

# Faith Family News

## From the Pastor's Pen...

As Christians, we live the cycle of the church year, and that cycle gives me **hope**. As we go through the church year, I find I not only deeply connect with, but also live out, the story of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ – a story which gives me hope even in our darkest hours. Our lives are always filled with endings and beginnings, both happening together, yet peppered and interspersed with waiting, lament, and hope. Life is simply a mix of all these experiences. The gospel story that we live into each year is the mystery of our faith and it enables us to be honest about our life experience.

On Sunday, November 27, we began a new church year as we entered the season of Advent and experience the gospel story as seen through the lens of Matthew's gospel. This year, more intensely than ever, I am aware of fact that we live in the "now-and-not-yet," a liminal time that is all about waiting. We live in that time when God's kingdom is breaking into our world through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and that time when it is not yet fully here. We wait for that day when God's kingdom will be present in all its fullness. Yes, we **wait**.

In her book *The Liturgical Year*, Joan Chittister writes:

Advent is about learning to wait. It is about not having to know exactly what is coming tomorrow, only that whatever it is, some hard, some uplifting, is sign of the work of God alive in us. We are **becoming** as we go. We learn in Advent to stay in the present, knowing that only the present well lived can possibly lead us to the fullness of life.

This new church year, as we *learn to wait* and as we learn to *stay in the present*, I seem to find myself more deeply understanding the longing of the Jewish people as they waited for a promised Messiah. I find myself more deeply connecting to that longing as I am reminded of how we ourselves need a Savior and how deeply the world needs a Savior. I find myself longing for the reign of God to come in all its fullness into this broken world. And, I do sense that we are always *becoming* as we go, as together we again make this journey through the church year and experience more deeply the story that is our story.



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# Serving Faith

## LAY ASSISTANTS

12/4 Randy Royalty  
 12/11 Rich Weingartner  
 12/18 Paul Hereza  
 12/24: 4 P.M. Open  
       8 P.M. Kim O'Brien  
  
 1/1 Walter Kopf  
 1/8 Ryan Thompson  
 1/15 Doug Hirt  
 1/22 Kim O'Brien  
 1/29 Rich Weingartner

## READER SCHEDULE

12/4 Jamie Royalty  
 12/11 Jon Harrison  
 12/18 Alexa Warwick  
 12/24: 4 P.M. Open  
       8 P.M. Linda Hirt

1/1 Brenda Kopf  
 1/8 Jon Harrison  
 1/15 Linda Hirt  
 1/22 John McCracken  
 1/29 Warren Heilman

## COFFEE HOUR

12/4 Lydia Boyan  
 12/11 Christmas Pageant  
 12/18 Laurie Hereza  
 12/24: 4 P.M. N/A  
       8 P.M. N/A  
  
 1/1 Open  
 1/8 Open  
 1/15 Open  
 1/22 Open  
 1/29 Open

## USHERS

Hirt  
 Kopf  
 McCracken/Milne  
 Schoepf  
 Harrison

## ALTAR CARE

Cecelia Kramer  
 Tammy Heilman  
 Heidi Bowers  
 Heidi Bowers

Elaine Harrison  
 Diane Hill  
 Diane Hill  
 Brenda Kopf  
 Brenda Kopf

## GREETERS

Mike Eschelbach  
 Ken & Ellen Milne  
 Rich Weingartner  
 Mike Eschelbach  
 Mike Eschelbach  
  
 Ken & Ellen Milne  
 Chris & Jean Lewis  
 Doug & Linda Hirt  
 Rich Weingartner  
 Mike Eschelbach

## NURSERY

Brenda Kopf  
 Paige Lewis  
 Jennifer Coe  
 Jennifer Coe  
 No Nursery

open  
 open  
 open  
 open  
 open

## ACOLYTE

Abby Steinke  
 Isaak Nyquist  
 Open  
 Open

Jasper Wawrzynski  
 Isaak Nyquist  
 Open  
 Open

**We really need volunteers for Nursery, Lay Assistants and Greeters.**

**Many hands make light work!! Step up and volunteer!**

Lay Assistants/Readers: Diane Hill: [hillmaxd6@gmail.com](mailto:hillmaxd6@gmail.com)

Ushers: Ken Schoepf: [kjschoepf@yahoo.com](mailto:kjschoepf@yahoo.com)

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison: [jon.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:jon.harrison@comcast.net)

Sunday School: Pam Williams

Nursery: Jennifer Coe: [jenlynncoe@yahoo.com](mailto:jenlynncoe@yahoo.com)

Greeters: Mike Eschelbach: [eschelbachm@gmail.com](mailto:eschelbachm@gmail.com)

To Sign up for Coffee Hour please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex Kitchen Counter

## Continued from the Pastor's Pen....

As we prepare our hearts and lives, waiting for the promised Messiah to be born anew, I hope and pray you let yourself take in the richness of the readings you will hear on Sunday morning. These readings help to prepare us to receive not only a new baby, but a new world where God's justice and mercy reign. And, as that story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ again unfolds before us, the story is clear: the darkness is giving way to the light, the world is being reborn, and God is on the way.

