow Faith Lutheran Church to have a greater - and more faithful - witness in our community.

Once you prayerfully decide on your financial gift and have filled out your pledge card, please consider signing up for **Simply Giving**. Simply Giving will allow you to securely and automatically share your financial offering with the church on a weekly or monthly basis. This allows the church to experience the consistency of your gift, which makes our budgeting much easier, especially in the summer when you are at the cabin or on vacation and in the winter when you are snowed in or down south enjoying the sunshine.

To enroll in Simply Giving, please grab your checkbook, or debit card, and go to <https://faithlutheran-becker.org/simply-giving>

Now that you have completed your financial pledge, please prayerfully consider how you can share the gifts of time and talent with your church family. Here is our opportunity to help create the kind of community of faith that we are all longing for!

On the back of your pledge card, you will find a list of mission teams and opportunities. You are invited to choose one or more places where you believe that you have gifts or abilities to serve. We are asking that every confirmed person in our church, prayerfully consider making at least one commitment to a ministry team in our church.

You can also sign up to serve in various capacities within our church by visiting Sign-Up Genius where you can choose a date to serve as a communion assistant, greeter, usher, refreshment team minister, and much more. To do so, please visit the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/faithstrong>

On Sunday, December 1, 2019, your time, talent, and treasure pledge cards will be gratefully received in worship. If you are unable to attend worship on this date, you can also mail, scan, or drop off your cards to the church by Sunday, December 15, 2019.

We are so very excited about the future of Faith Lutheran Church. Our best days are certainly ahead of us.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Yolanda
Pastor

Sandy Engdahl
Council President

Ben Pany
Stewardship Chair



Faith Lutheran Church

Our Best Days Are Ahead!

God's Work. Our Hands.

11755 Sherburne Ave, PO Box 368
Becker, MN 55308

ESTIMATE of GIVING for 2020

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Cell #: _____

Email: _____

First Name: _____

Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Main phone: _____

Main email: _____

After prayerful consideration, my estimate of giving for the year 2020 is:

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY FUND

\$ _____

____ Weekly ____ Monthly ____ Yearly

MORTGAGE FUND

\$ _____

____ Weekly ____ Monthly ____ Yearly

☐ Check if interested in Simply Giving

Grace and Peace to you!

Mission Teams

- ☐ **Adult Education & Fellowship** – Coordinates adult Bible Studies and educational forums throughout the year on a variety of topics; plans activities to increase fellowship and fun among adult members of FLC
- ☐ **Altar Care** – Sets up holy communion and seasonal altar paraments
- ☐ **Budget & Finance** – Helps to craft annual budget and provides resources and support throughout the year to meet or exceed it; must have a personal commitment to generous giving to FLC
- ☐ **Children, Youth, & Family (CYF)** – Coordinates Sunday School, Grapple, Confirmation, Senior High, and family educational and social activities throughout the year
- ☐ **Communication & Technology** – Assists with creating a digital presence on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, website and other mediums; helps to run sound board and create slides for worship services
- ☐ **Facility Review Team** – Oversees the beauty and functionality of the church facility, both inside and out
- ☐ **Home Visitation** – Provides visits to sick and shut-in members/friends of the church bringing fellowship and Holy Communion
- ☐ **Hospitality** – Helps to coordinate the fellowship hour, funerals, and other events at the church. All families are requested to serve at the fellowship hour at least 1x per year
- ☐ **Mission & Outreach** – Leads the congregation in outreach activities in the city of Becker and beyond; helps Faith be the hands, feet, and smile of Jesus *outside of our church building*
- ☐ **Stewardship** – Provides education to congregation regarding the importance of stewardship (e.g., time, talent, treasure) throughout the year; leads the annual financial appeal each November; must have a personal commitment to generous giving to FLC
- ☐ **Worship & Music** – Plans and coordinates worship services and space throughout the year

Sunday Service Opportunities

- ☐ Communion Assistant
- ☐ Greeter
- ☐ Scripture Reader
- ☐ Refreshment Team
- ☐ Usher
- ☐ Musical Interest

Officers

Sandy Engdahl (1/20)
President
320-333-8784

Roy Kollar
Vice President (1/21)
763-261-2507

Gary Morgan
Treasurer (1/21)
320-743-3103

Mike Elvester
Secretary (1/20)
763-670-3037

At Large Members

Kaelyn Lombard (1/20)

