



“A LETTER FROM FAITH” FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

“SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST”



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 2011

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TIME FOR ADVENT! AGAIN? By Pastor Mark Carnahan

December is the month of Christmas. People are not aware that Christmas is coming. Soon there will be reminders everywhere: carols and lights and manger scenes and Christmas trees and parties.

Just as the Festival of Halloween has now eclipsed the Festival of the Reformation, so the church season of Advent has become only shadow of what it once was as the Shopping Season that erupts into full glory on the Friday after Thanksgiving. If sales are better than last year it is the new “Good” Friday. If not, it is Black Friday. The world is upside down, inside out and backwards.

In the midst of all the world’s celebrating, much, not all, but much of what the world celebrates is darkness. In the winter darkness of the Season of Advent (a metaphor for sin), God calls His creatures to mourn their sin and celebrate the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners! He came to bring light and life to the world.

Now that’s a discordant note in the turn the world plays during Advent and Christmas. Sin! Sin? Yes, sin! The Advent cry of John the Baptist is “Repent! For the kingdom of God is at hand.” And, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” The cry of the “Holiday Season” is “Buy, buy, buy!” The cry of the Church in Advent is “Repent! Repent! Repent!” and “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” Don’t get me wrong, I do not dislike Christmas dinners and parties, cards and gifts, and lights and carols. All are great fun. I just need to make sure that I hear John the Baptist’s call to repentance, faith in Christ, and the fruit of faith (good works). I dare not miss the angel’s song of “Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth” through Jesus Christ. The Savior has come! He’s here! He’s come to suffer and die and rise again to give real meaning to life here in this world and life –everlasting in the world to come. He continues to come through the preaching of His Word and in Holy Baptism and in the Lord’s Supper. And, He’s coming again on the Last Day!

There are so many things, not necessarily bad or evil things, but so many things that can take my eyes off Jesus at this time of year. If I don't watch it, pretty soon I will find myself upside down and dizzy with all the activities; I will begin to feel like I have been turned inside out and like I am running backwards instead of forward in faith.

The Season of Advent presents us with a vision of the world as God sees it – a beautiful yet fallen world into which He sent His Son, born of Mary, as the Savior of sinners.

That's what I need – a vision of the world as God sees it – a world reconciled to God, at peace with Him through the blood of Jesus Christ. It's a world God loves for the sake of His Son and for the sake of His children, the Church.

Let God in His Word give you that vision during this Advent Season. Please come and join in Wednesday Evening Advent Worship Services at 5:00 PM. For those who cannot attend at 5:00 PM, we will also have a Devotional Service at 7:00 PM. The theme for the Advent and Christmas services is

“VOICES FROM THE EDGE: ADVENT ENCOUNTERS PREPARING THE WAY.”

Date	Sermon Title & Text
Wed. Nov. 30 Midweek 1 5:00 & 7:00 PM	Rev 21:1-7 The Apostle John and a Vision of the Bride of Christ
Wed. Dec. 7 Midweek 2 5:00 & 7:00 PM	Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptist and a Terrible Wonder
Wed. Dec. 14 Midweek 3 5:00 & 7:00 PM	I Peter 1:4-11 The Apostle Peter and a Vision of the End
Wed. Dec. 21	NO MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE
Sat. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve (5:00 PM only)	Luke 2:1-20 The Voice of an Angel and a Sign of Great Joy (Candlelight and Holy Communion)
Sun. Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM	Luke 2:1-20 The Voice of an Angel and Great Joy for All People (Christmas Matins with Holy Communion)
Sat. Dec. 31	NO NEW YEAR'S SERVICE

PROVIDING THEIR TIME AND TALENTS IN DECEMBER ELDERS

**Sunday Services Andy Anderson – Dennis Stephany
Special Services Keith Keck - Carl Burns**

COUNTERS

DATE

GREETERS

**Charles and Shirley Smestad
Heidi Reed**

4 December

Tom and Carol Schreck

**Wayne and Joan Beach
Gail Burrignt**

**7 December
Wednesday**

Frank and Beverly Ames

**Howard and Pat Graff
Frank Rysan**

**11 December
Sunday**

Al and Bette Miller

**Wendell and Sally Bark
Donna Fick**

**14 December
Wednesday**

Rudy and Beverly Schaumburg

**Bob and Judi Prestridge
Joanie Wolf**

**18 December
Sunday**

John and Pat Muzika

**Ron and Doris Stipp
Dick Pratt**

**24 December
Saturday**

Mike and Marge Dean

**Claude and Eleanor Griffin
Mark Klemann**

**25 December
Sunday**

Wendell and Sally Bark

ALTAR GUILD

**Shirley Zoch – Neva Rasmann
Joanne Zirk**

USHERS

TEAM "B"

