

December 2024



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

4009 Irving St. Marinette, WI - Member LCMS
CHURCH : (715) 735-6506 PRESCHOOL : (715) 735-9903

Newsletter

Reflections of Faith

Pastor Jim's Office Hours - Monday thru Thursday 8am-1pm (or by appt.)
Church Office Hours - Monday thru Thursday 7:30am-2:00pm | Friday 7:30am-noon

What's inside our latest issue

“Christmas Decoration Set-up”	pg. 3
“Ministering Though Talking”	pg. 4-5
“Silent Auction”	pg. 5
“Advent & Christmas Worship”	pg. 6
“Grocery Cart”	pg. 7
“The Time of Christmas”	pg. 8-9
“‘Quiet’ Ministries”	pg. 9
“Rev. Samuel Bobby “	pg. 10
“Jail Bibles”	pg. 10
“Financial Summary for October”	pg. 11
“Blood Drive”	pg. 11
“Revitalization Team Update”	pg. 12
“Sunday School Christmas Program”	pg. 13
“Bobble Cross Prayer Square”	pg. 13
“Preschool News”	pg. 14
“December Calendars”	pg. 15-16

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Vice-President

Dan Everson

Financial Secretary

Lori Okrasinski

Treasurer

Roxanne Mueller



CHRISTMAS DECORATION SET-UP

SAT. DEC. 7TH, at 9:00am



Ministering Through Talking with People

Please read these excerpts from

Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary, by Greg Finke

In October we read about the missional practice of “Ministering Through Prayer: Praying with People Out Loud.” Last month we learned about “Ministering Through Doing Good.” This month let’s talk about “Ministering Through Talking with People.”

Jesus can do more with two people who are talking with each other than he can with two people who are successfully ignoring each other. Think about how many people are regularly within our proximity. Same people, same place, same time, week after week. Do we take the opportunity to notice them, or do we look past them? There are neighbors we’ve never met and co-workers we’ve never thought of beyond work logistics. We’ve had the same cashier or wait staff or UPS person serve us time after time but never took time to get their name. How often have we successfully ignored the other parents waiting with us for our children to get out of music lessons or sports practices? We look straight ahead pretending no one is there. And our culture would call that normal. But what if that began to change?

What if you are one of the many people who are uncomfortable talking with people you don’t know? The good news is that talking with people is less about *talking* and more about *listening*. After all, we talk about this missional practice “Talking with people.” That means we talk but mostly we listen. Will Rogers expressed it this way, “I never learned anything while I was talking.”

You will be surprised by how many people, given the chance, will open up and begin sharing their story with you, even though they don’t know you very well. Don’t pry, simply be available, listen and ask the next question. It’s not hard. Just be interested in what they are telling you. It’s almost as if these dear people *need* someone to talk to. And you know what? They do.

First, we need to be intentional and start noticing the people God has regularly placed in proximity to us. Once we start doing this it becomes easier to start a conversation with them. After all, you are regularly showing up in the same place. So, start simply. Ask them their name. In time, as encounter builds upon encounter and conversation builds on conversation, you begin to find out who they are, where they’re from, what their story is and what matters to them. And they will learn these things about you, too. It’s called “friendship.” But remember, since these are people we will see on a fairly regular basis we don’t need to be in a hurry.

THEY TAUGHT,
AND DID MINISTER
ONE TO ANOTHER;



Ministering Through Talking with People

Surveys report that 53% of Americans have no one (outside of their immediate family) with whom they can discuss important matters. In other words, more than half the people we see every day have almost no one who gives a rip about what they are thinking, wondering or wrestling with.

What if we did?

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them..." (Matthew 9:36).

What if we really started "seeing" those in the crowds around us like Jesus did? What if we started seeing these people with compassion? What if we remembered our simple axiom that Jesus can do more with two people who have started talking with each other than he can with two people who are successfully ignoring each other?