Sue Doering (1/20)
763-262-4790

Ben Pany (1/20)
763-261-5814

La Vonne Lund (1/20)
763-261-2659

Wayne Bachler (1/21)
763-275-0139

Lynn Wilson (1/21)
763-262-5075

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting

October 10, 2019 Meeting

Present: Sandy Engdahl, Roy Kollar, Gary Morgan, Wayne Bachler, Mike Elvester, Sue Doering, Ben Pany

Absent: Kaelyn Lombard, La Vonne Lund, and Lynn Wilson

Meeting was called to order by President Sandy Engdahl at 5:07pm.

- I. Devotion – Sue Doering – Psalm 111
- II. Agenda Review
 - a. Agenda was reviewed, and items added or changed as requested.
 - b. Ben motioned to approve the agenda; Wayne second. Motion carried.
- III. Secretary's Report – Mike Elvester
 - a. Motion to approve September meeting minutes by Sue; Roy second. Motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Review of September 2019 Financials – Gary
 - a. Review & Approval of Treasurer's Report
 - i. The Sep General Fund income was \$5,873 vs. actual expenses. YTD \$9,780
 - ii. The Sep Mortgage Fund income was \$213 vs. expenses. YTD \$4,743
 - iii. Actual comparisons YTD with General Funds and Mortgage Funds combined:
 1. 2018: (\$-12,097)
 2. 2019: (\$-5,037)
 - iv. General fund checking is at \$-3,775.
 - v. Expenses are down about \$-9,000 less than 2018
 - vi. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Mike, second y Wayne. Motion carried.
- V. Old Business
 - a. Fall Festival Recap
 - i. Weather was a little rainy but some additional activities helped to bring in about the same amount as 2018.
 - ii. A variety of gift cards and gifts were also donated as alternative prizes.
 - iii. Proceeds were used to donate \$130 to the food shelf, \$155 to Faith in Action, and \$500 to the General Fund.
 - b. Trail of Treats
 - i. October 26 from 5PM to 7PM
 - ii. Partnering with Becker Robotics
 1. Last year they had 27 cars and 850 kids that came through. They had 15 businesses that helped to provide candy.
 2. Kettle Corn guy sold popcorn and gave proceeds to the Robotics team
 - iii. Clothing drive will be present
 - iv. Hayride with trip through cemetery
 - v. Prep meeting Monday October 14 at 5:30PM
 - vi. Costume contests.
 - c. 2020 Sweetheart Dinner
 - i. Fall Festival committee members and WELCA were in favor of holding the meal at the church as well as changing up the menu. Sue will continue the conversation with Deb Swanson.



"That's why I say, 'Fleece Navidad!'"

VI. New Business

- a. Flooring Cleaning
 - i. Quote received from Long and Son for portions of the Sanctuary, Narthex, offices, kitchen entry, and Fellowship Hall chairs now with the cleaning of the Education Wing revisited in the spring.
 - ii. Motion by Sue Doering; second by Gary Morgan. Motion carried.
- b. Education Wing Finishing Touches and Pastor Yolanda's Office
 - i. Education Wing refrigerator, microwave, cart and shelves are being purchased for approximately \$1,100.
 - ii. Locations of new donations and different furnishings were discussed.
 - iii. Updating Pastor Yolanda's office to freshen up the space and make it an inviting space is approximately \$1,500.
 - iv. Remaining furnishings for the library are about \$225.
 - v. Finishing touches for Noah's Ark are anticipated at \$750.
 - vi. Motion to fund improvements in the Education Wing and Pastor's office to be pulled from various dedicated funds detailed below and to divert \$100 from Noisy Offering to Grapple account by Sue Doering; Roy Kollar second. Motion carried.
 - 1. Noah's Ark and Library – Bernard Nelson Life Memo (interest) - \$975
 - 2. Education Wing Open area items and Pastor Yolanda's Office
 - a. Education Wing Fund - \$797
 - b. Fall Festival Proceeds - \$500
 - c. Noisy Offering Youth - \$1,150
 - d. If needed, more from Refreshments fund may be utilized.
 - 3. *There were some follow up emails in the days after the council meeting that indicated that the Lenten Dinners fund disbursements were already decided at a prior council meeting but were not fully disbursed. This meant that they were not available for this project. They have since been disbursed.*
- c. Pastor Yolanda Starting Needs
 - i. Portico Setup – Gary will work with Donna to get this completed.
 - ii. Cell Phone – Mike Elvester will reach out to Pastor Yolanda with an offer to have her add a line to her plan with her own device and reimburse up to \$100 per month.
 - iii. Laptop – Tom working on acquiring and setting up needs.
 - iv. November 2nd Installation Service
 - 1. WELCA setting up the food.
 - 2. Sue getting music arranged.
- d. Nametags for members
 - i. Pastor Yolanda recommended having nametags made up for members of the church. It helps for individuals to meet each other and also for her to get to know us.
- e. Stewardship Campaign Dates
 - i. Pastor Yolanda would like to get a sermon series set up to coincide with our Stewardship Campaign. Due to the transition happening throughout this year, a formal campaign has not been formed.
- f. Nominating Committee
 - i. Sandy will contact Kendall Kragenbring about getting the committee going and finding a couple other people (possibly current council members) to help. Will discuss in November council meeting.
- g. Budget Committee
 - i. Will start meeting in November. Needs to be complete by January 1.

