



The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church
9608 US 301 North, Parrish Florida 34219
website: faithlutheranfl.com Phone: (941) 776-1395
email: office@faithlutheranfl.com

January, 2021

Advent has always been a season of waiting. From a purely practical point of view, it is waiting for Christmas to come. Waiting to sing the Christmas hymns that are so precious to us. For our younger members, waiting for the time they can open presents. Waiting for Christ to come.

Having grown up in the Lutheran Church, I have always known this about Advent, that it is a time of waiting for the celebration of the coming of Christ. My pastor would not light up the Christmas tree until Christmas Eve. Until then it was still dark. We would not sing any Christmas Hymns until Christmas Eve. I remember waiting with great anticipation for Christmas Eve when we would do our children's pageant, and get a bag of nuts and candy afterwards. I'm not sure which I looked forward to more. I also could not wait for the late evening service, so we could sing Silent Night with only the candles lit. There was a lot of waiting going on.

As I got older a different waiting made itself clear. I began to see the connection between Christmas and Easter. We celebrate Advent right before Christmas, but we don't really get to the true gift of God until Easter. The reason we celebrate Christ Jesus becoming flesh and blood is so that flesh might be nailed to a cross, and that blood might flow from his pierced side. I began to realize that there is a reason the images that we see are of Jesus in a manger and Jesus on a Cross. These were the two events that were bookends of His purpose on earth. To share our flesh and blood, so that he could share in our deaths. But more than that, through his death he could share with us salvation. That was what all of humanity was waiting for. It became clearer and clearer as I understood the prophecies about Jesus from the Old Testament.

The Jesse Tree devotions that we have been using this season, connect us to all those years of waiting for God to fulfill his promises. The image of the ram and Isaac being put on the altar are some of the most memorable from this season. Abraham did a lot of waiting for Isaac, and then God asks him to sacrifice his only son. I also think there was a lot of waiting and praying as Abraham and Isaac climb the mountain, waiting for God to provide the sacrifice, which he did then and also 2000 years later when HE sacrificed HIS only Son for the salvation of the whole world, not just one child.

Recently I have been struck by the final aspect of waiting that is emphasized in Advent, the waiting for Christ to return in His glory. Of course, I have always known that Jesus would come again, but I never really spent much time thinking about it. In High School I met some Christians who seemed to think about the end of the world all the time in an obsessive way. It was also presented as a frightening time, a time of fear.

Now with all of the chaos that is going on in our nation, it seems that people are again thinking that the time of waiting is coming to an end, and maybe it is. As I have often said in my preaching, we have always been close to the end, because we do not know the time or the day. It could happen at any time. In the past I have thought that I hope God waits to come again, at least until I finish high school, or get married, or have kids, or now have grandkids.

It was something that I knew would happen, but I wasn't looking with eager anticipation for it to come soon.

That has changed. Maybe it is because I am getting older, but I honestly believe it is because I am understanding the hope better. Things in this world will never get better. There will always be sin, there will always be wars and rumors of wars. There will always be strife and worry. No one is going to be able to fix the problems of this world...except Christ. He died to fix all the problems of this world, but we do not get to see the fullness of it until he comes again, so until that time we wait.

I am now waiting with Joyful anticipation, because I finally understand what it means to hope in the Lord. Our hope is not just for an easy life, or a successful one, our hope is for a new life. A life with Christ, where every tear is wiped away and every sorrow is gone. A life where we have the greatest gift every day of our lives, Christ with us. What a glorious day that will be.

As I have been thinking about the joyful hope that is within me, I turned to the very last verses of the Bible. Revelation 22:20-21 "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen." Amen. Come Lord Jesus! This is my prayer every day. I cannot wait for the day when I will see my Lord face to face and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. What a wonderful day that will be. The anticipation is killing me. This is one present that will never disappoint. This is the greatest Christmas gift of all. Amen. Come quickly Lord Jesus.

Pastor Pooch

A NOTE OF



Dear Faith Members,

We want to sincerely thank you for the Christmas gift we received.

Your generosity and kindness is so appreciated. Best wishes in this New Year, 2021, for good health, true happiness and always love.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Pooch, Wilma Smith and Margaret Greenslade.
Rick & Teena Ross, Organist, Bill Vlasak
and Pastors Hinman and Stisser.

