



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 87— 109 Second Ave NW
Isanti, MN 55040

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER
Office: 763-444-9201



PASTORS PAGE

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In a world that increasingly focuses on instant gratification, and getting what we want when we want it, it can be hard to wait. Yet for those who call the church home, that is exactly what the season of advent enables us to do. Advent (derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning arrival) is the season in which the church looks forward to the arrival of Christ Jesus in the world and in our lives. And this is not a simple waiting to remember Jesus' coming into the world as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem, but also an acknowledgement that Christ comes in our present lives through communion and in the world's unfolding future.

As the season of Advent leads us toward Christmas, we have time and space to reflect on how God will come (the root meaning of "advent") to us, bringing life to a dying world. For many, this time includes the tradition of lighting an Advent wreath. The Advent wreath can communicate that as December progresses, and the days continue to get shorter, that the increasing light of the candles represents our prayer for the coming light of Christ. The lit wreath, being a circle of fire can also serve as an ancient symbol for the sun and the life that it brings to earth.

The color within our worship space also transitions from green to Blue. While earlier the color associated with Advent was purple, blue has become the norm. In contrast with purple (used in Lent) which is a color associated with penitence, the church uses blue as a color of hope in the season as we approach Christmas. Blue was also a color traditionally used in Scandinavian churches because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use, so Faith Lutheran has some precedent following that lead.

As our congregation worships together in this season, I encourage you to pay attention to the little changes in the liturgy of the that reflect the changing seasons outside. As each week we pray for God to be active in our lives, saying—Stir up: your power—our hearts—the wills of your faithful people. As we are dismissed each week with the words to "Go in peace. Remember the Poor," we receive a needed reminder when society more often thinks of receiving gifts than of giving them.

As we begin our Advent journey this year, let us keep the refrain of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" near our hearts, longing for the coming day when Christ will be among us.

Advent / Christmas Mission

Our annual Christmas outreach will begin on November 29, the first Sunday in Advent.

This year's outreach will be Family Pathways, a non-profit organization serving a seven-county area, including Isanti County.

Family Pathways Food Shelf

Want to give financially? Every \$1 turns into \$7 with their buying power!

Most Wanted Food Items – nutritious items, contributing to good health

- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Bags of potatoes, carrots, or onions
- Whole grain pasta, rice
- Baking and cooking items: vegetable oil, flour, sugar, spices
- Canned meats: tuna, chicken, salmon
- Chunky soups, stews, cream of mushroom soup, spaghetti sauces
- Boxed foods, dinner mixes
- Cereal, juice
- Peanut butter, jelly
- Personal hygiene, household laundry and cleaning supplies



Black Dog Hill Shelter is a 15-bed facility in our area that houses women and children who are escaping abusive relationships. It is the only shelter of this kind in 5,600 square miles. The program's mission, sponsored by Family Pathways, is to help bring an end to domestic abuse by providing supportive, non-judgmental services to the families affected by domestic violence in East Central Minnesota. Victims need our support.

Help us fill the shelves at the shelter with basic needs:

- **Comfortable new or "like new" clothing** for women and children of all ages -- in all sizes: socks, underwear, sweatshirts, sweat pants, leggings, t-shirts, bathrobes, slipper socks, infant wear
- **Paper products:** toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, Kleenex
- **Cleaning Supplies**
- **Personal hygiene** – Toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, shampoo, combs, hair brush, deodorant, feminine products, lotion
- **Healthy, non-perishable snacks and cereal**
- **Huggable items** to give to kids of all ages for comfort when they arrive, something they can keep – fleece blanket or a small stuffed animal.
- **Appropriate books, craft items** for children of all ages

All items will be collected under the Giving Tree in the church narthex during December.

Thank you in advance for your gifts in support of this community outreach.

Social Ministry Committee

Keep our Staff Safe

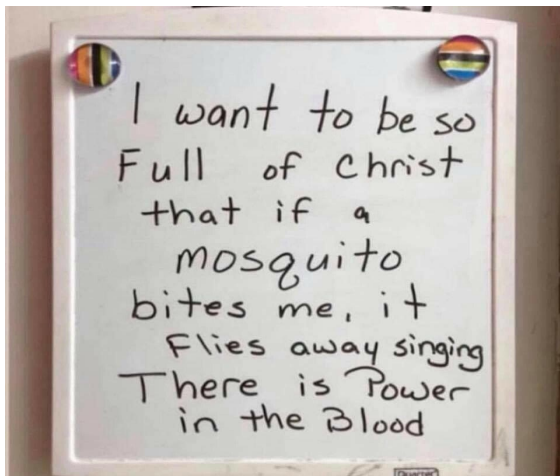
In keeping with current state guidelines, please limit in-person office visits to only those scheduled in advance. Any donations can be dropped off in the church Narthex and the office is open for phone calls:

Tuesday—Friday 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This is a temporary situation and we ask your help in caring for each other.