Does the missional practice of talking with people guarantee something spiritual will happen? No. But *not* talking with people guarantees that it won't happen.



So, what kinds of conversations are you having with the people around you?

SILENT AUCTION -FAITH LUTHERAN PRE-SCHOOL



The Board of Education would like to thank everyone who contributed by bringing or bidding on the items for the Faith Lutheran Pre-School Silent Auction. The Pre-School Silent Auction started on October 28, 2024, by bringing items, and concluded on November 24, 2024. The support from our Pre-School Parents and our Faith family was overwhelming and we thank GOD for all His Blessings on our Pre-School. The total funds raised for the Pre-School came to \$1,439.00. If you have not paid for or picked up your items, please make out checks to Faith Lutheran Pre-School or pay cash to Lois Zill Board of Education Chairperson.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP DATES AND THEMES

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1 and marks the beginning of a NEW 'season' and the beginning of a NEW 'Church Year.'

The "Season of Advent" focuses on the coming of Jesus as 'judge and deliverer' on the "Last Day," and as a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Who came as the "the Word made flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)

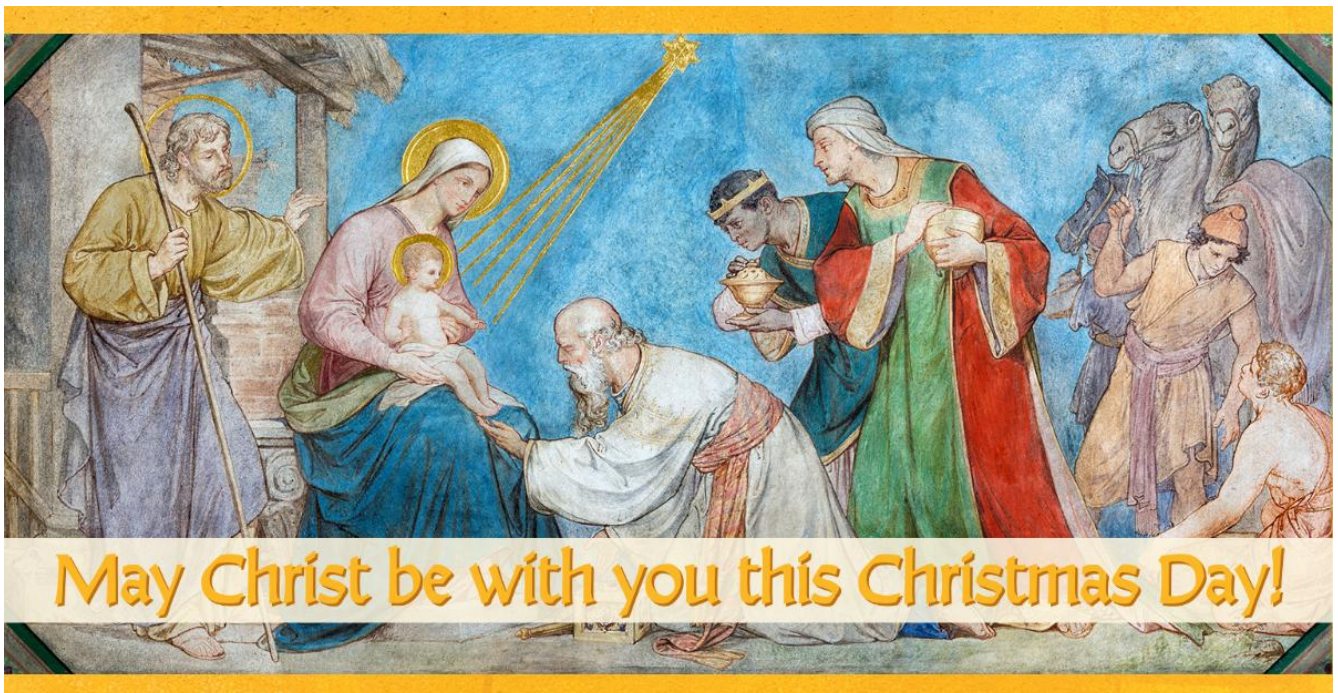
Advent 'midweek' services will be held on the Wednesdays of December 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30pm. The Advent 'midweek' services will begin our focus on the contributions of four individuals under the theme: "The Saints of Advent." Together, we will learn and celebrate the lives of Saint Andrew (12/4), Saint Lucia of Syracuse (12/11), Saint Thomas (12/18), and on Sunday, December 22, the celebration of Saint Nicholas.