**Christmas and Advent Decoration Removal
will be Saturday, January 9th at 9:00 am.**

Thank you for your help in decorating the church this past year. Now it is time for decoration removal, so we will be needing some Volunteers' time and help to prepare the church for 2021. In the past, we've had a great turnout which makes the task much easier. We can usually accomplish the work in less than 2 hours. Please mark your calendars and come join us. If you have any questions, contact Dennis Steinke at 815-289-0057.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
December 8, 2020

The President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

PRESENT: President Glen Collier; VP Jim Jones, Financial Secretary Marilyn Howard; Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs; Head Elder Mert Janovec; Head Trustee Gary Bonadurer; Fellowship Ann Colton; Communication and Altar Guild Chairman Kelly Freeman; and Pastor Pook. Absent: Treasurer Judy Faries

Opening Devotions: Pastor read and reviewed Psalm 11. God tests His believers to strengthen their faith. We can trust in Him. He then offered prayers for members and loved ones in need.

REPORTS

SECRETARY: Minutes of Nov. 10, 2020 meeting were approved as printed. Minutes of the annual membership meeting Dec. 6 were distributed for review.

TREASURER: Absent. Refer to report given at Annual meeting Dec. 6.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: [Report distributed. We are no longer using Pay Pal.](#)

PASTOR: A request was received from Joan Toye to offer a variety of Christmas floral arrangements for sale at \$5 each, with proceeds donated to the church. Mert **Moved** approval. Seconded and **carried** with all voting yes. There are some members that need a friend. Toni McCarty and Ann Colton previously volunteered. Marilyn Howard will participate, also.

VP: Jim will write a letter to the renter of the yellow house advising the house will no longer be available to rent after July 1.

PRESIDENT: Critique of **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING..** All agreed it was too long and with all the activities now being displayed on the Web Site and Face Book, it was felt that reports from various organizations were no longer necessary. It was also voiced that at least one more mic was needed, and someone assigned to take that mic to anyone wishing to speak.

BOARD REPORTS

COMMUNICATION: Kelly has been clearing the small classrooms of unnecessary items. She suggested we purchase one rolling chair storage rack for ease in moving chairs into the church or narthex, if needed. Since so much information is now available on the Web Site, she will be cutting down on the size of the Friday communication.

ELDERS: **GriefShare Surviving the Holidays** will be presented again Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. The regular GriefShare program will begin on Monday Jan. 4 at 2 p.m. Preregistration is requested. A \$20 fee for the 13-week course is requested to cover the cost of supplies. This will be waived if it is a hardship. **Worship Schedule:** For the winter season, beginning in the new year, an 8 a.m. Sunday Worship service will be offered as well as at 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study at 9:15. Wednesday services will remain at 5 p.m. with Bible Study at 3:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES: Gary voiced concern about the roof as there are a couple areas he pointed out that need to be watched for any further damage. He will file the contract that he had gotten for roofing and suggests that when we are ready to proceed we contact that company. He also suggested that when repaving of the parking lot begins, we have the grassy parking areas around the church paved as well and that we spread a good grade of gravel on the parking lot across the street. Christmas decorations will be removed Jan. 9.

LWML: Packing Hygiene Kits Jan. 14, 2021.

Prayer List: Members need to be reminded to let Jean and/or the church office know when someone can be deleted from the list. Information also needs to be updated periodically.

The next Council meeting will be **January 14**, at 6:00 p.m.
The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. followed by prayer.

Jean

Jean Roehrs, Recording Secretary



Faith Prayer Ministry

The psalmist writes; *The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer* (Psalm 6:9 ESV). The Lord hears our pleas and will accept our prayers, also.

Please make your prayer needs known to the church office or to the prayer chairman, Jean Roehrs, and your requests/needs will be shared with the Prayer Partners who have joined the Faith Prayer Ministry. To be a member of this vital ministry send an email to jroehrs@msn.com and prayer requests will be sent to you via email.

Thank you.

NAME BADGES

If you are a Faith MEMBER, please remember to wear your name badge.

If you have misplaced your name badge or haven't ordered one yet, please find the order forms on the bookcase in the Narthex, complete the form and include a check made out to Faith Lutheran or cash and place it in an envelope and deposit it in the box provided. You can order a magnet backed (\$8.00) or pin backed (\$7.00) name tag.

See the Church Secretaries if you have any questions.





