

December 2018
Volume 68 Number 12

Faith Lutheran Church

Banner of Faith

Upcoming Events

- 12/1—Advent Decorating (10am)
- 12/8—Youth Christmas Party (5pm)
- 12/9—Pageant Rehearsal (12:15pm)
- 12/9—Council Meeting (3:30pm)
- 12/16—Christmas Pageant (11:00am)
- 12/20—Samaritas Fellowship (3:30pm)
- 12/22—Breakfast with St. Nick (9:00am)
- 12/24—Christmas Eve Service (7:00pm)

Worship Schedule

8:30am: Classic
Worship with Organ

11:00am—Casual
Worship with Praise Band

December 30 — One Service Only at
10:00am



copyright blue chair blessing

May All Find Acceptance In This House

Faith Lutheran Church

2740 Fuller Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505-2679

Phone: 616.361.2679

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:00am – 3:00 pm

www.faithlutheranchurchgr.org



@ faithlutheranchurchgr

Church Staff

Pastor,

Kevin Sullivan

pastorflcgr@att.net

Administrative Assistant & Youth Worker,

Nikki Phillips

flcgr@att.net

Custodian,

Gene Gibson

Director of Music,

Sharon TerBeek

Organist,

Ann Marie Kaufman

Librarian,

Kevin Lyons

2018 Congregational Council

**Meetings are usually held the
second Sunday of each month following the
11:00am service**

President, **Dorothy Stoken**

Vice President, **Open**

Secretary, **Claudia Zimmerman**

Treasurer, **Mary Appelt**

Resource Mgmt, **Dan Carter**

Facilities Mgmt, **Co-Chairs, Jack**

Nienhuis, Rick Lewis

Communications, **Jane Waite**

Personnel, **Beth Martin**

Stewardship, **Kevin Lyons**

Discipleship, **Stacey Schepers**

Worship, **Steve Zimmerman**

Missions, **Christine Mwanyika**

Congregational Life, **Nancy Morrison**

Congregational Care, **Wendy Domagalski**

Youth Representatives, **Open**



Kevin Sullivan

“Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” - Luke 21:28

So, as we pass through Christ the King Sunday we say goodbye to our last liturgical year and enter into a brand new year with the season of Advent.

This Advent I am hoping to focus on the future rather than the past. Oh, I know that Advent is typically the time we spend preparing our hearts for Christmas and the remembering of the babe in the manger... But it's also the time we look to the skies with hope for the coming of our Lord in glory.

In this sense Advent is about much more than just getting in tune with the Christmas spirit and setting out the decorations and baking the Christmas cookies and all that stuff. In this sense Advent is about getting in touch with our own needs and fears... it's about looking around and recognizing the dark wilderness we're in and reminding ourselves that there's a path through that wilderness, a light ready to break through the night, a glorious new day about to dawn. It's about remembering that the child who was born in that manger so long ago is more than just an historical image to cherish, he's also a real person who lived and died and rose again... and promised to **come again** to bind up all wounds, wipe every tear from every eye, heal every sickness, and bring peace and joy to all the earth.

So, this Advent I hope we will be brave enough to name the wilderness we live in to our God; that we will share our fears and sorrows with God; that we will admit our confusion and frustration and “lostness” and lift all these things to God crying out,

Continued on page 3

“I’m here God, in this wilderness, and I need you, I need your salvation today... I need hope.”

And I think that is what God offers us: hope. In the Gospel of Luke Jesus tells us that—in the days to come—people will see confusing things—even terrifying things happening all around them. And he notes that most people will react to this with fear (which only seems natural), but he tells those who follow him that when **we** see these things take place we should “stand up and raise our heads” because for us these are just signs that our redemption is that much closer.

