

# The Faith-full Times

## Winter, 2011

Faith Lutheran Church  
120 S. Jefferson Street  
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### From the Pastor's Desk –

*“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you...Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they shall come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice...”*  
- Isaiah 60: 1, 4-5a

As I finally start work on this Winter newsletter, preparations for Christmas are well underway. Many years of childrens' sermons, I have often taught them the meanings of the Christmons on Faith's Christmas tree. But there is a lot more meaning to this tradition. Therefore, as a meditation for this blessed but busy time of year, I offer us a meditation from our Women of the ELCA resources called, “The Colors of Christmas”:

*Ah, tradition. Our families and celebrations are often sprinkled with seasonal traditions that bring us joy and remind us of times gone by or people who have graced our lives. These traditions often add an element of comfort as well as enrichment to our special moments.*

*But do you know where or when your traditions began? Do you know the meaning behind the traditions you hold so dear? This resource takes a look at the some of the customs around one of our favorite celebrations—Christmas.*

*Most Christians have adopted the custom of putting up a Christmas tree. Have you thought much about how your Christmas tree can be a faith expression? Let's take a look at the start of the evergreen's place in our celebration of Jesus' birth. In the 7th century a monk from Crediton, Devonshire, went to Germany to teach the Word of God. He did many good works there, and spent much time in Thuringia, an area which was to become the cradle of the Christmas Decoration Industry.*

*Legend has it that he used the triangular shape of the Fir Tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The converted people began to revere the Fir tree as God's tree, as they had previously revered the Oak. By the 12th century it was being hung, upside-down, from ceilings at Christmastime in Central Europe, as a symbol of Christianity.*

*The first decorated tree was at Riga in Latvia, in 1510. In the early 16th century, Martin Luther is said to have decorated a small Christmas tree with candles, to show his children how the stars twinkled through the dark night.*

**Changing Times** – *Over the years, life was impacted by times of prosperity or war or new technology. During these periods of change, the Christmas tree also underwent a transformation. Small, tabletop trees gave way to floor-to-ceiling trees in homes of the wealthy during times of prosperity. The flag of one's nation became a tree-topper during the times of war, and large trees were set up in public spaces to encourage hope.*

*Ornaments from one's nation of ancestral origin filled many branches. In many homes, the handcrafted art of children graced prominent places on the tree. Just as our lives and culture are not static, styles of decoration continue to change, often reflecting the influence of the times. Do you remember the aluminum trees with floodlights of the 1960s? Were you or are you still part of a craft group that has influenced what you put on your tree? Do you recall seeing ornaments that reflected America's history during the country's bicentennial celebration? And who hasn't seen one of the many themed trees on display in stores? You want a Disney tree? It's there. Does someone in your home love dancing? Perhaps you have a ballet-inspired tree. Do your children or grandchildren excel in sports? Maybe you have a tree decked out with baseball, football, or soccer decorations? And who among us hasn't seen or created a color-coordinated tree?*

*The Christmas tree is a place for creativity; it fuels nostalgia and speaks to what is important to us. And certainly our country, families, creativity, and achievements are and will continue to be important to us. At the same time, let's remember that Christmas originally served to give witness to faith.*

*How do our Christmas trees glorify God and bear witness to our faith today? Let me share the lessons of one mother who taught her children to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas through her tree using the colors of Christmas.*

**Meaningful Colors** – *The green tree represents the never-ending love and presence of God in our lives. The evergreen tree does not lose its needles in the cold or heat. Likewise God does not lose us and we cannot lose sight of God for the sake of the world.*

*White lights or clip-on candles remind us of Jesus, the light of the world, and our call as disciples to bear witness throughout the world today. A red garland draped around the tree is a reminder that we are wrapped in the gracious act of redemption. Jesus was not only a baby—a warm and cuddly gift that is easy to receive; He is the savior who gave his very life so that we may live with God.*

*Blue ornaments represent heaven, hope, and peace. The vastness of the heavens above remind us of God's never-ending love, giving us hope in the midst of adversity, and peace as we cling to the promises of God. Purple ornaments reflect royalty. Jesus was mocked at his death as the King of the Jews. Christians bear witness to him as the King of Kings in Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus. The purple reminds us that Jesus' kingdom is not a secular one, but one in which God's way reigns supreme. What looks like a mockery of Jesus' kingship is in reality an opportunity to look deeper to see what a true king does for his people. The sacred is not confined or defined by secular interpretations.*

