

Voice of Faith

December 2017

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA
1245 North Second
Seward, NE 68434

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Web site: www.faithseward.org



Facebook: Faith Lutheran
Church, Seward, NE

**Worship Sundays at 9:15 am
Sunday School 10:45am**

BLESSINGS. REMEMBERING. PRAISING.



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AA meets weekly at Faith Lutheran on Sundays at 7pm and Tuesdays at 7:30pm					1	2
					<i>Christmas at Concordia</i>	
3 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages 10:45-3rd Year Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Supper and Craft Auction	4	5 1pm-Congo Life Meeting	6 1pm-Faithful Piecemakers 6:30p - Faithful Choir 7p-Confirmation	7	8 11:45am-Seward Local Lunch at the Country Club	9 4-9pm Bell Ringing at WalMart
10 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages	11	12 7pm Council Meeting	13 1pm-Faithful Piecemakers 7p-Confirmation	14	15 6pm - Family Game and Pizza Night	16
17 9:15am-Worship GWOH Christmas Program 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages 10:45-3rd Year Confirmation Christmas Caroling	18	19 9am-4pm Foster Friends Toy Giveaway	20 1pm-Faithful Piecemakers 7p-Confirmation	21 Newsletter Articles Due!	22	23
24 9:15am-Worship 5pm - Christmas Eve Worship	25 31 9:15am Worship	26	27 1-5:30pm FLC Blood Drive	28	29	30

Christmas

Congregational Corner

Special Events at Faith During December

Sunday, December 3

5:30 pm - Soup Supper and Craft Auction sponsored by the Youth.

Saturday, December 9

4-9pm - Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Wal-Mart



Christmas Eve Morning - 9:15am

Sunday, December 17

9:15am-Children's Christmas Program during service. Caroling in the afternoon.

Sunday, December 24

5pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion



Annual Reports Due Date

All end of the year reports from Boards, Committees, and Organizations from Faith Lutheran are due to the office by Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018.

Please email your reports to Rachel at office@faithseward.org. Reports may also be put into the Church Office mailbox. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Saturday, December 24th
at **5pm**

Please come and join us on Christmas Eve for our worship service. Feel free to bring your family, friends, and neighbors to this service where we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faith Lutheran Church December Blood Drive

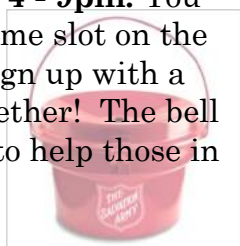
The next blood drive at Faith Lutheran Church will be December 27, 2017 from 1 to 5:30PM. That is number 6 this year. So far this year, our drives have collected 185 units of blood. I know this is not the best timing, but let's make it count! I challenge everyone to spread the message, ask your colleagues and friends or bring a friend. We want 43 scheduled.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Faith will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army again this year, on **Sat. December 9th.**

We are assigned the hours of **4 - 9pm**. You may sign up for a half hour time slot on the clipboard in the Narthex. Sign up with a friend, and share the time together! The bell ringing money is used locally to help those in need.



Any **contributions to Faith Lutheran** that you would like credited for the year 2017 should be placed in the offering plate or in the mailbox of Pam, our Financial Secretary, by Friday, December 29th.

We give thanks for your continued support of the ministries of Faith Lutheran. As we close this year, please prayerfully consider making an extra financial gift so that we can end our year strong and ready for 2018.

Thanks for giving your time, talents and treasures!

*November 12 was a busy day!

We welcomed seven new members – Spencer, April, Nolan and Drew (their sponsor is Joni), Erica (her sponsor is Kathy), and Jeff & Linda M (their sponsors are Don and Pam).

Our Faithful Choir sang “Come Away to the Skies.”

Jeff and Linda gave a presentation & slide show about their mission trips to Haiti during fellowship time.

We enjoyed a good FLC potluck.

Following the potluck, our Faithful Piecemakers presented Quilts of Valor that they had made for five local veterans. Jeanette served as MC for the very meaningful ceremony.

*Over 35 candles were lit and placed in our sand cross for All Saints Day on Nov. 5. Together they made a beautiful glow of remembrance for friends and family who had passed away.

*On Nov. 5, Kurt’s crew lead the ever-popular Global service and sang “Holy, Holy, Holy” during the offering.