**** Advent 'midweek' fellowship meals start at 5:30PM*

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Tuesday, Dec 24	Christmas Eve – 5:30PM Christmas Eve – 9:00PM 'Candlelight'
Wednesday, Dec 25	Christmas Day – 9:00AM
Tuesday, Dec 31	New Years' Eve – 6:30PM

**WHAT A BLESSED AND SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR TO BRING
SOMEONE TO WORSHIP WITH YOU TO MEET JESUS!!**



"Grocery Cart NOVEMBER & DECEMBER"

2024 is quickly winding down and our **Food Pantry Goal for this year is approximately 65 bags short**. So, we rolled the cart out in mid-November and will leave it out until December 31st.

Please help us out, from now until the end of the year, by donating non-perishable food items and cash for the homeless at The Abundant Life Mission & Homeless Shelter and personal hygiene and clothing items for the homeless people served by NEWCAP, Inc.

The Abundant Life Mission & Homeless Shelter (ALM) in Menominee, MI, serves 3 meals a day to 88 men, women and children. We need to collect enough food items & cash donations for the shelter and enough personal hygiene items for the homeless people served by **NEWCAP, Inc.** in Marinette.



ALM HAS THE GREATEST NEED FOR THESE TYPES OF FOOD ITEMS: Soup (cream of mushroom/celery; tomato paste; rice; pasta (elbow macaroni); noodles; breakfast cereals spices (salt/pepper, garlic salt/powder, almost any spice) big cans/containers and bags are preferred. **ALM CASH / CHECK DONATIONS** will be used to buy meat, poultry fruit & vegetables. Checks can be made out to "Faith Lutheran Church." Every \$10 donated counts as 1 bag.

NEWCAP NEEDS THESE ITEMS: Children's hats/gloves (mittens), New children's and men's socks and/or underwear. Personal hygiene items such as soap, body wash, shampoo and laundry soap.

PLEASE DROP OFF FOOD & ITEMS, AT ANY TIME, IN THE GROCERY CART OR THE WOOD "DROP BOX"

PLEASE PLACE CASH DONATIONS IN THE CART (after church on Sundays in December) **OR IN THE CASH BOX ON THE WOOD FOOD PANTY "DROP BOX"** (during the week).

"THANK YOU" - FROM THE BOARD OF MISSIONAL LIFE!



The “Time of Christmas” – The “Seasons of Advent & Christmas”

In October we read about the missional practice of “Ministering Through Prayer: Praying with People Out Loud.” Last month we learned about “Ministering Through Doing Good.” This month let’s talk about “Ministering Through Talking with People.”

Happy New Year!!! Yes, you read it right. Our worship service this past November 24 marked the end of the past year ‘Church Year.’ The worship service on Sunday, December 1 marks the beginning of a new church year, so – Happy New Year!!!

There are three (3) parts or ‘times’ of each Church Year: the Time of Christmas, the Time of Easter, and the Time of the Church. Within these three ‘times’ are six (6) ‘seasons’ – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

The past season of Pentecost ended with Gospel readings that both directed and described for us the ‘second coming’ of Jesus – a day that will come *“like a thief in the night.”* The gospels teach us that Jesus will return as a Judge to separate the ‘righteous’ (uniting them in body and soul and delivering them eternally to the mansions of heaven) from the unrighteous (who will be united in body and soul for eternity with the devil and his angels). The final weeks’ gospel readings from Mark chapters 12 & 13 described in clear words the ‘second coming’ of Jesus through His words and teachings to His disciples.