*Yellow shines like the brilliant light that one imagines with the angels singing on the hillsides of Bethlehem to let the shepherds know of the birth of the Savior, or the brilliance of the star that shone over Bethlehem. Placing a yellow-lighted angel or star on the top of the tree reminds us of the ways in which God spread the good news of Jesus' birth. We are reminded to look at the everyday things in life—like a star—and everyday people—like shepherds—to see God at work in our lives.*

*Silver and gold ornaments, garland, or tinsel remind us of God's riches—riches that are not limited by the human eye. After all, a baby born in a barn and lying in a manger is hardly what one would think of as rich. The riches of God—like redemption, forgiveness, grace—are those things we don't necessarily see with the eye, but know in our hearts. We are challenged to look at all God's children in the same way, not merely with our eyes but with our hearts also.*

*Red-and-white candy canes are hung on the tree as a reminder that God's redemption and our forgiveness go hand-in-hand. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we can live every day knowing that our sins are forgiven. When children visit, they are invited to select a candy cane from the tree as a reminder of this great gift of God's love.*

This Christmas, I challenge us to keep our eyes open and our hearts willing to see Christ's light shining right here in our daily lives. May your traditions bring a realness and depth of meaning for you so that you may know God's love for you today – and every day.

***Our Prayer for this Month: Lord, stir up your power and come into us and our world. Where it is in error, correct it. Where we are in need, provide what you know is best for us. Use us and transform us into the people you call us to be. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

- Yours in Christ, *Pastor Denise Anderson*

## **The News at Faith**

### **Thank You!**

Women of Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your donation to the City of Presidents Committee. Thanks for your continued support of our projects.

Sincerely, Joe and Jerry Goeman

To the Wonderful folks at Women of Faith Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your incredibly generous gift to ur campus ministry group. We will be putting it toward gas for our alternative Winter break mission trip!

God's Peace, Abigail, LCM Campus Minister

**Christmas Cookie Exchange** - On Sunday, December 11 after worship, we will hold a very informal cookie exchange. If you would like to take part, please bring 2-1/2 to 3 dozen cookies to church. We will then share them around so that everyone who takes part leaves with 2-1/2 to 3 dozen of mixed cookies.

**A Special Church Council Meeting** will take place after church on December 11 so that we can discuss the 2012 budget and agenda items and nominations to Church Council for our Annual Meeting.

**Adult Dessert Gatherings** It has been a while since Pastor has been able to ask groups of our Faith Family how things are going and how we can better be a family of God together. Therefore, you will each be receiving either a letter or an email inviting you to an adult dessert gathering so we can check in with each other and brain-storm ways to serve God together in meaningful ways as we continue to build up our community of Faith. Our next gathering will be with our “Baby Boomer” adults (people between the ages of about 50-60) on Wed., Dec. 14 at 7:15 p.m. And upcoming gatherings include dessert and conversation with “Late Boomers” (around 60-70) on January 4 at 7:15 p.m. and with “Best Gen” (70+) also on January 4 in the afternoon starting at 1:30pm.

**Grant County Adopt A Family –** We have been blessed with two families to sponsor this Christmas time. Please check out the “gift ornaments” on the Christmas tree found in the Narthex to see what kinds of gifts we still need to acquire for the five children, as well as gift certificates for groceries so they can have a wonderful Christmas. All gifts and certificates need to be returned to the Church

**Stewardship –**

Here is the attendance and giving record for the past several weeks at Faith Lutheran. Remember that we need to receive \$1730 each week in giving to meet the needs of our current budget. Our annual budget will remain at this level for the 2011 church year.

	10/2	10/9	10/16	10/23	10/30	11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27	12/4
<b>Attendance</b>	42	46	40	42	83	44	56	53	38	54
<b>Giving</b>	\$978	\$1570	\$1465	\$867	\$1599	\$2010	\$1549	\$1073	\$930	\$1335
<b>Special Gifts/Event</b>	\$775		\$337	\$1042						

**Faith Lutheran Church needs approximately \$1775/Week to meet ministry expenses.**

office by Sunday, December 18 so we can wrap and deliver them on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Operation Christmas Gifts for Nursing Home Residents –**

- Stockings or socks
- Hairnets
- Jewelry
- Hand Lotion
- Stamps
- Slippers with gripper soles
- Stationery
- Magazine/Newspaper Subscriptions
- Large Print Bibles
- Mixed Greeting Cards
- Handkerchiefs
- Washable Sweaters
- Large Print Books
- Gift Certificates for Beauty/Barber
- Perfume
- Coin Purses
- Combs
- Brushes
- Leg Warmers
- Caps
- Head Scarves
- Lap Robes
- Small Afghans
- Large Print Magazines

Please bring gifts unwrapped, including some wrapping paper, ribbon and tags, to church by December 18.