December 4

Charles Peterson Captains
Al Miller
Frank Rysan
Larry Smith
Bob Hassel

TEAM "C"

December 7, 11

Jim Cunningham Captains
Loyd Klemsz
Dick Pratt
Dick Millius
Dallas Erdman

TEAM "D"

December 14, 18

Jerry Nolte
Carl Burns
Ron Mueller
Wayne Galler
Wendell Bark

TEAM "E"

December 24, 25

Captain Ron Stipp
Frank Ames
Richard Madson
Wayne Stabelfeldt
David Knoernschild



MEXICAN MISSION

A big thank you to all, who helped with the chili luncheon. There were many chili and pie donors and so many that gave generously in the free-will offering. We collected \$2282.00 to help support this great mission project.

There was a 'fiesta' at San Mateo on Reformation Day. The ladies made tamales and other typical food items (no chili) and a dinner was served after the church service. It was a very special day as Pastor Jiménez had communion and baptized four children. Praise the Lord! This is a true mission project as we help to carry out our Lord's Great Commission.

The money collected at the luncheon has put us back in the black once again, but remember that, at \$750 per month, only \$32 will remain after three months. Please give prayerful consideration to assisting this mission on a continuing basis.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER

- 3 – Charles and Tammy Hill 34
- 27 – Loyd and Kay Klemsz 54
- 29 – Richard and Carol Mawhinney 50
- 31 – Melvin and Wendy Thomas 56

FLOWERS - DECEMBER

- 4 – Loyd and Kay Klemsz
- 11 – Charles and Susan Peterson
- 18 – “Bud” Lampert
- 25 – Carl Nelson

The flower sign-up sheet is located in the Old Fellowship Hall, now Meeting Room across from the office.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER

- 1 – Michael Dean
- 3 – Gail Burrignt
- 4 – Ruth Zimmermann
- 5 – Karen Smith
- 5 – Maria dejesus Jimenez
- 6 - Betsy Warren
- 7 – Frank Ames
- 8 – Margaret Madson
- 9 – Thomas Schreck
- 9 – Wendy Thomas
- 12 – Barbara Poweleit
- 13 – Ashley Muller
- 14 – Jerry Zelinsky
- 15 – Clarita Breech
- 17 – Ron Zirk
- 20 – Filiberto Jimenez
- 21 – Cynthia Beene
- 21 – Frank „Bud“ Lampert
- 22 – Eileen Liesman
- 25 – Joan Beach
- 26 – Keith Ebert
- 27 – Kathryn Pratt
- 28 – Elaine Ames
- 28 – Neva Rasmann
- 29 – Shirley Zoch
- 30 – Barbara Kalsbeek
- 31 – Ken Bishop
- 31 – Fred Ebert

“Friendship blooms in loving hearts”

(E.J. Wesley)

To Our Faith Family,

We moved to Hot Springs Village in October of last year. On December 1st we had to move to our second rental because we decided to build our home and the first rental was short term.

December 15th Frankie had hip surgery. We moved into our home on March 7th and on March 21st Frankie had back surgery. Finally, on June 20th she had total knee replacement.

It seemed like things were calming down and we were settling into our new home when Alex had a routine physical in August and we found out he needed open heart surgery. On September 2nd Alex had his surgery.

As we relate the events of this past year, you might be saying to yourself...“How did these people handle all these challenges? With all the changes of moving to a new state, finding a doctor, having surgery after surgery, building a home, etc., it should have been a terrible year.”

It is obvious to us that God was watching over us and directing every decision. And we know that’s because of all the prayers, support and love we received from all of the wonderful new friends we’ve made at Faith Lutheran Church.

All churches do not reach out so lovingly to new people. The warmth of all of you carried us through some very difficult times and made them seem easy and uneventful.

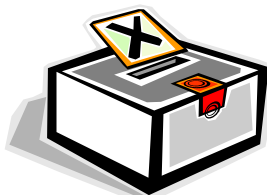
How can we properly thank you for your kindness? At our Thanksgiving table, know that you and your loved ones will be in our prayers. We will praise God and thank Him for guiding us to Faith Lutheran.

“Thank you” again.

