



Faith Family

News

December 2022

*In response to God's grace flowing
through Christ, we grow in faith
and show Christ's love.*

He Shall Be Our Peace

By Pastor Adam

Time is a funny thing. It's difficult for us to fathom what life was like for others in the past. For some reason, this is very difficult for Louis. At seven years old, he assumes his "old man" (me) grew up in the dark ages. In helping Marilyn learn how to drive, I told stories of when I learned to drive, and he said, "You had cars back then?" In decorating the Christmas tree, I told about how a whole strand of lights would go out when one bulb went out, and he said, "You had electricity back then?" I could give many more of these examples... but I don't think I could take the elder abuse again.

On the other hand, sometimes we look into the past and assume that people had the knowledge and resources we have today. My kids just can't imagine what life was like without cell phones. This happens in the Bible all the time... not the part about cell phones, but about the errors of projecting our knowledge and experience onto others. For example, it's easy to assume the disciples were Christians who understood who Jesus was and the good news he brought. I'm convinced they were Lutherans. They never missed a good meal! But not so. They were Middle Eastern Galileans of Jewish faith. And no, they didn't have cell phones or Christmas tree lights.

As we are learning about in Amy-Jill Levine's book, "Light of the World," the people of ancient Israel had experiences wholly different from our own. We look back on the birth of Jesus through our 21st century lenses and see Jesus, the Son of God who is the focal point of God's grace for us and the worship of the church for 2,000 years. And he's usually white and never cries or has dirty diapers. They look forward to

the coming messiah who will lift them out of the dredges of despair caused by living in a time and place where food and water were scarce, homes were mud walls and dirt floors, and government occupied and terrorized instead of protected freedoms.

Our lives could hardly be more different! Yet, at the same time, one thing hasn't changed in 2,000 years. Whether you were born in the 1st century or the 21st, we all are longing for peace.

Every day, bombs fall in Ukraine as cities are destroyed and people are killed. Every day, shootings take place in our homes, grocery stores, and schools. Every day, people are abused, beaten, murdered because of the color of their skin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Every day, people are despised and demonized because they support a particular political party.

Dear God... when will this end?!

Lord, Jesus... come!!!

Today, as much as ever, we are in need of peace, and God delivers. Through Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John, names that mean "God remembers," "God keeps promises," and "God is merciful," we find peace. Through a young woman named Mary, willing to be open to the potential of what God may do through her, we find peace. Shepherds and prophets, angels and kings, all help us to see what God has done and is doing. God is at work! Lord Jesus has come! The greatest gift of all has been placed in our hands... God in flesh... Jesus... Peace. This Christmas, open this gift and share it with the world, for it is what this world so desperately needs.

- Pastor Adam

Faith Family Updates

What's new around Faith? Maybe you haven't been here in awhile or you just haven't noticed, but our ministry is constantly changing.

Advent Allegro Lunch and Concert Series

We have a great lineup for this year's Advent Allegro concert series.

November 30: "The Extension Chords"
(with Jean Welch)

December 7: Tyler Carpenter on Marimba

December 14: Jacksonville High School Madrigals

December 21: Anna & Bethany Ferraro



The brief concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and begin at 12:15pm. Lunch of soup, chips, fruit, and dessert will be served beginning at 11:30am and after the concert for \$5. We could use some help with serving the meal and providing cookies and soup. If you would like to pitch in, contact the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.**



Fall Stewardship Appeal: *Building on the Firm Foundation of Christ*

Thank you to all who gave a commitment card for our 2023 stewardship appeal on November 20. If you would like to make a pledge, more materials are available at the signup counter and can be placed in the offering box or mailed to the church office. Together, we have wonderful work to do as we build on the firm foundation of Christ.

Youth Bake Sale and Nativity Display

On December 18, join us in the Great Room after worship for some fellowship and delicious treats compliments of our youth and their families. Your purchases will support future retreats. Also, enjoy our display of nativities on loan from YOU! Bring a nativity to share anytime before December 18 and set it up on one of the provided tables in the Great Room. You can pick them up and take them home afterwards.

Remembering

Shirley Dufelmeier

Shirley Dufelmeier died on October 27th and a service was held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church on the 30th. Please hold Shirley's family in prayer as we give thanks to God for this saint.



