

FAITH at WORK

December 2020



Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I'm generally not a fan of Christmas movies. The Hallmark Channel and it's ilk are too schmaltzy, too contrived (this is just my preference, if you like them, enjoy them). While the cartoons are more to my taste (especially the deep bass of narrator in the Grinch), if I am being honest, I watch them because Vanessa loves, not because I do.

There is one exception: It's a Wonderful Life. My family would watch it every year on Christmas Eve while baking cookies. When I served as a pastor near Pittsburgh, a movie theater in the city did a fundraiser for the food bank every year: see the movie for free as long as you bring food (or donate) to the foodbank. That movie has been a part of my December traditions in many ways and places, it is one that Vanessa and I always watch together (usually the evening after putting up our Christmas tree).

In a lot of ways it is an odd Christmas movie. After all, the main character, George Bailey, goes to such a dark place that he contemplates suicide, wonders if things would have been better off if he never was. Jimmy Stewart, suffering from PTSD after his time with bomber crews in World War II, acts tremendously – and also bares his soul and his suffering on the screen.

(Continued on page 2)



Faith Lutheran Church

930 Queen Ave SW, Albany OR 97321

email: faithalbany@proaxis.com

website: www.faithalbany.org

541-928-7660

In This Issue

- Church Announcements and Events
- Community Announcements and Events
- Calendars
- Prayer needs

And yet, I think one of the reasons I love It's a Wonderful Life so much is that it is the most real movie to Christmas itself. After all Christmas, the first Christmas was a dark holiday. The emperor, the Caesar Augustus, who minted coins claiming divinity, called for a census so that he could squeeze every denarius, every penny that he could out of his empire. Mary and Joseph had to travel while Mary was pregnant and imminently due, so far from home that she had to give birth in an unfamiliar location. And the petty tyrant who was a client king in Palestine, feeling threatened by an infant instituted a slaughter, sending the holy family fleeing to Egypt for refuge.

At it's heart Christmas is a dark holiday. It is a holiday where a people in captivity and bondage long for freedom. It is a holiday where we hear a quote from Jeremiah about loud lamentation (Matthew 2:18), where a people long for God's light.

I think that is the Christmas I need this year. As we are in another partial shutdown, while Vanessa and I continue to encounter family only over phones or screens, while we worry about family and friends who are of vulnerable health, I am reminded more than ever how much I need God's light shining with me. I am reminded that I need Jesus to break into my darkness. I am reminded that I need Jesus to show me how we are all a family together, how the Spirit can unite our community (Faith Lutheran Church) by the power of the Holy Spirit. The babe of Bethlehem has claimed me, and has claimed you, as his own and nothing can change that fundamental reality.

December Morning Service Schedule

Dec. 6: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM

Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Dec. 13: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM

Outdoor Worship (Parking Lot) & Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Dec. 20: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM

Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Dec. 27: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM

Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM



Please communion elements (Bread and juice). **Masks will be required.** Please enter parking lot on 18th street and leave through the Queen exit. We will have a radio transmitter for those who wish to remain in their car. Tune in to FM 102.1.

(See page 4 & 5 Advent and Christmas Worship Schedules & Resources)

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2020**STAFF**

Pastor	Mark Bringman
Office Manager	Nance G
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl B.
Custodian	Terry B.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Charles Bonville
Vice President	Carol Olufson
Secretary	Alice Weber
Treasurer	Janice Virnig
Financial Secretary	John Berg
Education /youth	Andrea Daniels
Evangelism & Mission	Cynthia Bonville
Fellowship & Social Concerns	Vicky Heintzman
Property Management	Jon Aaberg
Stewardship & Resources	Gordy Gamet
Worship & Music	Terry Virnig
Youth Facilitator	Kayleigh Cannady Shultz
Mission Endowment Fund	Gordy Gamet

**JESUS IS THE GIFT**

Jesus is the gift that perfectly fits every heart,
and it is with His love that the celebration starts.

We rejoice in Him as we remember His birth
and thank God for sending His only Son to earth.

His life led from a manger to a cross on the hill,
where He faithfully followed His Fathers perfect will.
He freely laid down everything so that we could live
and there is no greater treasure anyone could give.
Like a scarlet ribbon, His love wrapped around the cross
and He offered it to us all at the greatest cost.

So each time that we give gifts,
we remember what He has done
and honor the perfect gift — God's one and only Son.

By: Holley Garth

**Financial Report as of: 11/24/20**

Undesignated Income: \$13,105.00
 Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$8,416.67
 Net Undesignated Income: \$4,688.33
 Total Expenses: \$6,319.06
 Net Income: \$9,775.94

Total expenses as of 11/24 includes property taxes for 2020 but not payroll for November.

Stay Safe
 THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedules

Advent Midweek Ecumenical Worship Wednesdays December 2, 9, 16 at 7 pm

We will be celebrating Advent with St Albans and First Christian. Each congregation will be hosting a virtual service (Pastor Mark presiding on December 2nd) at 7:00 PM. This gives us an opportunity to see how different congregations worship and to celebrate Advent.