**Christmas Eve Worship –** Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24. Prelude music will begin at about 6:30pm.

**Youth –**



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering  
citizens with the saints  
Ephesians 2:14-20

**Watch your Bulletins and Emails for opportunities to** support four of our high schoolers and their chaperone, Mark Mueller, as they prepare to attend this year’s ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA in July. This year’s theme is “Citizens of the Saints”.

**Children's Sunday Church School Christmas Program** will be presented on Sunday, December 18, during worship!

**A Women of the ELCA** - You are invited to our regular Women of the ELCA Bible Studies the first Wednesday of each month starting at 9:30 a.m. Or, if this time is inconvenient, we can start a new group at a time convenient for you!

**Prayer Chain Update** – If you know of someone in need of prayer, please contact Pastor Anderson who will pass this person's name on to our prayer chain. Thank you!

**Lutheran Men in Mission** meets the third Monday of each month. Talk with Spike Brogley if you have any questions.

## **FROM THE SOUTH-CENTRAL SYNOD OF WI NEWSLETTER**

– A Letter from Bishop Burnside - ***In Disguise***

\_God sometimes comes to us in disguise. That's what my pastor said to children in worship yesterday. I listened. I was looking for God - looking hard for God yesterday. God very often comes to us in disguise I think.

Sometimes in unrecognizable disguise.

The text was Matthew 25. Jesus, in that holy word, emerges from the concealing outfits of a homeless beggar, dishonored prisoner, grieving daughter or husband, emaciated child, thirsty wanderer, undocumented immigrant, bare bodied disgrace and hopelessly sickened body daring to not only say: \_notice me\_ but to announce \_I am God. And not only that, but: \_I am with you - I am near you - you see me every day.

God comes to us in disguise. In the dark night of life's loneliness, in humiliation, sorrow and scarcity, in the shadow hours of thirsting, and cowering, at the bleakest moments of vulnerability or human decay something happens. A miracle is born. Do you see it?

I am looking for God - or these days I suppose I might more honestly say I am waiting for God to show up with a word for me.

Isaiah, the prophet, is remembered to have said it something like this: \_Have you not seen .... Have you not heard....? And then in his next breath he urged: \_listen in silence ... Listening is hard in the silence. . . sometimes very hard. A word can be disguised by silence.

I've been told that in the darkness where it is difficult to see, in the silence where we become hard of hearing, a miracle is born. Shepherds in darkness, in the night, where shadows prevail saw . . .

've been told that in the lonesomeness of silence a song was born. Nameless shepherds heard . . .

I am waiting and I am listening.                      Come Lord Jesus.                      I've been told that in Bethlehem a baby was born.                      For Christ's sake,                      Your Bishop, Rev. Bruce Burnside

***Bishop Burnside's wife, Cynthia, Dies - In remembrance of Cynthia Burnside, the following letter of tribute was received from Dr. Towfiq Nassar, CEO of Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem.***

\_Members of the Augusta Victoria Hospital - Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem received the news of Cynthia's passing away with great sadness.

Cynthia and Bruce have been coming to the LWF and the hospital and to Palestine for so many years. They worked with us, lived with us, collected olives with us, and most importantly stood by us in our struggle to end military occupation.

Sharing with ones humiliation and taking on some of the pain is an ultimate act of solidarity and sacrifice that cannot and will not be forgotten. Cynthia was with us through that, and she will never be forgotten. She walked with us on dirt roads to avoid harassment from soldiers, she rode with us to remote

places passing through many humiliating check points. She did it because of love, respect, and commitment to uphold the rights of the oppressed.

She wanted to make sure that she lived our injustices to better advocate for peace and justice. She wanted to experience our humiliation and anger because she wanted to do something significant about it. And she did.

