



The Faith Lutheran Newsletter is a monthly publication of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Volume 14 Issue 12

Weekly Schedule:

- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 8:15 am
- Divine Service 9:30 am
- D & T Classes Sundays 11:00am
- Monday's Women's Bible Study 6:30pm
- Thursday Men's Bible Study 7:00am

Special Activities:

- Board of Ed December 4 @ 6:30pm
 - Board of Elders December 7 @ 7:00pm
 - Council Meeting December 10 after church (11am)
- Lutheran Hour
7 a.m.
Sunday—KILJ FM 105.5
KOKX 95.3 10:30 a.m.

From Pastor Scudder's Desk

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. (Ps. 50:2)

Yes, it is December already! With December certainly come thoughts of Christmas. Are you ready for the onslaught of "holiday" special events? The visits from family, etc.? It's a good thing that you have some time to prepare. And, as we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth we are given a season of preparation called Advent. The word "Advent" means coming. The Lord is coming.

The advent of judgment is coming: the Lord is coming to judge. Psalm 50 declares that He's coming with tempest and devouring fire, to judge His people with justice and righteousness. That ought to ring a bell: it sounds an awful lot like Sinai (Ex. 19:18-19), where the Lord declared His law to Moses. Moses read it to the people, and the people responded, *"All the words which the Lord has said we will do."* Moses took the blood of a sacrifice and sprinkled on the people, and the covenant between God and Israel was sealed.

The rest of the Old Testament records how terribly the Israelites broke the covenant and were judged, eventually carried off to captivity. We are made of the same sinful flesh that they were. In other words, the Lord's proclamation that He is coming to judge with righteousness and justice isn't a comforting thing, for we deserve His condemnation. Thanks be to God that the Psalm doesn't stop with this message, though, for it has two more advents to proclaim.

For one, the Lord calls for a sacrifice of praise from the people, not a sacrifice of blood; and covenants are sealed by the shedding of blood. If the people do not make that sacrifice, it means that the

Lord is making the Sacrifice instead. This is the reason for Jesus' advent at Christmas: He has come to shed His blood for the sins of the world. Because of His sacrifice, God, the righteous Judge, declares you forgiven and righteous.

But where is this forgiveness between Jesus' advent in Bethlehem and His advent on the Last Day? Psalm 50:2 points to Zion. *"Zion"* is wherever God is present to save His people. It was in the temple in the Old Testament. Today, it's His church, wherever His Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments given. The Lord comes in this advent of grace until the Last Day, speaking of forgiveness, cleansing of sin, and giving you the Blood of the new covenant.

You will find the same theme in Hebrews 12:18-24: *"For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them any more . . . But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."* And this is your reason to rejoice: the Lord is indeed coming to judge. But before He does, He has come meekly to die in your place. And until He returns to reign, He comes to forgive you by His Word and Sacraments.

A blessed Advent to you. The Lord be with you! . . . Amen.

Pastor Scudder



Son Shine Academy News

2024
CONNECTED

“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and

the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)

In the Christmas story, there are a number of things that don’t seem to **CONNECT** with the story of salvation. That God would send His only Son from the glory of heaven to the sinful earth doesn’t seem to **CONNECT**. That the holy and almighty Son of God would choose to be born in a stable and to visited by lowly shepherds doesn’t seem to **CONNECT**.

God’s prophet announced that a child would be born into this world. That Child is described as “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”. Jesus comes as the perfect Son of God. He comes to be our Savior. Jesus would be proclaimed by angels who announced that He would bring “on earth peace among those with whom His is pleased” (Luke 2:14)

In Jesus, God **CONNECTS** to save His fallen creation. The most amazing **CONNECTION** is Isaiah’s announcement: “For unto us a child is born”. God chose to **CONNECT** with us. He chose to **CONNECT** with shepherds, wise men, tax collectors and sinners of all kinds. He chose to **CONNECT** with US, with ME.

While we certainly enjoy getting Christmas presents, we don’t often deserve presents. Parents, grandparents, friends and others give us presents because they love us. God gives us the greatest present ever—He gives us JESUS. Sometimes we may open a special present and ask in surprise, “Is this for me?” God’s answer to us is “YES!” Jesus was born for each

of US! Rejoice in the gift that God has given you. God chose to **CONNECT** with our world and with each of us at Christmas!