**LIKE
A THIEF
IN THE
NIGHT...**

Now, on to the NEW ‘Church Year’ ...

“The Time of Christmas” begins with the “The Season of Advent” – from the Latin *adventus* which means ‘coming into’ as its emphasis is on preparing us for the ‘coming’ of Christ Jesus.

The first part of the Advent season continues the last Pentecost Sundays and their focus on the coming of Christ Jesus as King and Judge, while the latter part of Advent focuses on the ‘incarnation’ of Jesus – the power and presence of Almighty God Who came into the world in flesh and blood – fully God and fully man.

The ‘mood’ of Advent is one of hope, anticipation, and preparedness. The “Third Sunday in Advent” is called *Gaudete* which means “rejoice” – highlighting the theme of anticipation and the JOY of Jesus whose ‘coming into’ the world we celebrate on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and the Sundays in the season of Christmas.

One of the ‘challenges’ that Christians often face this time of year is preserving the meaning and message of Advent while being influenced by the rush of the world to Christmas which is less and less about Jesus and more about decorations, vacations, school breaks, and presents.

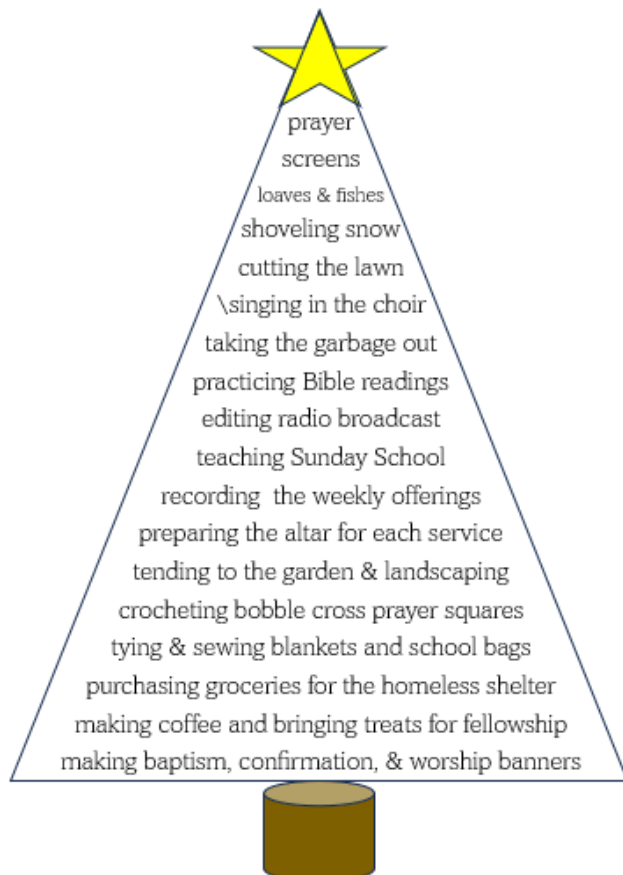
The "Time of Christmas" –
The "Seasons of Advent & Christmas"

Christmas Time

This is why Christians 'slow down' to make time and respect the 'Season of Advent' which prepares us for Jesus' future return and for the JOY of His first 'coming into' the world as the promised Son of God who Delivers us from condemnation to sin through the FORGIVENESS which He earned for all sinners on the cross.

As Christians, let's take time to REJOICE in the meaning of the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas and walk together in the JOY that is ours because Jesus has come and has a home in our hearts and minds and lives and is coming again to take all believers body and soul to the mansions of heaven forever.