Cynthia never came to Palestine as a tourist but rather as a care giver. She cared for the land, the people, the babies, the trees. Her hands were made wet by touching our crying babies, dirty with our sacred soil as she harvested. Her hands were made holy by feeling the pains of our people and responding with a comforting touch. How can she be forgotten. She will always live with us.

She touched and served the most sacred land of the resurrection to further peace and justice for all, and that land of the resurrection shall never forget; and that land of resurrection will resurrect her into life everlasting, to face her Maker as an instrument of His love for peace, justice, equity, and dignity for all. May she rest in the Peace of our Lord. May His face shine upon her, and may she dwell in the abundance of His mercy forever. Amen.

The administration and staff of The Lutheran World Federation / Augusta Victoria Hospital, East Jerusalem, Palestine.                      November 13th 2011

## Faith Lutheran Church Calendar for December/January, 2011-12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12/11 <b>9:15a</b> -SCS Xmas Practice & Choir <b>10:30a</b> -Sunday School <b>10:30a</b> – Sunday Worship 11:45a-Cookie Exchange 11:45a-Spec. Council Meeting	12/12	12/13 <b>7p</b> - Have Faith Practice	12/14 <b>6p</b> - Confirmation <b>7:15p</b> -“Baby Boomers” Adult Dessert Gathering (approx. age 50-60)	21/15	12/16	12/17
12/18 <b>9:15a</b> -SCS Xmas Practice & Choir <b>10:30a</b> -Sunday School <b>10:30a</b> – Sunday Worship <b>Xmas Gifts Due</b>	12/19 Deliver Adopt/ Family Gifts  <b>6:30p</b> – Lutheran Men in Mission	12/20 <b>7p</b> -Have Faith	12/21 <b>6p</b> - Confirmation	12/22	12/23	12/24 <b>6:30p</b> -Prelude Music Begins <b>7p</b> -Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
12/25 <b>10:30a</b> – Sunday Worship	12/26	12/27	12/28 <b>NO Confirmation Tonight</b>	12/29	12/30	12/31
1/1 <b>10:30a</b> – Sunday Worship	1/2	1/3 <b>5:30p</b> -Cuba City Fair & Picnic Meeting	1/4 <b>1:30p</b> - Women /ELCA Bible Study <b>1:30p</b> -“Best Gen” Adult Gathering <b>7:15p</b> – “Late Boomers” Meeting	1/5 <b>1:15p</b> -Nursing Home Worship	1/6	1/8
1/9 <b>9:15a</b> - Choir <b>10:30a</b> - Sunday School <b>10:30a</b> – Sunday Worship	1/10	1/11	1/12 <b>6p</b> - Confirmation	1/13 <i>Pastor Anderson @ Chicago Event</i>	1/14 <i>Pastor Anderson @ Chicago Event</i>	1/15 <i>Pastor Anderson @ Chicago Event</i>
1/16 <b>9:15a</b> - Choir <b>10:30a</b> - Sunday School <b>10:30a</b> – Sunday Worship	1/17 <b>1:30p</b> -Lutheran Men in Mission	1/18	1/19 <b>6p</b> - Confirmation	1/20	1/21	1/22
1/23 <b>9:15a</b> - Choir <b>10:30a</b> - Sunday School <b>10:30a</b> – Sunday Worship	1/24 <b>7p</b> -Council Meeting	1/25	1/26	1/27	1/28	1/29
1/30 <b>9:15a</b> - Choir <b>10:30a</b> - Sunday School <b>10:30a</b> – Sunday Worship	1/31 <b>7p</b> - Council					