ATTENTION MUSICIANS!

Looking for a duet partner for my flute for occasional special music in Divine Worship Services.

Do you play Guitar? Woodwind, Strings, Harp? Call Nancy Niemi at 740-815-5415 or email nancyjniemi@icloud.com

REQUEST:

To all our members and friends currently receiving the Pastor's Weekly Message as a mailing, PLEASE call the church office at 941-776-1395 and request that we continue mailing the message to you, or you may complete the form below and mail it to us. Beginning the first of February if we do not hear from you, we will stop the mailings to you. We don't mind sending out the weekly message, but we want to know that it is important to you that we continue. Anyone not receiving a written message may also REQUEST one by completing the form below or call the church office to be included on the list to receive mailings.

Weekly Mailing Request form:

Please send Pastor's Weekly Message to me/us,

(name) _____

at this address _____

We would like to receive the following: please check your choices

_____ Pastor's Weekly Message

_____ Monthly Newsletter

_____ Portals of Prayer (every 3 months)

Also indicate an alternative address if you are an Associate Member.

Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...



Pastor's Bible Classes

Our **Sunday Bible Class** will begin meeting at 9:15 am and
on **Wednesday afternoons** at 3:30 pm,
in the *Great Hall* led by the Pastor.

The scripture readings will be discussed in depth and you can ask questions too!
Come join in the discussions.

The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the
Concordia Seminary.

Adult Bible Study to Resume

New Day and Time - Thursday Bible Study
(formerly Monday Night Bible Study)
will resume on **January 7, 2021** at 2:00 pm.
This Bible Study is led by Elder Don Lannon.
Looking forward to seeing you all in class.



DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

SUNDAYS AT 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:00 PM



Greetings from our house to yours.

Your many thoughts, prayers and cards have been very supportive. These past months have brought many thoughts of God's grace and our faith. We are adjusting well to our new home here in Port St. Lucie. Being close to our son's family has help tremendously. I was able to spend Thanksgiving with him and our daughter came over from Naples for the weekend. We have both established new primary care doctors and will be seeing a new Cardiologist next month. The doctors has said it can take a few months to get back to something more normal. Thank you for keeping Cheryl in your prayers.

The following is our new address and contact information:

10898 S.W. Stony Creek Way (Brennity at Traditions - an Independent care facility)
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34987-2744

Primary Phone (cell and Text) 941-713-4725

email duanelingis@verizon.net

We surely miss all our friends in Bradenton Sarasota area and church family at Faith Lutheran. We are still looking for a new church, but I find they are not as traditional as Faith. They have a combination of traditional and contemporary services. We have found Prayers do work. I want to give a shout out and our prayers to my cousin Donald Fulton in Mentor Ohio. He is suffering in the final stages from ALS. Don is at peace with God and the Lord Jesus

God's Blessing to all.
Duane and Cheryl Lingis



**With all Good Wishes, May Merry Christmas
Be a bright promise of a Happy New Year.**



Birthdays

- 1 Helen Wallace, Joni Young
- 3 Jonathan Koehler, Margie Weiss
- 5 Roy Heflin
- 6 Cheryl Lingis
- 7 Jack Dressel, Mackenzie Wain
- 8 Richard Stevenson
- 10 Donna Koenig, Silas Pooch
- 11 Raymond Lesoine
- 15 James Koehler
- 17 William Vlasak
- 19 Renee Cole, Morgan Wain
- 20 John Bessey
- 21 Trent Edney
- 22 Veronica Carenza
- 25 Francis Smith, Eugene Hemingway
- 27 Dave Underwood
- 28 Gerald Gabrielson
- 29 Milford Hughes
- 30 Sue Koehler



- 1 Oisin & Charity Crean (5 yrs.)
- 1 Paul & Mary Meyer (67 yrs.)
- 18 Paul & Kristine Bearse (24 yrs.)
- 24 David & Susan Barber (51 yrs.)

WOMEN OF FAITH

We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 9-11:30, and many of the jobs continue at home. For more information contact, Marjorie Weiss at 941-757-7307



SEWING FOR CHRIST

Our small group continues to sew and knit. Everyone is welcome to join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the Great Hall. Please feel free to contact Gloria at 941-755-5092, if you have any concerns.

MILITARY Gift Card Program

I am pleased to announce that our **MILITARY** Gift Card Program was once again a great success.