In Christ,

Pastor Ellen

# Advent



The Council has decided that Christmas Eve Services this year will be held at **4:00 PM and 8:00 PM**. There will NOT be a late service this year. We invite you to join us to celebrate Christ's birth among us at 4:00 PM or 8:00 PM. The choir and brass quartet will participate in the 8:00 service. There will be a nursery available at the 4 P.M. service only.

There will be NO in-person service on Christmas Day, the Sunday morning of December 25. On that day, we invite you to access the Synod's 2022 offering of Lessons & Carols. This service will be posted on our Facebook site for access that morning.



# ADULT *Sunday School*

**There will be three more Sundays of Adult Education this December.** Join us at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall as we continue to learn about **How Lutherans Interpret The Bible**. These sessions will include:

Dec. 4 - Determining Right From Wrong

Dec. 11 - The Many Meanings of The Bible

Dec. 18 - Devotional Bible Reading

Continental breakfast is available at all sessions!

**There will be NO Adult Sunday School during the month of January.**

Adult Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, February 5, at 9:00 AM. On that day, Pastor Ellen will share the draft of the new **ELCA Social Message on Climate Change**.

Then, on Sunday, February 12, Pastor John Schleicher will begin leading a four-week study on **Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping**. The focus of these four class sessions include:

Rediscovering Our Place In Creation

God's Presence Fills All Creation

Biblical Foundations for Earthkeeping

Creation Waits With Eager Longing

We invite you to plan to join us for these educational opportunities. As we move through winter and into spring, we experience the perfect time to again focus on our call to care for the earth.

# MERCHANTS OF DOUBT



## Sunday, January 22 - All Church Potluck & Movie hosted by Green Team

On Sunday, January 22, following worship, the Green Team will be hosting a potluck. After we finish eating, the Team will be showing the movie Merchants Of Doubt. We invite you to mark your calendars and join us for this event. Here is a synopsis of this important movie:

Merchants Of Doubt The U.S. scientific community has long led the world in research on public health, environmental science, and

other issues affecting the quality of life. Our scientists have produced landmark studies on the dangers of DDT, tobacco smoke, acid rain, and global warming. But at the same time, a small yet potent subset of this community leads the world in vehement denial of these dangers.

In their new book, *Merchants of Doubt*, historians Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway explain how a loose-knit group of high-level scientists, with extensive political connections, ran effective campaigns to mislead the public and deny well-established scientific knowledge over four decades. In seven compelling chapters addressing tobacco, acid rain, the ozone hole, global warming, and DDT, Oreskes and Conway roll back the rug on this dark corner of the American scientific community, showing how the ideology of free market fundamentalism, aided by a too-compliant media, has skewed public understanding of some of the most pressing issues of our era.

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# ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> following worship. A zoom option will be made available for those who cannot attend in person.



December 7 – Youth Activity

December 14 – The Lord's Prayer / 6<sup>th</sup> Petition  
(Last class before Christmas break)

January 11 – Youth Activity

January 18 – Class – The Lord's Prayer / 7<sup>th</sup> Petition

January 25 – Class – The Lord's Prayer / Conclusion-Doxology



## Middle School Activity Night - December 7th

I expect that we will be at church from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. for our activity night. **Christmas** is a time of giving and joy!

We are going to help our **Faith Lutheran shut-ins**. We will be making a yummy treat, making a card, and packing little goodies into bags to deliver to the elderly. I am asking that **each student bring 2 pairs of socks or slipper socks**. We will be putting these into the bags. Also, I will have a sign-up for you to help deliver the goodie bags. This will help the Caring Committee. Due to the level of multiple viruses circulating in the community, we ask that you simply pick a name on the list, arrange a time to deliver the goodies, go to the person's residence, ring the person's doorbell and leave it on the porch.

For our Activity Night, we will also be playing some fun games and having snacks! Please let me know ASAP if you cannot make it or bring socks. Pam Williams



Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 4th during Sunday School we will be fitting costumes for the Christmas pageant that will take place on December 11th during worship. There are no rehearsals or lines this year.