*We did a fun Reformation Crossword puzzle during fellowship time on Nov. 5, led by Don. It was a mini-fundraiser for the youth trip. We were divided into teams. To get a clue for the crossword puzzle, we were charged a quarter, to use the Martin Luther book was \$5.00, as well as using a smart phone. The winning team (and their prizes) was Kyle (Bottle Rocket gift card), Allison (Dairy Queen Gift card), and Sheila (Luther Seal necklace). We all learned a few more things about Martin Luther in the process!

*Thanks to everyone who signed up on the Board of Properties poster in the narthex to do a fall clean-up job. There are still a few opportunities left. Grab a friend or two and signup to finish our fall cleaning!

*Speaking of fall cleaning, we appreciate our faithful leaf rakers who went to several of our members’ homes on Nov. 18 to clean up their lawns. They were: Cal, Jim H., Doyle, Paul N., Kathy, John W. & Don.

*The 7th annual Thanksgiving Eve service, which was held at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. We thank our Faithful Choir, along with the United Methodist Church Choir, for their medley of Thanksgiving songs. It was the biggest combined choir we’ve had - approximately 30 people. Thanks also to Vicki and Kathy for bringing treats for the fellowship time.

*On Nov. 19, our children’s choir sang a fun song “Obey, Obey the Lord” complete with actions, plus Ryler played his *very first* piano solo during the offering. Great job, kids!!

On Nov. 20, Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries invited Faith folks to a presentation at Red Path Gallery. It was a chance to meet Jason and Trish from Camp Carol Joy Holling and hear new ways to support the kids and counselors for Summer 2018. Thanks to everyone for sharing their camp experiences (and there were some “interesting” stories!) and thanks to the R’s for hosting.

All the quilts that our Faithful Piecemakers made this year were dedicated on Nov. 19. They had another busy year! 30 quilts were given to Lutheran World Relief, 25 quilts to Ridgewood, 5 Quilts of Valor, 1 to Habitat for Humanity’s fundraiser, 5 to Camp Carol Joy Holling’s Quilt Auction, 33 baby blankets and 4 quilts to Foster Friends, 10 baby blankets &

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Parish Ed and Youth Notes

We sent Christmas Program song sheets home with the kids mid-November. Please work on the songs at home... let Kelli or Amber know if you need a copy yet. The Christmas Program is Dec. 17 during church. While it is a God's Work Our Hands day, we are asking the kids to wear dress clothes to the program, rather than our yellow shirts. After church, we will be partnering with our adult choir friends to sing at the local nursing homes and deliver ornaments we made. Then we'll come back to the church and have a PARTY!!!

There will not be Sunday School on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31.

We will resume Jan. 7.

15 burp cloths to the Crisis Pregnancy Center, 1 to Heartland Park's fundraiser, 2 to our High School Seniors, 40 school bags to LWR, 52 pillow case dresses, 13 fall decorations made from balls of crochet thread for the youth fundraiser, and the rest will be given to Blue Valley. Members of the Faithful Piecemakers are Jeanette, Cindy, Helen, Carol, Janice, Bernice, Maggie, plus others that come occasionally - Joyce B, Wanda K, Susan V, Christine L, and Pat S. Just think of *all* the people that are wrapped up in love in one of their blankets or quilts!

*Our recent Food Pantry donations were: October – 40 rolls of paper towels and November – 23 boxes of Kleenex. Thank you!

*Our faithful recyclers for staffing the Recycling Center on Nov. 25.

*We appreciated all the people who helped with the "Hanging of the Greens," plus all the pre-work done by Jeanette and Denise. Before we started, Pastor Rob invited us into the sanctuary to have a brief "Hanging of the Greens" service and a blessing of the various items used to decorate the church – the candles, the

wreaths, the nativity scene, & the Christmas tree. We also sang "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Thanks to Sheila and Jeanette for reading. The church looks beautiful for the Advent and Christmas seasons!



Sharing God's Bounty

December

In God's Plan, Nothing Is Insignificant

Lots of jokes have been made about the “begats” in the first chapter of Matthew. We have updated that word now and use the more understandable “*was the father of.*” Still, we tend to skip over those seventeen verses with their hard-to-pronounce names. Yet we know that we can benefit from reading these verses, for we are told, “***ALL Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness***” (2 Timothy 3:16). Insignificant as those names may at first seem to us, each represents a person from whom Jesus was directly descended.