VII. Ministry Team Reports

- a. Stewardship Committee
 - i. Square Terminal has been purchased.
 - ii. Donna has list of people that have access to the username and password.
 - iii. Evaluating whether or not we can split between funds when making an offering.
 - iv. Estelle and Donna have asked that initial use not be done with General and Mortgage offerings until we have determined how reporting will be done with the terminal.
- b. Facility Care
 - i. Barn swallows to be removed.
 - ii. Door seals have been replaced.
 - iii. Still working on roof damage claim. More than likely it will be completed after the cold season. Multiple quotes will be pursued.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Next meeting November 14 at 5PM.
- b. Motion to adjourn meeting by Mike Elvester. Second by Roy Kollar. So moved at 7:57 PM.

Advice from our Parish Nurse ...

How to Keep Kids & Teens from Smoking and Vaping!

It's a burning question for parents and public health officials alike: How do you keep a new generation from starting to smoke?

We already know some strategies that have worked. Public Health campaigns aimed at young people and consistent reinforcement from parents help keep them from striking up the dangerous habit.

But first, a basic question: Why? Why is it so vital that we continue to discourage America's youth from using tobacco?

Four Facts to know:

1. **Kids are still smoking.** Every day in America, more than 3,200 teenagers smoke their first cigarette, and an additional 2,100 youths and young adults become daily cigarette smokers.
2. **Smoking is dangerous.** According to the surgeon general, 5.6 million Americans younger than 18 will die early from smoking-related diseases. This does not include the lung related diseases and deaths due to vaping.
3. **Most smokers start young.** If young people don't start using tobacco by age 26, they almost certainly will never start.
4. **It's not just cigarettes.** Kids today are exposed to cigars, cigarillos, e-cigarettes (vaping and juuling), hookah, (water pipe) and smokeless tobacco (snuff, chew, and dissolvable tobacco). Several of these forms of tobacco are "flavored", increasing their appeal to young people.

What parents can do.

As a parent, you're a powerful influence-even if your teenagers seem to disagree with everything you say. Here are some of the most effective ways you can steer your kids away from tobacco...

- **Maintain a dialogue.** Start early - begin talking with your kids about smoking and vaping in kindergarten.

Be honest and open to seeing things from your child's point of view. And don't stop. Keep the conversations going as kids get older.

- **Think more than cigarettes.** Explain that smokeless tobacco, hookah and e-cigarettes all have dangers, including nicotine addiction.
- **Prepare your child for peer pressure.** Discuss what they might say if a friend offers a cigarette or e-cigarette.
- **Set a good example.** If you smoke or vape, the best thing you can do is quit. At a minimum, don't smoke around your children.
- **Establish a smoke-free home.** Don't allow family members or friends to smoke in your home or car. Make sure the places your child spends a lot of time are tobacco free.

If your child has started smoking or vaping, try to learn why. This may help you talk with him or her more effectively. Instead of punishment, offer understanding and help to resist the dangerous lure of tobacco use and addiction.

Additional information on combating the tobacco companies can also be found in the CDC website June 2018, Surgeon General Website 2016, along with more information on vaping and quitting smoking.