We are ALL Blessed to BE a Blessing
Because of Jesus –
Pastor Jim



'Quiet' Ministries

'Quiet' Ministries happened at Faith Lutheran Church day in and day out throughout the year. Those involved in the quiet ministries put their love in action for the glory of God and do not desire recognition. Here are a few volunteer ministries performed quietly...I am sure there are many more that bring beauty to our church and enhance our worship experience, all done to God's glory!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your continued support of the church's work in Latvia through Luther Academy and of our family. This month I traveled to Wittenberg, Germany for intensive classes with students from Luther Academy. It was a rich time of pastoral formation.

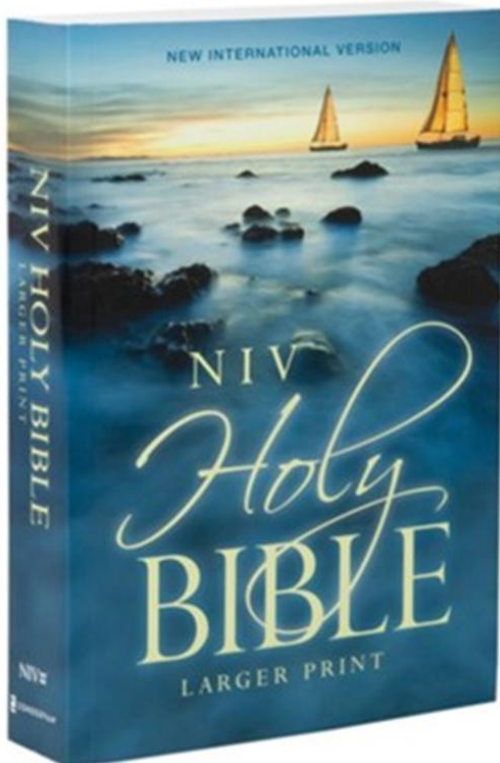
The boys finished school mid-June and are enjoying the mild summer weather with many walks and trips to the seaside.

We were thankful to have Judah over for a quick trip at the beginning of June. He has been dearly missed this past year, and it was a blessing to have all five boys under one roof for a few days.

Thank you, again, for your generous giving to the mission in Latvia. May the Lord bless you and keep you.



2024 - JAIL BIBLE DONATIONS



In November, the Board of Missional Life purchased a case of 24 NIV Bibles which will be donated to the Marinette County Jail.

Karren Everson and her sister Ellen make this outreach ministry possible. Karen arranges to get the bibles to the jail and Ellen has the contacts which make the delivery possible.

The jail keeps the Bibles in its library where the inmates can check them out. They may also take a Bible homes with them after serving their sentence or take one to prison with them if their sentence is longer than a year.

Thank you Karen and Ellen for giving us this gift of your service. May the Lord bless you richly.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Financial Summary

Financial Summary

October 2024 Year-to-Date Numbers:

Offerings for Operations	\$174,119
Operating Expenses	\$179,802
Interest Income	\$ 378
Loss from Operations	\$ (5,305)

Offerings for missions and community outreach projects thru 10-31-24 totaled \$38,496 (over and above the offerings for operations)

I pray that we will each prayerfully consider an over-and-above sacrificial offering that will help our church cover our expenses for the year. May God continue to bless our service to Him, our church, our members, and our community outreach ministries throughout 2024.

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Mueller
Treasurer

DONATE **BLOOD**

AND SAVE A LIFE



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 | 11 A.M – 5P.M

Register @ RedCrossBlood.org

2024 FLC REVITALIZATION TEAM: DECEMBER UPDATE

REVITALIZATION TEAM MEMBERS: Karl Baumann Jr., Bill Ritson, Bryanne Fountain, Rosie Wolbrink, Lois Zill, Jim Zill, Rev. Jim Krueger. **TEAM LIAISON VOLUNTEERS:** Dan Everson, Dennis Froehlich, Christopher Moon, Cheryl & Paul Lubahn, Jim & Lois Zill
PROGRESS MADE ON OUR LAST 2 REVITALIZATION TEAM GOALS: Goals 1 & 2 are completed.