Bethlehem was considered an insignificant little town. Nothing much was going on there. When the Wise Men went looking for Jesus, Bethlehem was not their first stop. No, they stopped in Jerusalem. They inquired of a king in a king's palace for “. . . *the one who [had] been born king of the Jews*” (Matthew 2:2). Yes, the prevailing view of Bethlehem was that it was a pretty insignificant place. However, God chose Bethlehem to be Jesus' birthplace. “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah . . . out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel . . .*” (Micah 5:2).

Then there's Nazareth. When Nathanael was told about Jesus, he sneered, “*Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?*” (John 1:46) It was just an obscure, insignificant town, but it was the place God chose to be Jesus' hometown.

Looking back, we see God's wonderful plan. We realize that nothing is insignificant to him. “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts’*” (Isaiah 55:8-9). Just as, in the past, God used seemingly insignificant people, places, and events to carry out his plan, he is today using us where we live and where we work, throughout our daily lives, to be stewards of his message, stewards of his gifts, stewards of the lives he has given us.

As we worship the Christ Child this Christmas season and hear again the wonderful chain of events God put in motion to fulfill Scripture, let us be prepared to be used by him as his ongoing plan for the salvation of all people unfolds.

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An Opportunity To Serve

A very easy opportunity to serve at Faith is the Altar Guild. The duties are to add oil to candles, change paraments for church year, and ready the altar for special occasions. It can be done anytime during the week. We have 4 teams of two that alternate every 4 months, but we would welcome more teams. If you have questions, contact Altar Guild members, Pam, Pam, Sheila, Sheila and John W, Denise, Rosie, Carol and Cindy.

FOSTER FRIENDS TOY GIVE-A-WAY

Foster Friends is sponsoring a Toy Give-a-Way on December 19th during the WIC Clinic times 9am-4pm. Free to all Families! Here in the FLC Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to donate toys to the Christmas Toy Give-a-Way, please call Foster Friends at 402-646-0542 or talk to Vicki or Anna or Troy.



PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Lois – Ongoing health concerns from lymphoma and pneumonia

Spencer – Chemo resistant brain tumor (husband of April, Dad of Nolan & Drew)

Bonnie & Dan -Bonnie has cancer (brother & sister-in-law of Robin)

Charlie – Cancer (Maralee Meyer's Cousin)

Mary Lou – End stage Cancer (Aunt of Cindy)

Trevor – health concerns (former member)

Ruth – Bone Cancer (Maralee's Cousin-in-law)

Duane – health concerns and in need of a kidney donation

Gary – cancer treatments (in-law of Jeanette & Sheila)

Mindy – Undergoing cancer treatments (Friend of Kathy Miller)

Baby –Multiple Health concerns

Rebecca – In treatments for a concussion (Don's daughter)

Lindsey – diagnosed with breast cancer – (Friend of the Rs)

Barb – Cancer Treatments (Don's sister)

Bob – Cancer Treatments

Juanita- heart attack (Cindy's Step-Mom)

Bo – seizure disorder (toddler son of Beth's friends)

Bonnie – recovering from cancer surgery (Friend of Linda)

Janet – Cancer Treatments (sister-in-law of Jim)

Bob – Triple by-pass surgery (Brother-in-law of Cal & Denise)

Murray – complications after heart surgery (friend of John & Maralee)

Amy – Cancer treatments (April's cousin)

† **Family of James R** – family of Carol †

Family of Violet A – Cal's Mother

† **Family of Jack H** - friend of Pastor Rob & Chris

† **Family & Friends of Suzanne K**

Serving in the Military:

Ryan L – Deployed to Afghanistan

Todd M - Deployed to Afghanistan

Josh A – Deployed (Unknown location)



November at Faith

The family of Violet A would like to thank everyone at Faith for their prayers and kind words during Violet's illness and passing. We would especially like to thank Pastor Rob for taking the time to visit and pray with her while she was in the hospital, and for officiating at her funeral service. Violet thought the world of Pastor Rob and specifically requested that he be the one to do the service. Also, we would like to thank everyone who sent cards, memorial gifts, phone calls and text messages. A special thank you to those who came to Violet's visitation and service. It meant so much to the entire family that you took time out to be with all of us. Thank you!

Cal & Denise A
Casey, Jessie, Jack & Henry
Jared, Sarah & Alivia S
Family of Violet A