Advent Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 pm Drive up Worship November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 20th

Pastor Mark has worked with Cheryl Blum for a mix of both traditional Advent songs and non traditional reminders of Jesus being born among us.

Every Sunday night in Advent we will have drive up evening worship at the church. We will have lights and candles for the parking lot to make the evenings a bit more festive. We plan to lean in to Jesus shining into our darkness during Advent.

Christmas Eve Worship Service 5:00 pm drive up worship 7:00 pm Facebook live stream

On December 24th we will have two, mostly identical services. The first these will be at the church parking lot where you can drive up (bringing your own communion) and tune in to 102.1 FM on your car radio. The second of these will be livestreamed from the church.

Remember that the most beloved of Christmas Carols, Silent Night, was first sung accompanied only by guitar in 1818, because flooding had damaged the church organ. It is a song that brought together warring soldiers during World War I (there is a youtube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUIPNWDvk-c> and part 2 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Pey-HmXGfs> or even better, rent the film Joyeux Noel).

We will be worshiping in odd circumstances but that won't be the first time that has happened over Christmas – indeed Christmas has always been odd, unique and awesome.

Christmas Day Worship Service 10 am on December 25th

There will be a livestream on that morning using the wonderful words of John 1. Pastor Mark is going to be wearing his pajamas and invites you to come as you are, to sing carols, to be reminded of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

Christmas Time Resources

Just a note that you might appreciate some options that you can find for Christmas online (in addition to our services). One option is the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College in Cambridge England. While only dating to the early 20th century, this service has been a wonderful worship service for years for me.

You can find information about it here: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/a-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols>

And download it (warning it is 2.7 GB so do it well in advance of December 24th or December 25th) here: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/choir/listen-to-the-choir/recordings/carols-kings-2019-video-download>

The Oregon Synod will have a sermon to follow.

Zoom Bible Study Monday's @ 1:00 PM

December 7, 14, 21, and 28.



The Monday afternoon bible study group has decided to study the books of the Apocrypha. After a brief overview, we are going to dive into the book of Tobit, which is probably the most enjoyable (certainly the funniest) book of the Apocrypha. In between bridegroom killing demons, it gives us delightful prayers and some recommendations for every day life. I hope that you can join us.

Church Council Meeting

The Church council will be meeting on December 9th at 7 pm. If you would like to listen in via zoom, send a message to Pastor Mark or one of the council members and the link will be sent to you.

Council reports are due by December 7th.

New 2021 Council Members

President: Charles Bonville

Vice: President: Kim Sass

Treasurer: Janice Lee-Virnig

Financial Secretary: John Berg

Secretary: Nancy George

Education & Youth: Andie Daniels

Evangelism & Mission: Dick Olsen

Fellowship & Social: Peggy Preston

Property Management: Jon Aaberg

Stewardship: Gordy Gamet

Worship & Music: Terry Virnig

Many thanks to the following outgoing Council Members: Cynthia Bonville, Vickie Heintzman, Carol Olufson, Mary Sabatka-Gamet, Alice Weber. Your service was appreciated in this very difficult year!



We are hosting a food drive for the Salvation Army in December. (Basket in Entry way by parking lot) 6

The giving Tree has been set up in the entry way by the parking lot. If you can't stop by to pick it up a tag, call the office and we will mail you one. Unwrapped Gifts need to be returned to the church or the Salvation Army by Dec. 11, 2020. If you need someone to pick it up from you, please give Jeanette Thorpe a call @ 541-974-2010.

If you would like us to do the shopping, just give your \$\$ to Jeanette Thorpe or Drop it by the church office. We will ensure that items are purchased for the kids. Thanks in advance for your help and generosity!

A Prayer for Our World

God our Heavenly Father, You alone are worthy of honor, glory and praise. With you , we can overcome every storm—including the global impact of COVID-19 is having on our world.



Today, we are asking You to:

- ◇ Heal those who are sick and protect those who are not.
- ◇ Watch over those who serve others and give them strength to do their jobs.
- ◇ Give our leaders extra wisdom as they navigate this pandemic and economic uncertainty.
- ◇ Strengthen your global Church. Reveal to us how we can partner together to reach the needs of those around us.
- ◇ Calm our fears. Fill us with Your hope, joy and peace as we continue to trust in you.
- ◇ Use this pandemic to pave the way for spiritual renewal. Let Your glory, power and healing to be visible to all.

Come Lord Jesus, Come.

Prayer Chain



We are asking anyone in the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran Church weekly (which could be as little as taking a few seconds and asking God to be with all of those listed, lifting them up by name) and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: pegpreston@aol.com

Greetings from Camp!

Here are your announcements from Camp Lutherwood Oregon for the first half of November. You will *usually* receive these emails on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Please share these in your Sunday bulletins, newsletters, social media, bulletin boards, and share by word of mouth!