Patricia K Seavert RN, BN, PHN
Parish Nurse

"Faith Giving Tree" gives Hope, Joy at Holidays



We are excited to offer the Faith Giving Tree again to anyone that would like to help families during the holidays! We will still be giving to Anna Marie's Alliance of St. Cloud which offers battered women and their children a safe shelter away from domestic abuse situations. This year we will also be giving to Terebinth Refuge which

is a Christ-centered shelter, and transitional home, that provides strength-based, trauma-informed and holistic services for sex trafficked and sexually exploited women in Central MN. Our family at Faith Lutheran of Becker can help provide much needed items through the Faith Giving Tree. Here's how it works. There is a tree set up in the narthex with paper ornaments listing a gift idea for families to take. Simply take an ornament, go out

and purchase the gift, and place both the ornament and the unwrapped gift under the tree by December 18. Your generosity will go a long way toward helping to make Christmas a little brighter for families in need.

Thank you!



All of the women of Faith Lutheran Church are invited to come and enjoy some Christmas Spirit! Please bring a dish to pass along with a donation for the Anna Marie Shelter. (Please note the time change.)



Fifth grade Grapple students making CHRISTmas ornaments!

Fifth graders will be visiting Shepherd of Grace on December 4. Parents, please drop off at Shepherd of Grace by 5:30 – pick up at 6:15.

The kids had a blast at Senior High Youth Group November 20. The group went around town thanking members, service workers, and those who protect us!

We also stopped in the school to thank another church who shares our love of God!



Grapple sixth graders had an amazing experience on November 20 at the Shepherd of Grace Memory cottages. The students played their instruments, sang songs, shared treats and asked fun questions during conversations with the residents.



December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion and New Members 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Refreshments 10:45 X-mas Choir	2	3 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Women of Faith 6:30 Joyous Ringers	4 5:15 Grapple 6:15 7, 8 & 9th Grade 7:30 Sr. High Youth	5	6	7 8:00—11:00am Cantata practice with Breakfast
8 9:30 Cantata 9:45 NO S. School 10:30 Mission Trip Kids Breakfast 12:00 "God Is Our Rock" X-mas Program	9 11:30 Social Seniors 6:00 Women of Faith X-mas party	10 9:00 Bible Study 5:00 Council	11 5:15 Grapple 6:15 7, 8 & 9th Grade	12	13 <i>Newsletter articles due in the office</i>	14
15 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Refreshments	16	17 9:00 Bible Study	18 5:15 Grapple 6:15 7, 8 & 9th Grade 6:30 X-mas Caroling 7:30 Sr. High Youth	19	20	21 9:00 Band practice
22 8:30 Band practice 9:30 Worship with New Life Band/ Noisy Offering 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Refreshments <i>First Day of Winter</i>	23	24 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Newsletter Assembly 4:00 Candlelight Service with Holy Communion 9:00 Candlelight Service with Holy Communion	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>—Office Closed—</i>	26 <i>—Office Closed—</i>	27 <i>—Office Closed—</i>	28
29 9:30 Lessons & Carols 9:45 NO S. School 10:30 Refreshments	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>				

Faith Lutheran Church

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POSTMASTER: Please deliver by December 1, 2019

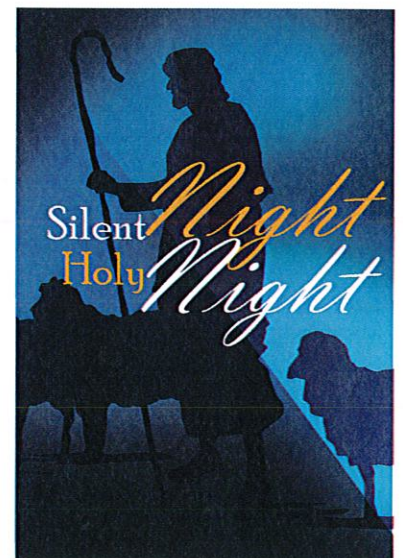
Prepared especially for...



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Worship Schedule

December 1	9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and New Members
December 8	9:30 am Cantata – at noon Christmas Program
December 15	9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
December 22	9:30 am Worship with the New Life Band and Noisy Offering
December 29	9:30 am Worship