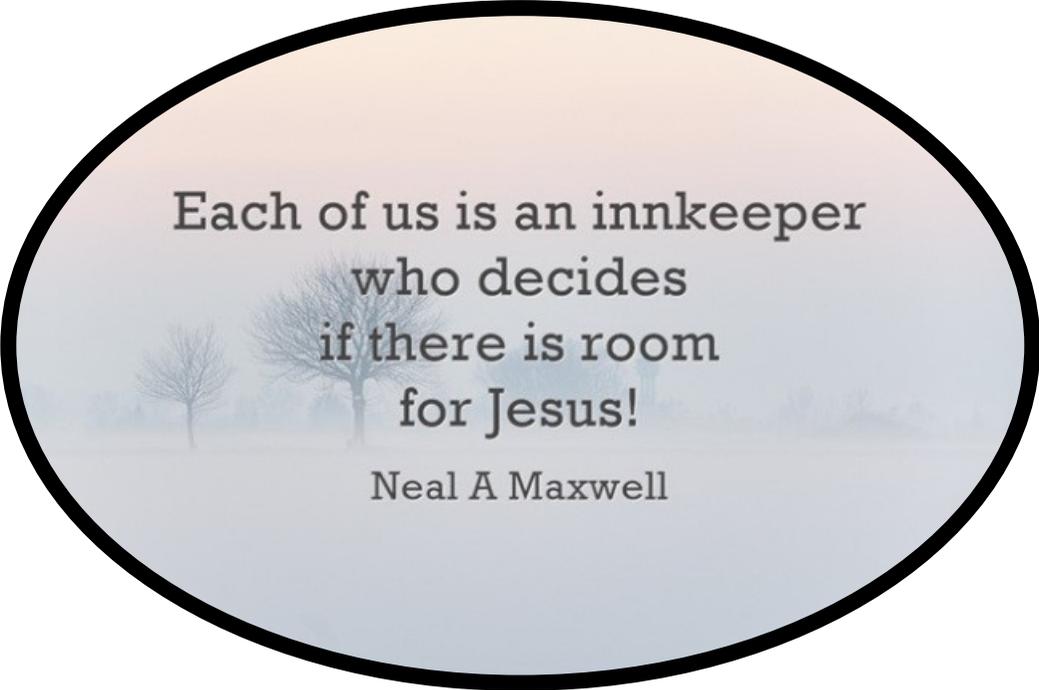
It’s an odd way to see things, it’s a paradoxical way to see things, yet that’s a characteristic of God’s kingdom. We’re a people called to see and expect God’s mercy and glory even when our times seem the darkest. In fact, in Luke Jesus calls us to let the signs that so many fear (wars and rumors of wars and earthquakes and famines and floods and signs in the stars) become to us the very signs that will give us hope... he transforms the signs of terror into signs of hope for us.

It’s like Jesus is saying “Your God once turned chaos into a beautiful creation and darkness into light. God has set slaves free, raised kings from shepherds, and come to you in person as a poor weak child in a manger. And God has died before you—died **for** you—only to rise to live again and proclaim that death will not reign and rule over you. And now God has taken even the signs that once caused all people to quake with fear and changed them into signs to raise hopeful thoughts within you... thoughts that remind you that the one who has done all this once in history has promised to do even greater things in the future.”

It’s oddly out of fashion to look to the clouds these days with anything like a hope to

see the Lord returning in glory... but Advent is just as much about that as it is about looking over our shoulders at that star that once burned in the skies above Bethlehem.

I pray that you will find the hope of God meeting you today in whatever your wilderness might be, and that this Advent you will find yourself grasped by God's strong arms, and filled with love, light, peace and joy for the year to come. Amen



Each of us is an innkeeper
who decides
if there is room
for Jesus!

Neal A Maxwell

Musical Notes

Sharon TerBeek



Altar Guild Invitation

The Altar Guild would like to invite anyone interested to join us in decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex for the Advent/Christmas season on Saturday December 1 at 10 AM. Many hands make the job lighter! Thank you.

Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve worship service will be at 7 PM on December 24th. Special music will be provided by the Bell Choir, Praise Band, instrumentalists, and vocalists. We welcome back Joe Cisler as vocalist for the service (Jess will be out of town with her family for the holiday). There will be the traditional candlelight singing of “Silent Night.” Communion will be served.