Son Shine will be on Christmas Break December 20—January 2.

Please include these Son Shine families in your prayers this month

12/3 Atlas Detrick
son of Zachary & Bethany
12/10 Lawson Krogmeier
son of Matthew & Jamie
12/17 Brinley Henkel
daughter of Christopher & Breanna
12/24 Janet Howard
daughter of Joseph & Jessica

Thank you for you continued support of the Son Shine script program. When you purchase the Hy Vee Gift Cards & Certificates, the preschool will receive 10% for the shopping cards, & 15% for the certificates. Someone from the preschool board will be selling the cards and certificates after church, each Sunday, or you can stop in at the office Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am—Noon.



Advent Calendar Food Collection

Join Son Shine in an Advent Calendar Food collection. Advent calendars are on the back table in the narthex. Directions are on the calendar

December Duties:

Elders

Mark Wesely
Dennis Janssen

Altar Guild

Althea Weems

Acolytes

12/3 Cora Edwards
12/10 Dane Lehman
12/17 Cooper Genkinger
12/24 Cort McCabe
12/25 Alanna Edwards
12/31 Addison Schroeder

Ushers

Cal Bloebaum
Tyler Ruby
David Towne

A big THANK YOU to all members who served as organists, ushers, and coffee servers last month. This is just another part of STEWARDSHIP in action at Faith.

Serving in January

Elders

Nils Guldberg
Dave Towne

Altar Guild

Melissa Bacher

Acolytes

1/7 Thorsen Guldberg
1/14 Cora Edwards
1/21 Dane Lehman
1/28 Cooper Genkinger



COOKIE WALK—Bakers, start your ovens! Our annual Cookie Walk will be **Saturday, Dec. 2, 8:00a.m.-12:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bake some of your special Christmas cookies and bring them to the church by Friday evening,

December 1. The community enjoys all of our delicious treats.

WOW Book Club—**Monday, December 11th** beginning at 6:00pm at Lisa Kuster's. Please bring a wrapped ornament for our ornament exchange.

The Children's Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 17 at 6:30pm.** Sunday School children will be practicing their songs each Sunday morning during part of their class time and then again the morning of December 17. Good attendance is necessary.

Midweek Advent Vespers—Wednesday, December 6, December 13, and December 20 at 7:00pm.

Family Advent devotions are available on the back table in the narthex.

Christmas Decorating Committee— Please put up the Christmas Decorations the week of 11/26-12/2. Decorations should then come down the week of 1/7-1/13. McCabe's, McCall's, Moeller's, Movall's, Potts', Raymer's. Anyone is welcomed to assist the committee!!!



Bulletin announcements due by end of the day on Wednesday of each week.

Newsletter items due by the 20th of each month.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mary Raymer
- 5 Elsie Bacher
- 6 Verna Ungerman
- 9 Stan Stigge
- 11 Conan Guldberg
- 14 Whitney Vantiger
- 17 Dennis Janssen
- 17 Todd Mabeus
- 19 Taylor Sammons
- 21 Alan Raymer
- 24 Matt Raymer
- 29 Courtney Andreasen
- 29 Christopher Raymer

The Birthday Song

**A glad and Happy Birthday,
we wish to you our friends.
May God our heavenly Father,
a birthday blessing send.
A happy, happy birthday,
all beautiful with love.
And bright with many blessings,
from our dear Lord above.**



*And you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21*

December 2023

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8am-12pm Cookie Walk
3	4 Board of Ed Meeting 6:30pm 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	5 6:30pm Choir Practice	6 Bulletin items due 6:00pm -6:50pm Confirmation Class 7:00 Advent Vespers	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Elders	8	9
10	11 6:00pm WOW Book Club at Kuster's	12 6:30pm Choir Practice	13 Bulletin items due 6:00pm -6:50pm Confirmation Class 7:00 Advent Vespers	14 7:00am Men's Bible Study	15	16
17	18 Newsletter Items Due	19 6:30pm Choir Practice	20 Bulletin items due No Confirmation Classes 7:00 Advent Vespers	21	22	23
24/31	25 9:00am Christmas Day Divine Service	26	27 No Confirmation Classes	28	29	30
8:15am Sunday School 9:30 am Divine Service 7pm (the 24th) Lessons & Carols 11pm Candlelight Service (the 24th) Mite Box Sunday (the 31st)						