Care Coordinator Corner

December brings many opportunities to share our joy. The youth and members of the congregation are invited to go **Caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 11** at 2 pm. We plan to visit our Homebound members, followed by hot chocolate and treats back at church. Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army will take place on **Tuesday, December 6**. Please sign up for an hour if you are able. We will ring indoors at Midlands. I have an abundance of Christmas cards if you would like to send one to a shut-in or friend in your neighborhood. Also, don't forget to bring one of your own Christmas cards to church to display on the window near the library.

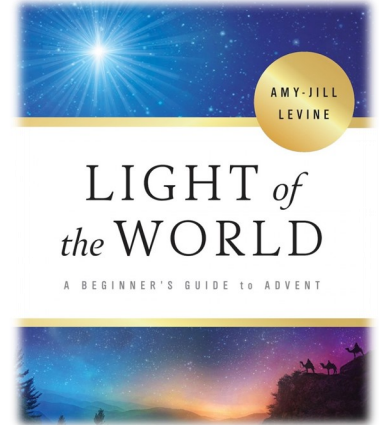
Sharon Zuiderveld

Living Our Mission... Vibrant Worship

An expressed goal for 2022 is the continued fostering of vibrant worship. This specifically supports our mission as “we respond to God’s grace flowing through Christ.” In worship, God’s grace flows to us through sacraments, Word, and community, and we respond with joyful praise.

Advent started on November 27 with a new sermon series

Through the season of Advent, we will be reading and reflecting on Amy Jill-Levine’s “Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent.” We will explore the biblical texts surrounding the story of Jesus’ birth and trace the Christmas narrative of Advent expectation through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. Pick up a copy at Faith (\$10) to read with us, and stick around after worship for a DVD study with the author and discussion with Pastor Adam.



YOUTH WORSHIP AND RETREAT

On November 13, our youth used their God-given gifts and led us in worship. The following weekend, they headed off to Carlinville for a youth retreat with others from the synod. An expressed goal for 2023 is to grow our youth ministry, and we are blessed to already be off to a great start! Thank you to our youth for being such an active and important part of our congregation, and thank you to the rest of you for supporting them as they grow in faith!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

“HE SHALL BE OUR PEACE”

Join us on December 24 as we gather to marvel at the miracle of Jesus’ birth. It all begins at 6:30 p.m. with a concert of musical offerings from our Faith Family. Following a brief break, worship will begin at 7:00.

JANUARY 1 - LESSONS AND CAROLS

Start the New Year with a wonderful morning of Christmas Carols and scripture readings that tell the story of the birth of our Savior. After you watch the ball drop, set your alarms to join us at 9:30, in person or online.

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP

Christmas morning we gather at 9:30 to celebrate that God has brought Joy to the World by taking on flesh. We participate in God’s incarnation through Holy Communion in a liturgy set to Christmas Carols. This service will be live streamed for those who cannot attend or prefer to worship from home.

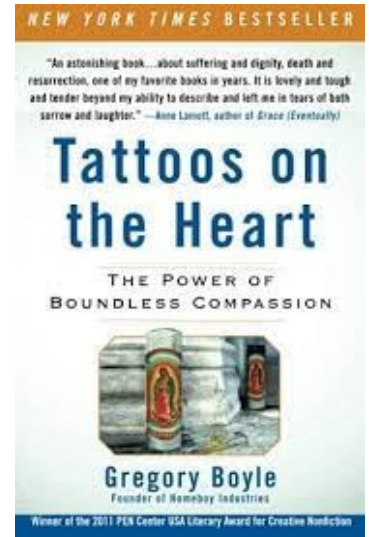
Poinsettias: To purchase a poinsettia to help decorate the church for Christmas, please sign up at the counter by the Coffee Sales and drop your check (or cash) into the decorated box; the cost is \$15.00. Please make your check out to Faith Lutheran Church, with a notation for *Poinsettia*, or call or email the church (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) **by December 11** and send your check to the church (1385 W. Walnut St., Jacksonville, IL 62650). Please indicate if the poinsettia is in honor or memory of someone special.