Sunday December 30th

Our celebration of the Christmas season will continue on Sunday December 30th. There will be one service at 10 AM with a service of Lessons and Carols.

Praise Band Change

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Emmett TerBeek will be leaving the Praise Band after the Christmas Eve service. Emmett has played with the Praise Band for the past fifteen years. We wish Emmett the best – we will miss you!

**Just for Fun Women's Breakfast
Paula Nienhuis & Sheila Joshua**

Just for Fun Women's Breakfast will resume meetings in February 2019.

Pizza & Movie Nights

Pizza & Movie Night at Faith starts at 6:00pm with pizza and the movie "rolls" around 6:30. We provide: pizza, pop, popcorn and chips. Stay tuned for more details!

Friday, January 11

Friday, February 8

Friday, March 8—Final One



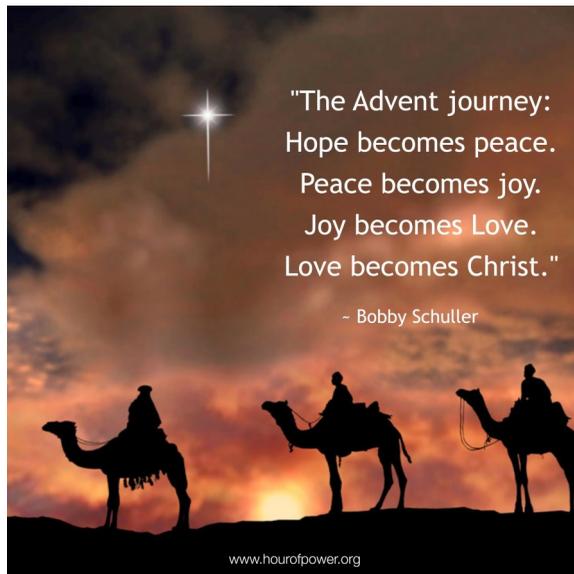
Facilities Notes Jack Nienhuis



After another deadly shooting at a house of worship, the Council voted to have all access doors to the church locked 10 to 15 minutes after the start of the casual service. This will begin in December and will include the Christmas Eve service. Church attendees are encouraged to use the south door to the narthex if arriving late for service. An usher will let you in. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mary Brush was inadvertently omitted from the directory. Please update your directories accordingly to reflect her address:

2772 Pfeiffer Woods De SE
Apt 1311
Grand Rapids, MI 49506



Angel Tree

This year Faith Lutheran Church is partnering with Salvation Army to provide an Angel Tree. You can help some discover the true meaning of Christmas by helping children in need throughout West Michigan. The goal of the Angel Tree toy drive is to reach 25,000 children. Please help support this ministry by grabbing a tag from the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. Please return the gift unwrapped to the tree. **We will begin collecting November 11 - December 9.** If you wish to donate monetary donations to this ministry, please indicate on your check or offering envelope “Angel Tree”. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Morrison at 616.361.7641.

Mitten Tree

This year Faith Lutheran Church will have a mitten tree in the Narthex. Please help us fill this tree with mittens, caps and scarves—new items, please. We will begin collecting **November 11—December 9** If you wish to donate monetary donations to this ministry, please indicate on your check or offering envelope “Mitten Tree”. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Morrison at 616.361.7641.



Cupboard of Faith Brenda Dubay & Joan Mull

Thank you **ALL** who have donated so generously throughout the year to the Cupboard of Faith.

We are now in the process of doing a weekly inventory to determine the needs to have the makings for a complete holiday meal, plus some extras. We have committed to do **65 baskets!**

Yes, **65!** Due to your generosity and an appreciated gift card from Meijer, we are able to increase the number from previous years. Meijer also will have 2-3 store managers on hand to help clients take their boxes to their cars. Meijer is also supplying boxes for packing!

