

Newsletter
December 2020

Faith Lutheran

Growing Through Living God's Word

Rev. Brett Satkowiak
Pastor

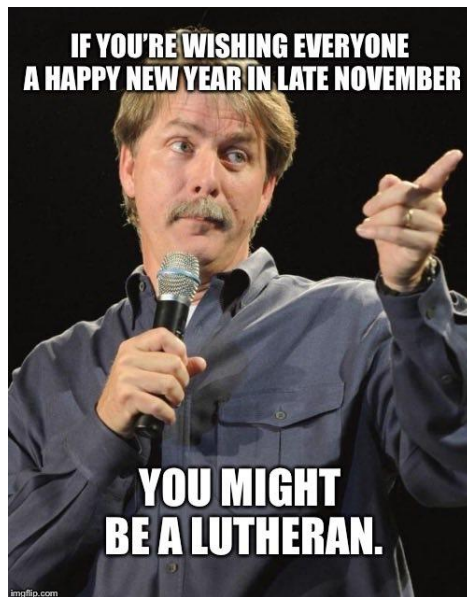
Karen Eck
Deaconess

Pat Brackman
Administrative Secretary

Patty Sojka
Preschool Administrator

'Tis the Season

We have officially begun a new year in the church with the season of Advent. Just as the seasons help create a rhythm for the calendar year, seasons in the church do the same. But where the calendar seasons are centered around weather patterns and planetary positions, the church calendar revolves around the life of Christ.



Worship Schedule
Saturdays 5:00 p.m.
Devotional / No Music

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Divine Service
Bible Class/Sunday School
9:15 a.m.

Communion celebrated at all
regular services

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It starts with the season of Advent, which means 'coming'. It focuses on the period before Jesus was born, the time when the world was waiting for the Messiah to arrive.

Advent culminates in Christmas, the birth of our Lord, after which we actually have a season of Christmas for a few weeks until Epiphany.

Epiphany starts with the arrival of the magi, or wise men, or wise kings, or whatever, which starts to reveal a bit about WHO this Jesus is. We talk about Jesus' baptism and share readings from His early ministry, which reaches its peak with the Transfiguration of Our Lord, the moment when Jesus was shown to not just be this great teacher and healer, but the very Son of God Himself.

From there, we move into Lent, a period of repentance and fasting, because once you realize that following Jesus means literally following God, there are some preconceptions about the Messiah Jesus and what it means to be one of His disciples that need examination. Throughout Lent, we put our praise on hold as we focus in on Jesus' suffering for the world and our role in that. The season then gives way to Holy Week, which is an intense seven days that tells of Jesus' final moments of life with His disciples, His betrayal by His disciples, and His death on the cross.

But the solemnness of Lent is shattered by the coming of Easter, which like Christmas isn't just a day either, but a two-month celebration of the fact that Jesus not only died for us ... He rose from the dead! The readings there talk about the times when Jesus appeared to and talked with others following His resurrection, including the many promises of what would come AND the calling of His disciples (that's us, too, by the way) to continue His ministry.

“Where the calendar seasons are centered around weather patterns and planetary positions, the church calendar revolves around the life of Christ.”

And that ministry of the church kicks off on Pentecost, after which follows the longest season of the church, the Season of Pentecost, sometimes called ‘ordinary time’. And this is where things get a little weird because we continue to read and hear all about Jesus, but not necessarily chronologically like we do throughout the rest of the year. And that’s because that time isn’t so focused on the life of Christ, but on His teachings and His works that help guide and direct how we, as His disciples, His followers, are supposed to live in the world in light of all He has done for us.

So with that in mind, we’re going to try to walk through this season of Advent together as a whole church, so that while we anticipate Jesus’ coming, we can uplift and encourage each other as we, as one body, look forward to what Jesus’ birth means for us all.

To that end, we’ve started using a daily devotional called Jesse Tree. Hopefully, you’ve already got your copy and you’re tracking right along with us. We’ll use that to shape our worship a bit throughout December, even in how we decorate our Sanctuary. I’m also going to try to create a short, maybe 10-minute video each day to build on the Bible readings and devotion for the day on our Facebook page.

So as you enter a new year in the church, think about how you can shape this current season to help draw you closer to God. Maybe it’s joining us for our midweek Advent services. Maybe it’s following along with the devotions each day. If you’ve got kids or grandkids around, maybe it’s using one of our family activity kits at home. But regardless of what you use, remember that God is with you, as is your Faith family, as we take this journey together.

~ Pastor Brett Satkowiak

Midweek Advent Worship

As we begin this journey through the season of Advent to Christmas, there are extra opportunities to keep your heart and mind pointed in the right direction, including special services each week.

From December 2nd through 16th, we will have two services each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. All are encouraged to make these a regular part of your week this month to remember the real reason for this season.

A New Kind of Christmas Tree – 2020 Advent Emphasis

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.” (Isaiah 11:1 ESV)

The Jesse Tree is Christ’s family tree. Filled with symbols from creation to the cross to His second coming, the Jesse Tree shows you your place in God’s family through Jesus.

Make sure to pick up your Jesse Tree Advent devotional so that you can join us on this devotional journey as we prepare for the coming of our king.

Family devotion kits are still available for those who want them.