Living Our Mission ... Faith Formation

Our Fall Small Group ministry is underway! Here are some pictures of what happened this last month; put the dates for upcoming events on your calendars.

New Pastor's Pick for January: "Tattoos on the Heart: the power of boundless compassion"

Start your year off with a powerful read! For 20 years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-prevention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith. Pick up a copy at Faith for \$10 and join Pastor Adam on January 25 at either noon or 6:00 p.m. for a discussion.



Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, December 3, come join us for a delicious breakfast of French Toast and eggs. Come at 8:00 and help in the kitchen or at 9:00 for food and fellowship. Last month, we had a wonderful time appreciating our veterans as we heard stories of serving in the Armed Forces. This month, as we approach the end of the year, we will glean from the wisdom of one another as we discuss "what matters most to me?" And after all that good food and fellowship, **stick around afterwards to help us hang sound panels in the Great Room.**

Ties That Bind - A Women's Retreat

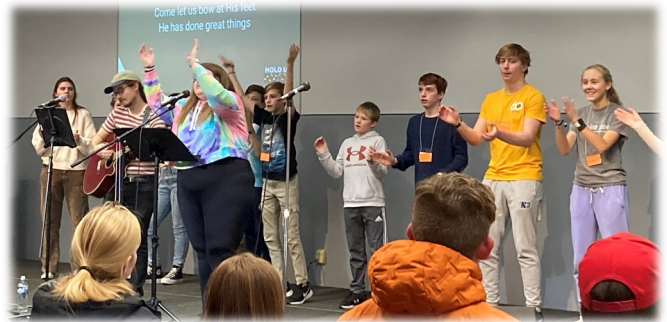
Start your new year off by taking time to reflect on the ties (relationships) that have had an impact on your life while creating new ones at the same time. Women at Faith are invited to join us on Saturday, January 14th from 9:00am to noon for brunch and a macrame plant hanger workshop led by local macrame artist and owner of One Knotty Maker. Cost is \$25 per person and includes all supplies, a plant to take home in your hanger, and brunch. Only 20 spots are available. Sign up at the coffee sales table by Sunday, January 8th.

Clothes for the Prison

Now that Covid is nearly over, Chaplain Kean has requested new or gently-used men's clothing for those offenders ready to start their journey home. If you have any to donate, please bring them to Sharon Zuiderveld's office in the church at your convenience. Any and all sizes are appreciated.

Discipleship Group

Join us at 10am on Wednesday, December 21, in the Faith Library as we meet for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. This month, we'll explore the special relationship between cousins Elizabeth and Mary, mother of Jesus. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.



Pictures from our youth retreat in Carlinville!



Living Our Mission ... Showing Christ's Love

An expressed goal for 2022 is strengthening congregational care. This supports our mission “showing Christ’s love” as we share the love of Jesus with one another at Faith and our neighbors near and far. Here are some ways we are doing this and opportunities for you to join us!

COUNT UP TO ADVENT IN OUR REVERSE ADVENT PROJECT

Our Reverse Advent Project is in full swing already, this year partnering with both Grace in Virginia and St. John’s in Bluff Springs. Here’s how it works... If you want to collect food, take home a festive bag located on the coat tree next to the Working Cross in the Gathering Area. You will find the suggested list of food items attached to each bag. In addition, on the reverse of each list, you will find a short list of preferences that might help you make your choices. If you don’t want to collect food, money donations are also needed. This year we hope to use these to enable us to buy fresh food items (e.g., eggs, milk, bread, fruit, vegetables) to add to each gift. Please bring your bags to the church by Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and stay tuned to learn how you can help deliver them.



Doorbell Dinners

Our next week to deliver is **January 9-13**. Please put it on your calendars and consider helping with this important ministry. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

HUGS GIVING TREE

Help us care for the 52 children at Pillars of Africa orphanage and school in Uganda through HUGS (Hearts United in God’s Service). A donation of \$35 provides a Christmas gift of shoes, pants, shirts, underwear, and a suitcase for a child. Partnering with Grace in Virginia and St. John’s in Bluff Springs, we have been able to provide for 37 children so far, along with a full Christmas meal! If you would like to give, please write “HUGS Christmas” in the memo line, and take a picture ornament from the tree to hang on your tree at home.