Our needs now are boxed potatoes, gravy, canned fruits, boxed dinners, pasta sauces. Your help also is needed in packing and/or delivery. We will be packing Wednesday, December 19 beginning at 9:00 a.m., delivery will begin around 10:00. Clients with transportation will begin arriving at 10:00 to pick up their box. If you are available to help, please contact Steve & Brenda Dubay (540.2144) or Jim & Joan Mull (866.2544)



Samaritas December 2018 Update

Samaritas continues to be one of a small number of organizations in the entire country that provides specialized services to refugee and immigrant children who have no family to look after them. Many of these kids have traveled alone, lived in refugee camps, or survived for years as victims of modern-day slavery. They come from many backgrounds, but have all experienced terrible trauma. Our refugee foster care programs serve these youth by placing them in loving foster homes and then supporting them with services to help them adjust to a new country so that they can begin healing from their losses and pursue a better life. During this holiday season, when we also remember that Jesus Christ was a refugee as a child, one can learn more about how to help these children by contacting Michelle Haskell, who helps lead this effort, at mhask@samaritas.org or (517) 827-5170. You can also learn more about all the services we offer at www.samaritas.org.

Christmas Bonuses for Staff

Once again it is that time of year where we recognize the hard work and dedication of our loyal Church staff by providing them with a year end Christmas bonus. This is your opportunity to say thanks. No gift is too small. Please designate or mark your contribution for the "Employee Christmas Fund." You can place your gift in the collection plate on any Sunday in November and December or drop it off at the Church office any time. Last year, all of the staff were very thankful and told us how much it means to them to be appreciated. Merry Christmas and Thank You.

The Church Council

Poinsettias Order Form

Order NOW!

6" potted Poinsettias with 5-7 blooms per plant in assorted blooms with decorative silver foil pot covers. Proceeds go to the Youth to benefit the Gathering.

Money with orders can be left at the church or placed in the offering (designate for "flowers"). **Deadline to order is Sunday, December 9**

Thank you for supporting the YOUTH!

Cost: \$7.50 each

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettias at \$7.50 each for a total of
\$_____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ Paying by ___ cash or ___ check

Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service.

Color choice is "first come first served" when picking up.

Questions? Call Dawn Carter, 676.2572



Church Closures

In case of church closures due to snow or other potential closings , please check the website (faithlutheranchurchgr.org) or the local TV stations WoodTV8 & WZZM 13, under Faith Lutheran Church. Any questions, please contact the church office. If Northview and/or GRPS is closed, the church office will automatically be closed as well.

HYMN FESTIVAL

WE ARE CALLED

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TO *act*
justly
AND TO *love*
mercy
AND TO *walk*
humbly
WITH YOUR GOD.

GREENVILLE, MI JANUARY 13, 3:30 PM

Stewardship & Missions

By Gene Lyons

This month I've been thinking: Why do we have stewardship emphasis? Why do we tie stewardship and missions together? Why have we tried to broaden our concept of stewardship in our Banner's articles each month?

With these questions in mind, I would like to comment on what I think are some of the important issues of stewardship and why we talk about it.

We quite often think of our stewardship emphasis just as a time when we try to get our members to give enough money for us to run this church. It may feel like we're pressing people with the question: "How much can you give to help us pay the bills?"

Well, it doesn't take an expert to realize that we do indeed need money to pay the bills, but the deeper question is "Why is it important for us to keep this church on the corner of Fuller and 3 Mile going?"

This is where I think the emphasis should be, and this leads to the other questions we should be asking. Why do we spend our time and resources in maintaining the facilities and programs of this church? What is the purpose of this congregation's ministries and missions? How can we spend our energy and resources for better—and increasingly more important—results? Are we thinking about **needs** first and then what we can do to help fill those needs?

As we think of stewardship we should be constantly asking ourselves: "What is our mission? Why are we doing this? What is our goal?"

Other questions that come to mind are:

Is what we're doing helping to make this a better world?

Are we making a person's life a little better?
Are we concerned about justice, peace, fairness, etc?
Do we care about community (both small and large)?
What can I do?