Faith Lutheran Voters Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2023

Joel Rees called the meeting to order. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Reports of Officers:

Pastor's Report: One funeral for Tammy Rackow, D& T and adult classes going well. Confirmation is going well and thank you for Tim and Jeremy's assistance in teaching the class. Adult instruction class is about halfway done. Advent starts Dec 3rd; decoration committee will be announced soon.

President's report: Joel talked through the status on giving and how we are slipping behind. He emphasized that we don't give to the congregation, we give to the Lord.

Vice President's report: Dana spoke about how he reached out to fill roles and how easy people were willing to fill roles, it was much appreciated.

Secretary's report: motion to accept by Harvey, Dana seconded.

Treasurer's report: Profit/loss received. Total income year to date \$189,278, giving is behind the budget, total expenses \$199,395 are also behind budget. We are behind in giving about 10% vs. budget and under budget on expenses by 5%. The Balance sheet shows our Savings account at \$17,280. Special fund Motion to accept Dennis and seconded by Todd.

Financial secretary's report: none.

Board reports:

Elder's report: Dennis reported that Elders have also discussed giving and the way to ensure that we keep the church healthy.

Trustee's report: Todd didn't have a formal report, they are just actively maintaining the church and grounds.

Board of Education Report: Lisa reported that the committee Cradle Roll is up to date, Sunday School is going well. They have ordered all supplies for the Christmas program goodie bags.

Son Shine: Sara reported that classes are doing great with 43 students enrolled this term. Invitation for all to attend the Christmas program. Registrations are open any time for any class.

Standing Committee reports:

-Old Threshers: Jeremy reported it was another successful year. Even with the heat we had a great year. There is \$40,000 to distribute. Start up funds stay in account \$3,000. 30% or \$12,000 to Church Major Improvement Fund, Committee Fund \$2,000 for needed improvements at grounds (roasters, tables, etc), Lutheran Hour \$2000, Food Banks – St Louis/Ft Wayne \$5000, Wapello gift was increased to 20% to \$8,000, Fairfield \$4,000, Pastor Steele \$500, Pastor Paul \$500, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca \$1000, Fellowship Cup \$1000, Take Away Hunger \$1100, Mock Family \$500.

There is also \$8,000 put aside for the OT Major Improvements. Stand up cooler, steam table, etc. The ice cooler was donated to Lake Geode non-profit. Pepsi replaced that with a stand-up cooler.

Todd motion to approve, Dana Seconded. Motion passed.

-Memorial: Pastor reported we have the new sign awaiting final bill in near future. A new fair linen will be purchased for the Alter.

Special Committee reports: Joel submitted the Constitution to the District and awaiting approval. Nothing doctrine related was changed, so do not expect any issues. Only change was around the terms of the offices.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: Budget for 2023-24, Harvey walked through overall we are down about .53%. Some decreases and some increases but net neutral. Health and retirement were some of the bigger increases, property expenses went down due to Capital improvements fund is well funded in the current year \$40,000 is in account to date. The weekly requirement is \$4,831 with the current budget.

Dennis thanked the committee for their work and spoke to how Elders looked at the budget. Todd motioned to accept the budget; Dana seconded. Motion carried.

Joel presented the slate of nominations; President - Bob Eldridge will serve 2 years; Vice President – David Rackow for 1 year this term. After this year we will have Vice President serve 2 years.

Secretary – Shelby Ruby

Treasurer – Don Lange

Jr. Treasurer – Harvey Ungerman

Elder – Dana Kuster

Elder – Joel Rees

Trustee – Wade Edwards

Board of Ed – Chari Ruby

Claudia moved to accept the list of nominees, Paulette seconded, and Motion passed.

Next Voters Meeting: Sunday, May 19 after service

Adjournment: Closing: Lord's prayer

Respectfully submitted: Chandra Edwards, Secretary