

Faith Lutheran News

Christ is Born

December , 2024 Page 1

Faith Lutheran Church

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Contact Pastor for an appointment
Tuesday and Wednesday
Church Council
President: Kathleen Walsh
Vice President: Wayne Earthman
Treasurer: Susi Lewis
Financial Secretary: Loretta
Soracco
Secretary: Carol Lagomarsino
Director of Worship & Music:
Kaarn Egge Westerhoff
Property Chairperson:
KC Anderson
Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge
Westerhoff



Joy to the World! The Lord is come!

Decorating the Sanctuary and Christmas Tree

Saturday, November 30, 10:00 AM

Each beautiful chrismon tells a story of God's love in Jesus our Savior

Advent Worship

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22

Prepare the way of the Lord
with carol-based liturgy

during our regular 11:00 am Sunday services



Christmas Carol Sing-along

Wednesday, December 11, 4:00 PM

Join us for a joyful time of singing together all your favorite
traditional and fun carols – open to everyone!

Refreshments served afterward

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm

Invite your family and friends to this traditional service
of lessons and carols, children's time,
a message, Holy Communion, and lighting candles
to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ, the light of the world

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25

No worship at Faith – have a blessed day!

Sundays after Christmas – December 29 and January 5

Celebrate Jesus' birth and the turning of the year with carol-based liturgy

Pastor's Message

*“See, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...”
(Luke 2:10)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The circling of the church year begins again with Advent, preparing for the coming of Christ into the world and into our lives. It is a season to contemplate the miracle and mystery of the Incarnation – God breaking into our human world in the baby born in Bethlehem; the glory of God revealed in a humble manger; the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. How do we tell, in our words and in our living, this good news of great joy?

This season of beloved traditions of decorations, carols, and candlelit services is an opportunity to reach out and invite friends and neighbors to worship with us in the hope and anticipation of Christ's birth among us. We will also have a “Christmas Carol Sing-along” on December 11 at 4:00 PM. This is a chance to sing beloved Christmas carols together, and it's open to everyone in the community. Who will you reach out to and invite this season?

Bible study this month will have an “Advent flavor,” Wednesdays at 3:00 PM (the usual Bible study time). And please pick up the Advent devotional *Good News, Great Joy* as an accompaniment for your contemplations. These are opportunities to pause, ponder, and prepare to receive Christ, wherever and however he chooses to come.

Did you notice that there was no stewardship letter this fall? That's because I decided that it was time for face-to-face visits with everyone in the congregation! As I shared at the potluck on November 10, I will be setting up visits over the next three months, one or possibly two households at a time. I want to hear your joys, your hopes, your concerns, and your suggestions for our life together as Faith Lutheran Church. Feel free to reach out to me to set up a time.

It is my great joy to be in ministry with you, my ninth holiday season among you. Thank you for your faithfulness in love of God, one another, and our neighbors. You are a blessing, shining together with the good news of Christ our Savior.

Peace, comfort, and joy to you this Christmas.

Pastor Karen



Bible Study – “Genesis”

Our Bible study of the foundational stories of Genesis will continue through December, with an Advent “framing” – **Wednesdays at 3:00 PM**. *No meeting Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.*

Breakfast Fellowship – Tuesdays

You are invited to gather with Faith folks for breakfast each week, **Tuesdays at 8 AM**, even-numbered days at Grounds and odd-numbered days at the Murphys Hotel. Hope to see you there for this time of food, fellowship, and faith. Check with Rob or Pastor Karen if you are coming for the first time, because occasionally the schedule changes.

Poinsettias

You are invited to bring poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Please sign-up in the narthex to designate your poinsettias in memory or honor of someone, or let the office know by Tuesday December 10: faithlutheranchurc@att.net. You may bring your poinsettias on Sunday Dec. 22 or before the 7:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.



Welcome, New Members!

On November 24, we received Kyle Johnson and Annette Stout as “official” members of Faith Lutheran. Kyle is husband to Teresa Johnson and dad to LJ and Allison, and is a deputy sheriff in our county. Annette is originally from Ireland, but is a long-time resident of Calaveras County. Both Annette and Kyle have been active participants in our congregation’s life. *We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.* (ELW, p. 236)

What happened to stewardship?

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in financial support and service for Christ’s work through Faith Lutheran! Did you notice that there was no stewardship letter this fall? That’s because Pastor Karen decided that it was time for face-to-face visits with everyone in the congregation. She will be contacting you to set up a visit sometime over the next three months to hear your thoughts about Faith Lutheran and our life together as a congregation.

Murphys Food Pantry – Fill the Red Barrel

The first Sunday of each month is designated as “**Fill the Red Barrel**” Sunday. You are invited us to bring in food for the Pantry’s red barrel in the narthex or make an extra monetary donation to the Pantry (make checks to “Faith Lutheran Church” with “Murphys Food Pantry” in the memo). **December 1** will be Red Barrel Sunday this month. Thank you for your generosity toward this ministry of caring for our community. Together we are making a difference!

Food pantry needs: “Think holidays” – packaged potatoes & stuffing, canned veggies & fruit, canned pumpkin, green beans and mushroom soup, cranberry sauce, canned pineapple.

Council meeting – Tuesday, December 17 3:00 PM, in the narthex.

Interested in Helping in Worship?

Our worship services have many opportunities for leadership and assistance; perhaps you would like to help! Especially needed are helpers for altar care (setting up communion), counting offerings, and providing fellowship. And we always need readers, acolytes, ushers, and worship assistants. Training is available! If you are interested, please talk to Kaarn or Pastor. Thank you to those helping already, and to Kaarn Westerhoff for coordinating our worship helpers.

December Birthdays

Pat McKee	1 st	Carol Lagomarsino	14 th
Chingiz Walsh	9 th		

January Birthdays

Vivian Hansten	1 st	Loretta Soracco	16 th
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January Anniversary

Janet and Mike Skenfield 30th



Merry Christmas



Sunday Date	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 24	December 29
Theme	First Sunday in Advent	Second Sunday in Advent	Third Sunday in Advent	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Christmas Eve	First Sunday in Christmas
Reader/Worship Assistant	Rob Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield	Liz Gilbert/KC Anderson	Vivian Hansten/Robert Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield	Kathleen Walsh
Altar Care	KC Anderson	Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	KC Anderson	Kaarn Westerhoff	Annette Stout
Counters	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino/Kaarn Westerhoff	Rob Westerhoff/Wayne Earthman	Carol Lagomarsino

Sunday Date	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Theme	Second Sunday of Christmas	Baptism of Our Lord and First Sunday after Epiphany	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Third Sunday after Epiphany
Reader/Worship Assistant	KC Anderson	Vivian H./Robert Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh	Janet Skenfield
Altar Care	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino	Rob Westerhoff	Annette Stout
Counters	Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Kaarn Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino/Kaarn Westerhoff

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Do justice, love kindness, and
walk humbly with the Lord.
Micah 6:8*