I want us to think about stewardship and mission every day not just one month a year. I want us to think about our time, talents, and the little things, not only money. In my mind, the closing hymn we sing at the 11:00 worship service most Sunday mornings sums up the idea of stewardship and gives us a model of what I think stewardship is all about.

**“The lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth a better place to live.
The angels are not sent into our world of pain,
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus name;
That falls to you and me and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.”**

FYI—As of 11/1/2018 we had 30 estimate-of-giving cards submitted for
\$82100.00

A letter is being sent out to make sure everyone has been given an opportunity
to fill those in and I'll give you an update next time.

**Do what you can
With what you have
Where you are**

Income October 2018 Counters Report

	Sub Totals	Total 2018	Oct.	Total YTD Jan-Oct.
Offering	\$11,627.00			
Electronic	\$1,285.00			
Total Offering		\$12,912.00		\$147,615.08
Building Use	\$920.00			
Other—Misc.	\$100.00			
Total General Operating Income		\$13,932.00		\$157,566.10
Memorials	\$0			
Cupboard of Faith	\$1,100.00			
Youth	\$128.65			
Misc./Special	\$395.00			
Total Designated Income		\$1,623.65		\$13,141.78
Total Income October 2018		\$15,555.65		
BAIRD Fund Transfer	\$0			

Finances at a Glance Dan Carter

	Oct 2018 Current Month	Jan — Oct 2018 Year to Date	Jan — Oct 2018 Budget	Prior Year Oct 2017	Prior Year Jan - Oct 2017
Receipts	\$16,073	\$174,436	\$228,610	\$22,536	\$199,245
Expenses	(\$22,070)	(\$232,636)	(\$248,365)	(\$21,177)	(\$216,442)
Income (Loss)	(\$5,997)	(\$58,200)	(\$9,755)	(\$1,359)	(\$17,197)



Council Capsule

Claudia Zimmerman – Secretary

Notes from the Congregational Council meeting of Nov. 4, 2018, (Note- the Capsule is a condensed summary of Council business, and the minutes have not yet been approved)

Constitution and Bylaw Revision – Council members reviewed changes and deletions needed to bring all sections into agreement. Chapters 1-9 and 14-20 would be presented to the congregation for approval at the Pre-Annual Congregational Meeting on November 11th. There would also be action on section C5.05 concerning operation of Endowment Funds, and on a Resolution from the 2003 version of the Bylaws.

Worship – Supervision of the Nursery was again discussed. It had been agreed that two attendants would be hired to oversee the Nursery for two hours each Sunday. The positions were posted at colleges but no applications were received. Council agreed to post the positions on the Indeed.com web site. The Shammah Church had previously agreed to cover the cost of one of the attendants.

Facilities– A recent incident of unlawful entry brought the issue of security forward again. Council members discussed safety issues for all attending services and it was agreed that all outside entry doors would be locked beginning 10 to 15 minutes after services begin. Ushers and designated members would be alert to anyone wishing to enter after doors are locked.

Personnel – The Council acted to formally accept the hire of Nikki Phillips as our Office Assistant/Youth Worker, and welcome her to the new position.

Stewardship – 41 people were served at the Stewardship dinner on October 21st. Kevin Lyons expressed thanks to all who contributed to the dinner. The next NECM

meeting would be on November 20th.

Congregational Life – The Second Best Sale made a profit of \$1,628 this year. There would be an Angel Tree and a Mitten Tree in the Narthex for the Christmas season again.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Kevin expressed his thanks for those that participated in the process of hiring our Office Assistant/Youth Worker, Nikki Phillips, and felt that her gifts would be a blessing to our families. He was thankful to those that helped make a success of the Stewardship Focus Month, the dinner at the end of the month, and the Trunk-or-Treat event. Pastor Kevin has been invited to participate in a round table discussion at Mary Free Bed regarding spiritual care for hospitalized persons, joined by a diverse group of other religious leaders. The event will be filmed for potential use with other audiences.