- **GOAL 1** – FLC will raise \$5,030 for the MARINETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT to purchase a replacement Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC) used for water rescues - TEAM LIAISONS: Jim & Lois Zill. Following the bake sale at church we still had a balance of \$781.30 outstanding. *However, an anonymous couple in the congregation has donated this amount to complete the goal.*
- **GOAL 2** – FLC will raise \$ 3,763 for the MENOMINEE POLICE DEPARTMENT to purchase trauma medical kits for police officers – TEAM LIAISON: Christopher Moon. *Following the bake sale, this goal is completed.*

We will set up check presentations in December.

Thank you, Congregation, Team Liaisons and Members of the Marinette Fire Department and the Menominee Police Department, for the help given to make these last two Faith Lutheran Church 2024 Revitalization Team goals a success.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW! – Psalm 147



HE HEALS
THE BROKENHEARTED

and binds up their wounds

— PSALM 147:3 —

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCUBA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 15, 2024



The Faith Lutheran Sunday School and Pre-School will present SCUBA CHRISTMAS on December 15, 2024, at the 9 am Sunday Service. At Scuba Christmas, kids are the stars! The congregation will be playing a part too! It's the most unusual Christmas pageant ever because we're celebrating the unusual way God came to the world—as a baby. The congregation will hear from our VBS buddies from the sea and will participate in helping sing songs from VBS/Christmas, find our buddies, and meet our Jeremiah the Prophet, Angels, Shepards, Mary, Joseph, and baby JESUS throughout the service. We encourage all to come and be blessed by this unique presentation. There will also be a special gift to take home for your tree! Below is a hint to know what to say when we clasp our hands together throughout the presentation.

Bobble Cross Prayer Square

Our sister in Christ, Vicky Chaltry, had been making bobble cross prayer squares for the past two years until God called her home. If you would like to help with this quiet ministry that brings God's love and peace to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and if you like to crochet, consider making these Bobble cross prayer squares, intertwining yarn, prayers, and blessings by the Holy Spirit.

The cross prayer squares are placed in a basket in the back of church and made available to members and visitors.

The pattern is in mail box #190 or talk to Roxanne Mueller if you have questions.



*Lay this softly on your palm,
Feel God's grace, His love, His calm.*

*Lift your cares and joys in prayer;
Drawing His peace from this little square,
May the Lord bless you and give you strength.*

Preschool News

Hi, from the preschool room!

I pray everyone had an amazing Thanksgiving! I know the preschoolers and I had a blast getting ready for Thanksgiving. We shared many things we are thankful for. When asked, the preschoolers mostly said they were thankful for their mom and dad, dogs, brothers and sisters, and their house. I told them I was thankful for all those important things too but also thankful for the little things God has given us. I said I was thankful that I had hair, thankful for my eyes, thankful for chairs, and many more things we may not think of being thankful for. The preschoolers said "Oh yeah" with joy at each thing I said I was thankful for. They showed me big smiles and laughter when I told each one of them I was thankful for them personally.

I wanted to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Silent Auction. It is a true blessing to be so supported by the members of Faith Lutheran.



Starting December 2nd Sarah Nielsen will be starting as the Assistant Teacher in the preschool classroom. She is excited to meet the children and join in the fun of teaching! She will join us as we continue to learn the songs we will do for the December 15th church Christmas program and the December 17th preschool

Christmas program. Please join us on December 15th, regular church service time, and December 17th at 6 pm for the joy of children sharing the true joy of Christmas. Now although we have been practicing so much, we will probably have some mixups, confusion, and mistakes during the programs. But know that we are doing our very best because we love God and are so happy the promise of Jesus was made and came true for us all.

So, I will end with a very big thank you to the Lord who loves us and guides us through the days of our lives.

💖 Ms. Kat Ehlers