Advent by Candlelight

All women (and girls) of Faith and their guests are invited to come together for a time of devotion and carol singing in the middle of this Advent season. The program will start at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6th in our socially distanced Sanctuary. The program will also be livestreamed on our Facebook page and Youtube channel (which can be accessed through our website at faithdemotte.org).

Christmas Worship

Celebrate the coming of the king in the birth of God's Son, our Lord, Jesus the Christ, with any (or all) of our Christmas services.

- Christmas Eve, December 24th – 9:30 a.m.
- Christmas Eve, December 24th – 7:00 p.m. with special musical presentation by our members starting at 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day, December 25th – 10:00 a.m. service with Holy Communion

Poinsettia Sale

Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex for anyone wanting to purchase poinsettia plants this Christmas season. They have been pre-purchased, so you'll just need to sign up for your preferred color. Each plant is \$14, and you can pay via check or cash with an envelope marked with your name and "Poinsettias" by December 20th. Plan to pick them up after the Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Schultz.

Angel Tree Deliveries

Remember to try and have all of your gifts for the Angel Tree wrapped and returned to the church by December 6th. If you chose to donate money for grocery gift cards, make sure to put your money (cash or check) in the envelope provided and return it to the church by then as well.

If you would like to be part of one of the teams to deliver the gifts to our Angel Tree families, you can sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact Pastor Brett and let him know. We will be making deliveries during the afternoons/evenings during the week of December 14th - 18th.

LWML December News

NOW is the time to make plans to attend the 39th Biennial LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24–27, 2021! Join your LWML sisters who are “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus,” the convention theme based on Hebrews 12:1–2. Attendees will be inspired by the convention goal, “Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord.”



TWO New Bible Class – Starting December 6th

On December 6th, we will kick off, not one, but TWO new Bible classes on Sunday mornings!

Pastor Brett will lead a study through the book of Galatians in the Sanctuary, while Pastor Mark Pflughoeft journeys through the letters of 1 and 2 Timothy in the Fellowship Hall. So plan to join us for one of these deeper dives into some awesome letters from the apostle Paul.

Faith SCATTERCAREIES Update!



Want to help the food bank and have some fun? If you have heard of the game Scattergories, it involves having categories of things -- such as ice cream favors or kitchen items -- then you roll the dice and come up with things that start with the letter it lands on. For example, if the dice lands on a 'C,' then you could put 'Chocolate' for ice cream favor, and 'Cup' for kitchen item. However, in THAT game if someone else picks the same thing, you don't get points; in our game it just means double the food for those who need it!

Many are struggling during this time and pandemic and hardship. Local food banks are running desperately low on supplies, and grocery stores are having difficulty stocking their own shelves with certain items. As members of Faith who have been called to love our neighbors by Christ, our Lord, we should be able to offer some help.

Let's keep playing! In November, we were able to donate over 200 items! That's a whopping 150 items MORE than October! There were some really creative "C" items that came in too: Chewy fudge brownies, Corned beef hash, Canned Chicken, Cake, Carrots, Croutons, Catalina dressing, Cheerios, Cranberry sauce, Cream of Celery, Chef Boyardee, Chili, and even Cat food. The list keeps going with Creativity!

Let us see the Possible Potential with our new letter "**P**". The Pantry has still been quarantining the food Prior to Providing it so Please Plan to bring non-Perishable items, which are Preferred. Thank you for your Propensity to Purchase out of our Profound Prosperity in Christ!

You can drop your items off at church, and we'll be happy to take them up to the Good Neighbor Food Pantry for you. If you have any questions about this, please contact Jen Satkowiak (586-850-5623 or jennifer.satkowiak@gmail.com).

Pre-School Minute

Our virtual parent-teacher conferences were an overwhelming success! We were able meet with families from the comfort of their homes in order to discuss their child's progress so far. We are very proud of all of our students!

We are following suit with the church, hosting virtual Christmas programs for all of our classes. The children have been busy learning songs and action poems to present, and Pastor Brett has graciously offered to help us with the recording and editing of our programs. We are extremely grateful for his help!

During this season of giving, the preschool classes have been collecting food items for the Good Neighbor Food Pantry. The preschool children are also sponsoring some recipients of Faith's Angel Tree. Our hope is to brighten the Christmas season for these families in some small way.

In His Service,

Patty Sojka

Pre-School Administrator

Deaconess' Corner



Two words that might describe how we are feeling right now: *wearied* and *worried*.

I know I am feeling both a weariness at times, and admittedly, I sometimes worry. We have God's constant assurance that He is with us and we should not worry, but in our *weariness*, we do.

This morning I read Isaiah 40:28-31:

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Praying that these words of promise will comfort and strengthen you in these difficult days. We rejoice in the promise that God *never* grows weary and that He also promises us strength. Encourage one another with these truths.

At one of our recent Pew Sisters Bible Studies (which you can still join when we meet again on December 10th), we sang “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.” The first verse reads:

“Oh soul are you weary and troubled, no light in the darkness you see;
there's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus; look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will go strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”

Keep your eyes on Jesus!

Prayers

- For those suffering grief
- For our nation
- For those suffering illness

Praise

- For the privilege of weekly Word & Sacrament
- For the season of Advent, Christ is coming again!
- For God's promise of strength and comfort
- For our Sunday School which is growing

Deaconess Karen