Bottle Drop Holiday Give 2020

This Holiday season, BottleDrop Give is contributing up to \$15,000 to all Fundraisers through a combination of matching donations and prizes. This is a great opportunity to give back to camp as we work toward purchasing a coffee bar for the dining hall! To participate, simply drop off your BottleDrop blue bags from Camp Lutherwood Oregon to any BottleDrop location between November 15-December 1. Learn more about the Oregon BottleDrop Give program and how to support camp [on our website!](#)

Mark the Calendar!

The Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 9:30am on Zoom. More information will be sent in December.

Tentative Summer 2021 Dates

With COVID-19, this summer will look different at camp. We are preparing to adapt typical camp programming to ensure the health and safety of all of all campers, staff and guests. We commit to offering an outdoor experience that will be safe and adaptable. The dates listed for 2021 are tentative and we will continue to publish updates as more information becomes available. We look forward to seeing you around the campfire soon!

Week 1: June 27- July 2 Confirmation | Explorer

Weekend 1: July 2-4 - Family Camp 1

Week 2: July 4-9 - Mini | Pioneer | Explorer | Staff in Training

Week 3: July 11-16 - Discovery | High School

Weekend 2: July 16-18- Family Camp 2

Week 4: July 18-23 - Forest Retreat | Pioneer | Explorer

Week 5: July 25-30 - Confirmation | High School

Weekend 3: July 30- Aug 1 - Women's Retreat

Week 6: Aug 1-6 - Discovery

Mini Camp: 1st-3rd grade

Pioneer: 3rd-5th grade

Explorer: 5th-6th grade

Discovery: 7th-9th grade

Confirmation: 6th-9th grade

High School Programs: 9th-12th grade

Family: All Ages

Women's Retreat: 18 + years

Please contact the office

(541) 998-6444

or

office@lutherwoodoregon.org

with any questions.

December's Calendar

8



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Facebook Livestream Prayer Service 5:00 PM Advent Service (Parking lot)	30 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	1	2 1:00 PM TOM's 7:00 PM Ecumenical Zoom Service	3 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Janitor Cleaning	4 8:00 AM Reports to Council Due	5
6 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Facebook Livestream Prayer Service 5:00 PM Advent Service (Parking lot)	7 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	8 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Mary Martha Circle	9 1:00 PM TOM's 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM Ecumenical Zoom Service	10	11	12
13 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM Outdoor (Parking Lot) Worship 5:00 PM Advent Service (Parking lot)	14 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	15	16 1:00 PM TOM's 7:00 PM Ecumenical Zoom Service	17 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Janitor Cleaning	18	19 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Circle of Friends (Preston's Back Yard)
20 8:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Facebook Livestream Prayer Service 5:00 PM Advent Service (Parking lot)	21 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	22	23	24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service (Parking lot) 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Live stream Service	25 10:00 AM Christmas Service Livestream	26
27 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Facebook Livestream Prayer Service	28 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	29	30 1:00 PM TOM's	31 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Janitor Cleaning	1 Fill out annual forms for kitchen	2

For the most up-to-date version,
[visit our online calendar](#)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE NEEDING
STRENGTH, GUIDANCE AND HEALING:**

9

Tim B
Brenda Carroll
Sandy Hina
Robert Jon
Daniel Sullivan
Linda Gail Voet
Melba Wright
Brandon Crawford
Christopher
Noah Holman
Susan Johnson
Barbara Rose
Jerry Sheffield
Pat Norby
Eleanor Barr

Gigi Douglas
Ron Wold
Chiera Family
SangSau Tran
Silas Haynes
Cindy Harms
Izzy Covalt
Mona Crawford
Kris Waskosky
Shedd Waskosky
Kristy Bishop
Oliver
Madielynn
Stephan Selvage
Patrick Selvage

Garrett Baarsch
Carl Wogomon
Stephanie Bauthman
Marjorie Trainor
Nancy Goodwin
John Busher
Vail T. Palmer
Jordan Weber
Paul Carson
Gene Hebert



**PLEASE REMEMBER
THESE FRIENDS IN
PRAYER**

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND: Bonnie K, Betty K, Ruth Irwin

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES:

Family and Friends of Nona Sabatka, Family & Friends of Janice Jordan, and the Brudvig Family

Prayer For Health and Healing

Lord, You invite all who have burdens to come to You.

Allow your healing hand to heal me.

Touch my soul with Your compassion for others.

Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all.

Touch my mind with Your wisdom,

That my mouth may always proclaim Your praise.

Teach me to reach out to You in my needs and
help me lead others to You by example.

Most loving heart of Jesus, bring all above health in body and spirit,

That we may serve You with our strength.

Touch gently these lives which You have created

Now and forever. Amen





**Faith Lutheran
Church**

**930 Queen Ave
SW
Albany Oregon
97321**

541-928-7660

faithalbany.org

**faithalbany@
proaxis.com**

Faith at Work

2020

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Faith Lutheran Church
930 Queen Ave SW
Albany, OR 97321