Thank you

Church Council



Annual Church Meeting Preparation

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31 at 10:45 a.m. Details forthcoming.

All committees must have their annual reports submitted to the office via email in word or excel formats, by January 12, 2021.

The Nominating Committee is looking for members to join the 2021 Church Council. We have 3—3year and 1 – 1year position that must be filled. It's a great way to be involved in the workings of your church and the Council meets once per month.

Please pray about helping in this capacity and respond as God leads you.

Contact Pastor Ian, Rae Ann Mosiman or Carol Kruse if you have questions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I hope everyone had a wonderful, cozy and safe Thanksgiving! As I am writing this we are busy trying to pull together our first (and hopefully last) virtual Christmas Program! I want to thank everyone who has helped make this possible!

We have continued to hold Sunday School and Kingdom Kids virtually. The kids, parents and teachers are all being so flexible and we love seeing the kids each week, if only over the computer! I am thankful for each and everyone of you!

We made Advent Wreaths in both classes. I hope each family will use theirs as we go through Advent this year and years to come. They turned out beautifully. We are looking forward to teaching them about God's greatest gift to us all and showing that HOPE came to us all those years ago in a little Baby in a manger and we still have that hope to hang onto even in this most difficult time!

Merry Christmas to everyone!

Denise Roetzer
Christian Education Coordinator



MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021

All voting members should attend.

According to the Church Bylaws:

A confirmed member who in the judgment of the Church Council shows no interest in attending church services and does not partake of Holy Communion: and who does not contribute to the congregational treasury according to the congregations records for one church calendar year, shall be presumed no longer to desire membership, shall lose the right to vote, and shall not be counted in the membership statistics of the congregation. However, the name and record shall be kept in the files for a period of one year thereafter. Such a person shall be encouraged to take part in the congregation life, or to transfer elsewhere, as the situation may indicate is advisable. If the person resumes activity within a one year period, their name shall be restored to the active membership list: if not, that person shall be dismissed from the congregation and if possible shall be notified of this action.

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who have requested prayer or have been under doctors' care:

Kim Olsen, Lynn Howe, Carolyn Rensfeld, Mollie Berg, Jayveon Maney, Rollie Iverson, Wilbur Nelson, Nick Fulweiler, Julie D'Aigle, Jeanette Peterson, Barb Mooers, Helen Grams, Tom Aldinger, Tom Larson, Lisa Melland, Susan Armstrong, Angie Johnson, Doris Kleven, Chris Johnson (Angie Johnson's son), Pricilla Bone, Norinne Mensen, Neil Anderson (Ingrid Trandahl's brother), Pastor John Kerr, Bonnie Torpe (cancer surgery) Richard Swanson, Maynard Swanson, Shirley Lohse (rehab) Janice Anderson, Char Nelson

Family of Elwin 'Swede' Anderson (passed November 4, 2020)

Those who serve in our national, state, and local governments, and the courts, law enforcement, and military: Seth Holmquist, Alex Pavin, Jon Profant and Aaron Brown

Please notify the office with updates to this section so we remain current.

Last updated November 20, 2020



Heavenly Sunshine Preschool

Halloween Costumes. They went Trick n Treating in downtown Isanti



Heavenly Sunshine Preschool.

Enjoying a break outside during the school day.

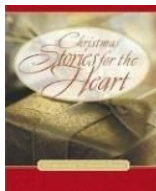
We have whittled our calendar collection down to only landscape pictures. It's hard to convince a 4 year old to cut out a picture of a grassy meadow but they LOVE cutting out kittens, puppies, cars, flowers, fish, any animals, tractors and cars! If anyone has old calendars full of cute pictures, we would love to put them to good use! NOT SURE? Bring them in and we'll sort through them for you.

Blessings

Erika Zdon, Heavenly Sunshine Preschool

Christmas Stories for the Heart

By Alice Gray



This beautiful little book is a collection of Christmas reflections by Max Lucado, Chuck Swindoll, Ruth Graham, The Dobsins, Joni Eerckson Tada and more. Read it all at once or read it as your devotions. In these wintry days as we prepare for Christmas it reminds us what Christmas is all about.