Ring the Salvation Army Bells!

Faith Lutheran is scheduled to ring the bells and staff the Salvation Army Christmas kettles at Midland Farm & Home (1203 W. Morton Ave.) on **Tuesday, December 6, 11:00-6:00pm**. Volunteers can sign up on the schedule on the counter by the Coffee Sales for one-hour time slots, either alone or with friends or family.

Jacksonville Food Center

Those on fixed incomes or low incomes have to make decisions on how to spend it as prices rise because of world conditions. Which choice wins....medicine, gasoline, rent, or food? Food is always the loser, and the Jacksonville Food Center is the helper.

News of note in October: Dot Foods gave \$50,000 worth of its inventory to 7 food pantries in the area, and Jacksonville Food Center was one of them. Pantries chose from a shopping list of Dot’s inventory and Dot employees helped deliver and unload 5,000 pounds of food to our Food Center.

Seventh and eighth graders from Salem school have been helping at the Center. Food drive contributions have been coming from Routt High School, Wesley Chapel, one of our town banks, and the Masonic Temple.

Melissa says the Center has most of what is needed for the Christmas boxes on hand already. What a blessing!

Faith church donated \$310.00 in October and \$127.00 in food articles.

Lillian Korous

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

Dec. 4 Kim Heise
Dec. 11 Pat Glyshaw
Dec. 18 Kris Roth
Dec. 24 Martha Krohe
Dec. 25 Martha Krohe

Coffee Hosts

Dec. 4 Martha Krohe
Dec. 11 **need volunteer**
Dec. 18 Barb Davenport
Dec. 25 Judy D. & Vicki R.

Communion Assistants

Dec. 4 Liddy Stark
Dec. 11 Char Hubbard
Dec. 18 Ken Devlin
Dec. 24 **need 2 volunteers**
Dec. 25 Hallie Mayner

Greeters

Dec. 4 Debbie, Ethel, & Gayla
Dec. 11 Liddy S. & Hallie M.
Dec. 18 Lillian Korous
Dec. 24 **need volunteer**
Dec. 25 Hallie Mayner

Readers

Dec. 4 Kelly Hartz
Dec. 11 Mike Fenner
Dec. 18 Sharon Woodworth
Dec. 24 **need volunteer**
Dec. 25 Mike Fenner

Ushers

Dec. 4 Char & Paul Hubbard
Dec. 11 Angie & Mike Fenner
Dec. 18 **need volunteer**
Dec. 24 **need 2 volunteers**
Dec. 25 Angie & Mike Fenner

If you would like to help with assisting for the 9:30am worship services, please contact the church office (faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the gathering area** at the podium by the east doors.

Altar Plants

(\$15 donation appreciated)

Last year, we began replacing our altar flowers with plants that remain for an extended time.

If you would like to donate, please call or email the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the gathering area at the podium by the east doors;** please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church (1385 W. Walnut St.).

Dec. 4 By Theresa Savoie in memory of Louise Savoie's birthday on December 1

Dec. 11 **Open for donation**

Dec. 18 By Pat Glyshaw in memory of Bob's birthday on December 19
& By Linda & Melvin Thies in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary on 12/19

Dec. 25 By Gayla Smith in honor of her baptismal birthday
& By Connie & Gary Braner in memory of Helen Driver's birthday on Dec. 25

Plastic Caps & Lids

The bench project is on hold at this time, but we continue to accept your caps and lids in the Mission & Ministry Center/coat closet at Faith

Financial Assistants

Dec. 4 Karen Sibert & Kelly Street
Dec. 11 Barb Davenport & Kelly Hartz
Dec. 18 Ken Devlin & Karen Sibert
Dec. 25 Barb Davenport & Naomi Hahn

Newsletter Deadline

December 18

Thank You

Dear Faith Family,

My thanks to everyone for the kindness shown to me at the loss of my mom, Shirley Dufelmeier. Your kind words, memorials, and hugs have meant so much to me. So many of you mentioned that mom had been at church the Sunday before she died. She really enjoyed going to Faith. Also, thank you to everyone who helped mom get to and from events or doctor appointments. My Faith Family is a blessing!

In Christian love,

Barb Davenport