

FAITH at WORK

January 2021



Sisters and brothers in Christ -

Merry Christmas and Happy 2021! I am so thankful to be turning the page on 2020, to look forward to a new year together.

This past year has helped me; hopefully helped us all, to realize how much God has given us, how much we have to be thankful for. Though we continue to endure a pandemic, we are blessed by the community of saints, by friends in our family at Faith Lutheran who helped us connect in difficult times, for technology that made the task easier, for food on our tables and roofs over our heads.

January 6th is Epiphany, the time that the Church remembers the magi bringing gifts to Jesus. These gifts are brought during the reign of Herod the Awful (you might find him named Herod the Great, given what a colossal jerk he was, I refuse to call him that). Herod was a megalomaniacal tyrant, intent only on his own rule (Matthew's gospel tells us this, the historian Josephus writing in the year 75 or so backs it up), willing to do nothing for power. The magi spoke to Herod of a threat and Herod reacted with violence and pride, slaughtering dozens of innocent children in the area of Bethlehem. The Holy Family, fleeing this violence, traditionally used the first of the gifts – gold – to fund their many year stay in Egypt. The second of the gifts of the magi – frankincense – is traditionally connected with Jesus' role as great high priest. And the last – myrrh – reminds us of Jesus' time in the tomb.

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Faith Lutheran Church

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All of these gifts had a use, had a purpose.

God has given us many gifts as well. Some of them are individual in nature – for instance the leadership of members of council (both in 2020 and in past years) helping, through the Holy Spirit, to steer and guide Faith Lutheran Church. Or gifts of hospitality from folks like Nancy or the Fleischers. Some of these gifts are communal – for instance Faith has a tradition of music.

This past year has helped us to recognize those gifts and to open our eyes to new ones. It has helped people to learn new technologies and skills, new ways to connect with each other.

And some of the gifts are even wider in nature. For instance, the vaccines that have been developed reflect tremendous advances in science and medicine. Our faith tells us that the Holy Spirit is active in this world, continually inspiring God's creation to new understanding. God gave us a brain to use and a heart to love. Francis Collins, the director of the National Institute of Health spoke at length about the vaccine and what it means for Christians. A devout Christian, Collins speaks passionately about the intersection of faith and health. You can find a talk that he does on this for the Southern Baptist Assembly here, I encourage you to watch it if you have the chance: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=242359160567399>

As we wrap up Christmas and lean into the season of Epiphany, I encourage you to consider what you have to be thankful for and to consider the ways that God is equipping you and us for this time. Happy New Year and glad to turn that page!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Mark

January's Worship Schedule

Jan. 3: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM (Pastor Mark taking a Vacation Day)
Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Jan. 10: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM
Outdoor Service (Parking Lot) & Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Jan. 17: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM
Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Jan. 24: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM
Outdoor Service (Parking Lot) & Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Jan. 31: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM
Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

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	Kim Sass
Secretary	Nancy George
Treasurer	Janice Virnig
Financial Secretary	John Berg
Education /youth	Andrea Daniels
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen
Fellowship & Social Con- cerns	Peggy Preston
Property Management	Jon Aaberg
Stewardship & Resources	Gordy Gamet
Worship & Music	Terry Virnig
Mission Endowment Fund	Gordy Gamet

Happy New Year



At the sound of the tolling midnight bell
a brand new year will begin.

Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast,
to the promise it ushers in.

May your battles be few, your pleasures many,
your wishes and dreams fulfilled.

May your confidence stand in the face of loss
and give you the strength to rebuild.

May peace of heart fill your days
may serenity grace your soul.
May tranquil moments bless your life
and keep your spirit whole.

~ unknown ~



Financial Report as of 12/18/2020:

Undesignated Income: \$4,225.00
Budgeted Undesignated
Income: \$8,416.67
Net Undesignated
Income: (4,191.67)
Total Expenses: \$3,318.06
Total Net Income: \$4,936.94

Zoom Bible Study Monday's @ 1:00 PM

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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 January 13th 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 January 8th.

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!

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



The History of New Year Resolutions

The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, some 4,000 years ago. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the new year—though for them the year began not in January but in mid-March, when the crops were planted. During a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their (pagan) gods would bestow favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favor—a place no one wanted to be.

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after the reform-minded emperor Julius Caesar tinkered with the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the new year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had special significance for the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, the English clergyman John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the raucous celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the new year. Now popular within evangelical Protestant churches, especially African-American denominations and congregations, watch night services held on New Year's Eve are often spent praying and making resolutions for the coming year.

Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are a mostly secular practice. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions only to themselves, and focus purely on self-improvement (which may explain why such resolutions seem so hard to follow through on). According to recent research, while as many as 45 percent of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions, only 8 percent are successful in achieving their goals. But that dismal record probably won't stop people from making resolutions anytime soon—after all, we've had about 4,000 years of practice.

by Sarah Pruitt

Sarah Dawn Designs

HAVE hope
TRY new things
BE active
SEE the good
SAY "I Love You," more
CHALLENGE yourself
CHOOSE to be happy
EAT better
ENJOY today
FORGIVE more readily
READ more often
BECOME your best you

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

January 28, 2021

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Time: 10:30 AM—5 PM

The Red Cross will be using their mobile unit and will be in our parking lot from 11 to 6 PM. We will observe social distancing. The drive is now open to online registration. To schedule an appointment, call 800-733-2767 or sign up online at redcrossblood.org using sponsor code: **faithlutheranalbany**



Food, Paper Products and Hygiene Items will be collected this quarter (January through March) for FISH of Albany. Please leave items in basket by the double glass doors. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



Christ in Our Home

We have still not received the Christ in Our Home Books for January—March. A call into the publishing company said that they were having post office delivery problems so they decided to reprint. We should see them soon. If you would like me to mail you one when they come in please let the church office know. Phone number is (541) 928-7660.



Thank you!! Thank you!! Thank you!!

The life-changing ministry of Camp Lutherwood Oregon is only possible through the generosity of our supporters. Thank you for the many ways you have supported Camp Lutherwood Oregon in 2019! The gifts we receive ensure that youth of all ages and abilities have access to camp.

The programs that Camp Lutherwood offers are needed more than ever to get kids outdoors and in community with others, all while hearing about God's unending love and grace.

Thank you again for your support which helps us be ready to receive all of our campers in 2021. We are grateful for you!

Mark the Calendar!

The Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 9:30am on Zoom. Each Association congregation (those who give to camp during the calendar year) receive one vote. Attendees can register starting now

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.

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

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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
Eric Reimer



**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 Comfort and Strength

Lord, thank you that our comfort abounds through Christ. Nothing in the world can bring us the comfort and peace that you alone can offer. Only you understand all of our trials, and you care. Through our own struggle and pain, help us to be your vessels to offer comfort and strength to others who are hurting. Thank you Lord that through every weakness and hard place, your strength is displayed in our lives. We can't do it on our own. Your power is Mighty within us, you are our Helper and our Strength. All things are possible through you.

In Jesus Name, Amen





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2021

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PLACE
STAMP
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