Found in section GRA 3.



During Sunday Service on November 15, Phyllis Lundquist and Pastor Ian present 17 hand tied blankets to Erin Yerigan from the Veterans Service of Isanti County. These blankets will be given to area Vets and their families.



We wish to thank the 9 volunteers who hand tied the blankets and a special Thank You to Thrivent for donating the money to purchase the materials.



Holy Baptism

November 29, 2020

Nova Elaine Kappelhoff

FLC Church Council Meeting - Minutes November 17, 2020

Members Present: Kathy Smith, Denise Roetzer, Ann Krueger, Pastor Ian, Ron Schleif, Mary Bye, Sheryl Christensen, Ashley Sjodin

Members Absent: Anika Pavin

Also Present: Erika Zdon

Meeting was called to order; Pastor Ian led the devotion.

Secretary's Report – Minutes from the Oct. 20 & 23 Council meetings were previously approved.

Financial Report –October giving over expenses was -\$5,537.97; YTD + \$7,951.41. Payment Protection Loan received earlier this year has been forgiven in full. Report approved.

Pastor's Report – Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for December 13. Pastor has helped with two funerals in past month, and Confirmation classes continue virtually. Report approved.

Committee Reports:

Heavenly Sunshine Preschool – Erika Zdon reported she and Karla are teaching 19 children with safety measures in place. Christmas program is currently cancelled, but may record and post.

Personnel – Committee is preparing for annual staff reviews and budget proposals. They are working to update the Preschool Director job description, along with written procedures.

Property – Insurance has paid on claim for parsonage roof hail damage. Will get bids on roof replacement. Parsonage porch windows are replaced, shower is fixed and boiler maintenance is done. Church insurance contract will be through AM Trust as of December 1, saving \$2,000 in annual premium.

Finance – Proposed budget items need to be turned in to the office by December 1.

Christian Education – Sunday School and Kingdom Kids programs continue. Plans are in process for pre-recording the parts for the Christmas Program, to be aired as the Worship Service on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Social Ministry – The Giving Tree will collect items for the Black Dog Hill Shelter and the Food Shelf through December. Committee members are reaching out to homebound.

Stewardship – 52 pledges had been turned in to date, with an increase over 2020 pledge amounts. Online giving is being received well.

Worship & Music – Mary Bye reported option of pre-recording services, allowing more individuals to be active participants. Service of Thanksgiving will be held Tues., Nov.24 @ 7 p.m. Pianos will be tuned soon.

Committee reports approved.

Old/New Business:

Planning for Budget, Annual Report – Congregational review to be scheduled on January 24. Budget review to be available to members in advance. FLC Annual meeting is scheduled for January 31. Council positions open for 2021 include three 3-year terms, and one 1-year term. Hoping for individuals to offer to serve in this capacity.

Scholarships – Guidelines and scholarship amounts are being reviewed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Roetzer, Council Secretary



December 2020

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----|
| | | 1 7pm Social Ministry 7pm Property | 2 10am Bible Study 6pm Kingdom Kids 7pm Year A Confirmation | 3 7pm Worship & Music 8pm Adult Study | 4 | 5 |
| 6 8:30 am online Sunday School 9:30 Online service w/communion | 7 | 8 6:30 Finance | 9 10am Bible Study 6pm Kingdom Kids 7pm Year B Confirmation | 10 7pm Praise | 11 | 12 |
| 13 8:30 am online Sunday School 9:30 Children's Christmas Program | 14 | 15 7pm Council | 16 10am Bible Study 6pm Kingdom Kids 7pm Year A Confirmation | 17 7pm Praise 8pm Adult Study | 18 | 19 |
| 20 8:30 am online Sunday School 9:30 Online service w/communion | 21 | 22 No Christian Ed | 23 10am Cut-off for January newsletter No Bible Study | 24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service online | 25 Christmas Day Office Closed | 26 |
| 27 8:30 am online Sunday School 9:30 Online service | 28 | 29 | 30 No Bible Study | 31 New Year's Eve Office Open | January 1, 2020 Office Closed | |

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Non-Profit Org.

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PERMIT #3



Home of Heavenly Sunshine Preschool

763-444-7527

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.

via [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FAITHLUTHERANISANTI/LIVE](https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranisanti/live)

Office Hours By Appointment Only

Tues thru Fri 9a.m. to 2p.m.

Lunch 12:00—12:30 pm

website: www.faithlutheranisanti.com

email: office@faithlutheranisanti.com