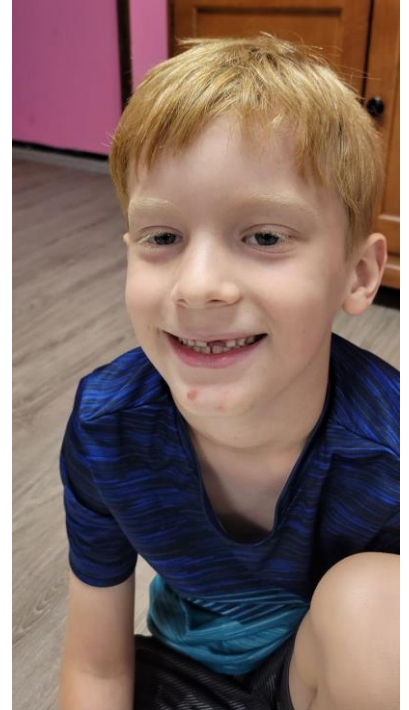
**All are welcome to join in the Narthex following the pageant for cake and refreshments.**



## December:

### Max Nyquist - 2nd Grade

Max's favorite food is Stuffed Crust Pizza, and his favorite color is green. He loves playing board games, karate, lego building, reading and riding his scooter. He likes playing in the snow, and playing with his twin brother, Liam, and his dog Milo.



## January

### Liam Nyquist - 2nd Grade

Liam likes building Lego's, drawing, riding bikes, Nintendo and playing with his twin brother, Max, and his puppy Milo. He really likes playing in the snow. He loves dance parties as well. His favorite food is Macaroni and Cheese. His favorite color is blue.



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Below is the sign up for the Stuff the Stocking food drive going on NOW. Thank you for signing up. Please bring your items to the church by December 11th.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4eaaab22aafe3-stuff2>



We would love to help give the men in the Parish House a great Christmas. Below is a link that you can sign up to give them a Christmas gift. Please contact Pam with any questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4EAAAB22AAFE3-christmas>



The Shared Pregnancy Giving Tree is up in the Narthex. Just choose a tag, purchase the gift and place it back under the tree (unwrapped). Please return the tag for use next year. We will be collecting items through January 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your donation.

For the month of December, we will be taking a Pantry offering on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> only. We will take offerings on January 8 & 22 as scheduled.





God of peace, we pray for those in military service who are connected to our community: Lani Yearicks, Jon Schoepf, Landon Belanger, Melody and Adam Wright, Tracy Tuthill and Jae Moore, Joe Galvin, Coleman Curry, Hannah Cunningham, and Aiden Seeley.

# PRAYER list...

God of love, we especially pray for Charlotte

Rasmussen, Marcele, David Hicks, Linda & Steve Hastings, Mike Taylor, Dale Halverson, Helen Brinkman, Joe, Alice, Jesslyn Silva, Bob Shorman, Mary Ann Scheuerman, Krista, Lee Gerard, Mabel Anglin, Shannon Stobel, Joy Coster, Carrie Christopher, Emily, Debra Vorce, Marilyn Hogan, Bill Williams, Todd Barricklow, Ben Cowin, Kenley and Allyson. We hold in prayer the ministry of Loaves and Fishes and we pray for all the Samaritas children who seek adoption.

Gracious God, by your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Thanks to all who have returned their **Pledge cards** for next year. Happy to receive more from those who have not responded yet. **In regard to Online Giving.** Many people already know how to adjust their online giving in Vanco/Vanco Mobile. If you want help in changing the amount of your recurring online giving (perhaps in light of pledge adjustments), feel free to contact Jon Harrison at [jon.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:jon.harrison@comcast.net) or call 517 349 4049 or catch him at church for assistance.

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Thanks

The Property Committee thanks those who helped with our annual Fall Cleanup of the grounds on Nov. 6th. We appreciate your help in keeping the property clean and inviting. If you go by the church some evening, take a quick glance at the big cross on the building. It's now illuminated with LED bulbs that make for a very crisp, attractive look. The renovation on the Parish house bathrooms is almost complete and will be a very nice upgrade for our young men living there. Thanks to everyone who helps with our Parish house outreach.

## December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> No Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	<b>30</b> 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	<b>7</b> 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Middle School Activity Night	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Fellowship Hall Rental 10:00am Sanctuary Rental
<b>11</b> 10:00am Christmas Pagaent 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Sanctuary Rental	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	<b>14</b> 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Sunday School Party 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Food Delivery	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:00pm Christmas Eve Services 8:00pm Christmas Eve Services
<b>25</b> No Sunday School No In-Person Morning Worship Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> No Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	<b>4</b> 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	<b>11</b> 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
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<b>22</b> 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am All Church Green Team Movie & Potluck	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	<b>25</b> 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Annual Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>