Our Congregation donated \$1,650.00 to our **MILITARY** serving all across the country and world.

I wanted to thank you for your generous support and wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year as we weather this Storm of Covid 19.

God is Good and He will see us through!

Lois Lannon



A great New Year's resolution would be to remember each week to bring an item to help fill the food barrel for those less fortunate. We are so grateful to each of you that help keep that barrel full.





Faith Women in Mission

Faith Women in Mission (LWML) will meet Thursday, January 14th at 9:30 am. with refreshments . We will begin our meeting with Bible Study and prayers followed by a brief business meeting, then we will be assembling hygiene kits. Most needed items are **hand towels, combs, shampoo, nail clippers and files, deodorant and toothpaste , toothbrushes and tooth brush holders.**

Any donations you can give would be most helpful and very much appreciated.

The Board of Elders will meet at 9:15 am on Monday, January 4, 2021, where we will also discuss the booklet from CPH entitled, "The Caring Elder".



The initial GriefShare program will begin at 2:00 pm. on Sunday, January 3, 2021, and will continue for thirteen weeks, concluding on Sunday, March 28th. All who are experiencing grief, and would like to learn how to better cope with it, are encouraged to attend these classes. The classes include a video with discussion afterward, and a Workbook which will offer opportunities to study and critique the lessons.

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our troubles,
so that we can comfort those in any trouble
with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."*

IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MEMORIAL COMMITTEES

This past year has proven to be a busier year than usual for our church and particularly our Board of Trustees. Many important renovations and projects have been completed thanks to the efforts of those volunteering their time and knowledge in keeping our church in top notch condition.

Our philosophy has been that if we as trustees could handle a repair or replacement, we would. If it was beyond our capabilities, we would use our outside commercial contractors to get the job done. It worked very well and proves to be the best plan of action, with the best results.

I would like to recognize those who have given of their time and talents in our efforts: Jack Conte, Paul Ryden, Tony Bowen, Martha Riedl, Richard Wormald, Dave Benson, Jerry Gibson (who recently rejoined the Trustees), Gordon Crepeaux (who passed away earlier this year) and myself. I had the honor of serving on the Trustees, the past 4 years, and as head Trustee for the past 7-8 months. I can attest to the fact, this was not a one man job, but the sharing of ideas and physical effort of many to get the job done. I found communication with Council members to be imperative.

I want to recognize the countless efforts of Margaret and Wilma in the office who made my job so much easier and successful.

I relied on them many times. A big thank you to Rick and Teena Ross for their dedicated work in keeping our church clean and always ready for the next service.

Thanks to Pastor Pooch and the entire Church Council for their support on sharing of ideas.

I would also like to recognize those who served with me the past four years on the Memorial Committee, which has recently been reorganized: Paul Ryden, Judy Gosman, Darrell Krohn and Brenda Lovett.

Thank you and God Bless each of you for your devoted service to Our Lord.



Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bonadurer

Faith Lutheran Church
January 2021

9608 U.S. Highway 301 North, Parrish, Florida 34219
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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 rd Sunday after Christmas 8 am Divine Service 9:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am Divine Service 2 pm GriefShare	4 9:15 am Elders' Bible Study & Meeting.	5	6 3:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study 5 pm Divine Service	7 10 am Sewing for Christ 2 pm Adult Bible Study	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 9 am Christmas Removal
10 Epiphany of Our Lord 8 am Divine Service 9:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am Divine Service 2 pm GriefShare	11	12 6 pm Church Council Meeting	13 9 am Women of Faith 3:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study 5 pm Divine Service	14 9:30 am LWML 10 am Sewing for Christ 2 pm Adult Bible Study	15 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Lifelight Bible Study by Zoom	16
17 1 st Sunday after Epiphany 8 am Divine Service 9:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am Divine Service 2 pm GriefShare	18	19	20 3:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study 5 pm Divine Service	21 10 am Sewing for Christ 2 pm Adult Bible Study	22 Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Info due	23
24/31 2 nd and 3 rd Sundays after Epiphany 8:00 am Divine Service 9:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am Divine Service 2 pm GriefShare	25	26	27 9 am Women of Faith 3:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study 5 pm Divine Service	28 10 am Sewing for Christ 2 pm Adult Bible Study	29 Pastor's Day Off	30