Next Council Meetings: December 9, 2018 at 3:30 P.M.at the Carter home.

Always Faithful for Faith,
Members of Congregational Council

Children & Youth

December 2: If your youth is attending Gathering, please plan to attend the Gathering Meeting on Sunday, December 2 in the library at 12:15pm. We will cover logistics of the trip & other necessities.

December 8: Youth Christmas Party: Children & Youth will be having a Christmas Party on Saturday, December 8 from 5:00pm-8:00pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be having a white elephant exchange (please keep the gift between \$5-7). We will have be having a potluck, please sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4CA8AB2FA4FD0-youth> or sign up in the Narthex.

December 9 at 12:15pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

December 15 at 10:00am: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

December 16: Christmas Pageant & Bazaar

December 16—No Sunday School

Saturday, December 22 at 9:00am – Breakfast with St. Nick During this very busy season St. Nick always makes time to swing by Faith Lutheran for breakfast with the kids. We'll be sharing pancakes and hot chocolate, chatting with St, Nick and his lovely wife, and singing carols from 9:00am until about 10:00 on Saturday, December This year St. Nick will be bringing goodies for children up through 5th grade, but all ages are invited to join us for the breakfast and songs.

Please sign up on the list in the narthex (or call the office at 616.361.2679) with the names and ages of the children who are participating. Also, please let us know if you

older “children” will be staying for breakfast with us so we can make sure to make enough pancakes and coffee for one and all.

December 23—No Sunday School

December 24—Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ! Services begin at 7:00pm

December 27-30—The High School Gathering in Lansing, MI

December 30—No Sunday School

Fabric Fairy Strikes Again!

Wow!! What a bonanza! “Found” yards & yards of beautiful fabrics in the yarn cubby hole! Whoever you are, the quilters cannot thank you enough. You will be seeing piece of these fabrics soon on your favorite pew! Our hearts are so full with thankfulness! Thank you for blessing the quilting ministry!



Happy Birthday!

12/1	Carson Moore	12/3	Teresa VanderBerg
12/3	Savannah Woodworth	12/4	Genny Sypien
12/5	Nancy Richard	12/5	Joanne Robertson
12/6	Daryl Lucas	12/8	Morgan Marczewski
12/9	Dennis Knaak	12/15	Shelby Amaya
12/16	Noah Joshua	12/16	Tyler Larson
12/16	Kevin Lyons	12/16	Julie Sullivan
12/17	Michael VanderBerg	12/18	Barbara Dunn
12/18	John Schmoldt	12/19	Christina Newman
12/19	John Richard	12/21	Hayden DeVault
12/24	Myrtle McLain	12/24	Rachelle Scholten
12/27	Roger Boorsma	12/27	Ruth Cady
12/27	Christine Mwanyika	12/28	Quinn Amaya
12/30	Addison Amaya	12/30	Patricia Rose

Happy Anniversary!

Bill & Jane Waite

12/31/1959

Irene Smestad	Myrtle McLain	Cecilia
Stan Robertson	Loren & Betty Wolters	Boyd Slater
Ernesto Rodriguez	Steve Hall Son of Jo Hall	Vince & Bob Vanderveen Sons of Dee Scales
Meredith Keasey Friend of Schepers	Rahiana Ehtisham Friend of Sheila Joshua	Denise Daughter in Law of Waites
Kathleen Powers Friend of Wendy Domagalski	Judy Grifhorst Friend of Wendy Domagalski	Family of Trish Phillips Family of Dawn & Cody Bennett
Pam Hansen Daughter in Law of Janis & Bob Hansen		

Our condolences to the family of:

Prayer Chain Contact: Mary Lou Hicks at 616.957.0563 or flcgr@att.net

Bulletin & Banner Prayer List

Names submitted for the Prayer List will be printed for four weeks. If you wish to resubmit your name, call the church office at 616.361.2679 or flcgr@att.net

Faith Lutheran Church

**2740 Fuller Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505-2679**

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MICHIGAN**

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