## Faith Lutheran Church Volunteer Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assistant Minister</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Communion Family</b>	<b>Clean Upstairs</b>	<b>Clean Downstairs</b>
Dec. 11	Mark Mueller	Zack F'berger	Carolyn Harrison & Friend	Dick & Betty Dellabella	Sue Sullivan	Chuck & Sandye Voight
Dec. 18	Bob Schink	Rachel Mueller	Mark & Nancy Mueller	Jim & Barb Eveland	Chuck & Sandye Voight	Scott & Connie Wright
Dec. 24	Ruth Slaats		Bob Schink & Kevin Anderson	Ginger Lemkuil Family		
Dec. 25	Phoebe Shepherd	Trisha Peth	Sue Sullivan	Carolyn Harrison	Scott & Connie Wright	Chris Beesecker
Jan. 1	Chuck Voight	Zack F'berger	Bill & Phoebe Shepherd	Mark & Nancy Mueller	Chris Beesecker	Pat Behrens & Pat Bolton
Jan. 8	Scott Wright	Rachel Mueller	Floyd & Pat Bolton	Jon & Jennifer Pickel	Pat Behrens & Pat Bolton	Ralph & Joyce Brogley
Jan. 15	Kevin Anderson	Trisha Peth	Scott & Connie Wright	Phoebe & Bill Shepherd	Ralph & Joyce Brogley	Tim & Cassie Brotzman
Jan. 22	Pat Behrens	Zack F'berger	Ralph & Joyce Brogley	Sue Sullivan Family	Tim & Cassie Brotzman	Bob & Jeanette Burbach
Jan. 29	Ralph Brogley	Rachel Mueller	Dick & Betty Dellabella	Chuck & Sandye Voight	Bob & Jeanette Burbach	Marion Dailey
Feb. 5	Marion Dailey	Trisha Peth	Jim & Barb Eveland	Scott & Connie Wright	Marion Dailey	Dick & Betty Dellabella
Feb. 12	Deb Durley	Zack F'berger	Carolyn Harrison	Chris Beesecker Family	Dick & Betty Dellabella	Jim & Barb Eveland
Feb. 19	Don Knoblich	Rachel Mueller	Mark & Nancy Mueller	Pat Behrens & Ruth Slaats	Jim & Barb Eveland	Carolyn Harrison
Feb. 26	Mark Mueller	Trisha Peth	Bill & Phoebe Shepherd	Floyd & Pat Bolton	Carolyn Harrison	Laurie Kreul
Mar. 4	Bob Schink	Zack F'berger	Sue Sullivan	Ralph & Joyce Brogley	Laurie Kreul	Sue Sullivan
Mar. 11	Phoebe Shepherd	Rachel Mueller	Bob Schink & Kevin Anderson	Tim & Cassie Brotzman	Sue Sullivan	Chuck & Sandye Voight
Mar. 18	Ruth Slaats	Trisha Peth	Scott & Connie Wright	Dick & Betty Dellabella	Chuck & Sandye Voight	Scott & Connie Wright
Mar. 25	Chuck Voight	Zack F'berger	Floyd & Pat Bolton	Jim & Barb Eveland	Scott & Connie Wright	Chris Beesecker Family
April 1	Scott Wright	Rachel Mueller	Ralph & Joyce Brogley	Carolyn Harrison	Chris Beesecker Family	Pat Behrens & Pat Bolton
April 8	Kevin Anderson	Trisha Peth	Dick & Betty Dellabella	Mark & Nancy Mueller	Pat Behrens & Pat Bolton	Ralph & Joyce Brogley
April 15	Pat Behrens	Zack F'berger	Jim & Barb Eveland	Jon & Jennifer Pickel	Ralph & Joyce Brogley	Tim & Cassie Brotzman
April 22	Ralph Brogley	Rachel Mueller	Carolyn Harrison & Friend	Phoebe & Bill Shepherd	Tim & Cassie Brotzman	Bob & Jeanette Burbach
April 29	Marion Dailey	Trisha Peth	Mark & Nancy Mueller	Sue Sullivan Family	Bob & Jeanette Burbach	Marion Dailey
May 6	Deb Durley	Zack F'berger	Bob Schink & Kevin Anderson	Chuck & Sandye Voight	Marion Dailey	Dick & Betty Dellabella
May 13	Megan Flatley	Rachel Mueller	Sue Sullivan	Scott & Connie Wright	Dick & Betty Dellabella	Jim & Barb Eveland
May 20	Don Knoblich	Trisha Peth	Bill & Phoebe Shepherd	Chris Beesecker Family	Jim & Barb Eveland	Carolyn Harrison
May 27	Mark Mueller	Zack F'berger	Scott & Connie Wright	Pat Behrens & Ruth Slaats	Carolyn Harrison	Laurie Kreul
June 3	Bob Schink	Rachel Mueller	Floyd & Pat Bolton	Floyd & Pat Bolton	Laurie Kreul	Sue Sullivan

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
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**(608) 744-8420**

Our Mission Statement -  
**Faith Lutheran Church is**  
**Called to Care Locally and Globally**  
**-- To Serve God and Humanity --**  
**And to Welcome All**