May you all be blessed and highly favored by our precious Lord,

Alex and Frankie Berlanga

A simple act of Kindness has a Beauty all its own



ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2012-2014

President	Loyd Klemsz
Treasurer	Jerry Nolte
Stewardship Chairperson (1yr)	Larry Smith
Evangelism	Don Putnam

Board of Elders

Al Beyer
Ken Bishop
David Knoernschild
Dick Pratt
Ed Denman

Board of Trustees

Mike Schall
Scott Price
Hank Jarvis
Gary Peeks
Terry Porter

AL ANON is a support group for families and friends of individuals that are affected by alcohol. This group meets in the Village on Tuesdays at Kirk in the Pines from 10:15 -11:15 a.m. and at Mountainside United Methodist Church on Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. Anyone needing additional information may call: 915-0918.

EVANGELISM

We often hear people say that they are Christians even though they do not attend any church on a regular or irregular basis. The big question is whether one has to attend or belong to a church to be a good Christian. Let's examine that question by observing other activities in our lives.

After having spent a number of years in the university environment, I am convinced that enjoyment is the ultimate stage of knowledge. When we set out to learn the basic truths or premises of a discipline or activity, we are confounded or surprised by all that we don't know.

Little by little, we become more secure in ideas and theories. Then, one day we suddenly realize that we have captured the subject and know how to use the knowledge in our business or personal lives. Knowledge is power.

Enjoyment in faith grows in the same way. In the beginning, God and His Christ seem distant and aloof. Biblical and theological terms are like a foreign language. We are frustrated by trying to interpret the prose and poetry in the Bible. Our prayers are overly simplified and seem to lack a great deal of substance.

However, as we proceed to study the Bible and hear the Word during Bible studies and worship services, we begin to appreciate the touch of the Father's hand and how much He loves us and wants us to know Him personally. Secondary or distant theories about Him are replaced by an intimate relationship with Him. However, as we become more knowledgeable about the Word and the Triune God, we continue to maintain our awe and adoration of Him. We even more enjoy Him as we better understand Him and His ways, especially His gift to us of eternal salvation.

Enjoying God is really a vital expression of glorifying Him. The glory of God is the revelation to all that He is Creator, Comforter, Redeemer, and Lord of all. We glorify Him when we worship Him for his loving kindness, goodness, and mercifulness.

Yes, one can be a Christian while not attending church. However, one can become a more knowledgeable and better Christian by participating in Bible studies and worship services on a regular basis. Ultimately, by studying and hearing the Word, one will come to the realization that he or she is not alone and is better equipped to turn to the Lord for comfort in times of spiritual and physical distress and to express gratitude for His many blessings to us.

"There will always be a bumper crop of food for thought in God's Book. What is needed are people to harvest and eat it."

Note: Lutheran (South) High School, St. Louis, Missouri, concert tickets will be available after worship services on Sunday, January 8, 2012. The free concert is at the Woodlands on Sunday, March 11, 2012, 7:00 PM. Also, in early January 2012, the Evangelism Board will begin to make arrangements for members of the congregation to host members of the band on the evening of Sunday, March 11, 2012.

IT IS CHRISMON TIME!

(CHRISTMAS MONOGRAMS = CHRISMONS)

The two Nativity Scenes were put into place on Friday, November 25, 2011. Our Nativity Scenes are best viewed with the lights after dusk. The lights are scheduled to come on at about 5:30 PM each evening and go off at about 11:00 PM.

The Chrismon display will be in operation for two weekends in 2011. The Chrismons will be displayed on Friday, December 9, to Monday, December 12, and on Friday, December 16, to Monday, December 19, 2011. The times are 5:30 to 8:30 PM (weather permitting). They also will be on display during daylight hours from Friday, December 9, to Wednesday, December 28, 2011. The lights also will be on for an hour or so following Christmas Eve services on Saturday, December 24.

In 2011, we have forty Chrismons and additional lighting features in the trees adjoining the Chrismon path of lights. The additional light features will make for a spectacular display. Each year we try to do something a little different to make the program look new and more interesting.

The 2011 luminary path again will lights” as was done in 2010. The 2010.

As was done in 2010, watch for Village promoting our Christmas

Invite your friends and neighbors Church during the Christmas Scenes and our Chrismon Light

folks make either a nonperishable food or a monetary donation for the local food banks— Mountain Pine (Harvey’s Chapel) Food Bank and Village Food Bank.



be done in “cool white rope rope lights were a major hit in

our road signs throughout the Light Drive-Through Tour.

to come to Faith Lutheran Season to enjoy our Nativity Display. We request that the



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(LCMS)

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1196 DeSoto Blvd, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Divine Service: 10 am Bible Study: 8:45 am

Reverend Mark D. Carnahan, Pastor

Tel: 922-5700 or 209-1500



DECEMBER 2011

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

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(www.faithhsv.org)