

# FAITH at WORK

December 2021

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The church year always ends and begins in the same way, reflecting a conversation Jesus has with his disciples in Holy Week. I am sharing a reflection on it here because it has to bear in our lives as well.

As we are told in the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, on the Monday of Holy Week Jesus goes into the Temple in Jerusalem and creates a huge scene, throwing the moneychangers out. He shouts that they are turning his father's house into a den of thieves.

The next day, Tuesday, Jesus is immediately confronted as he enters the Temple. He has threatened the power structure of his world. All the powers of the world array themselves against him: the chief priests, elders, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians and of course the Romans. A tense day of arguments ensues. After that day Jesus and his disciples are walking back to Bethany (the suburbs of Jerusalem) where they are spending the night. They stop in the garden of Gethsemane. Surrounded by the gnarled shapes of olive trees, looking at the gleaming marble and gold of the Temple, Jesus tells his disciples that everything is going to change.

This speech is found in Mark 13, Luke 21 and Matthew 24. There are small variations between the gospels, however the emphasis is generally the same.

Jesus tells his disciples that the Temple, the massive building complex in Jerusalem is going to come down. All the buildings, all the walls, not one stone, he says, will be on another. He speaks of



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unrest and tumult, first in a fairly general sense, then later in a more specific sense.

Christians since that point have tried to look at this as a roadmap to predict the future, despite the fact that Jesus says that no one knows the hour or the day, not even the Son (Mark 13:32). And by doing that, we miss what he is trying to tell us.

Our time, like Jesus time, is a time of uncertainty and unrest. Our news speaks of famines, wars and rumors of war and natural disasters, just as Jesus warns about. But what matters for his disciples, for us, and for the billions of Christians throughout history is his reminder: do not be afraid (Mark 13:7). God is with us through all of this.

Whatever is going on in the world, is in God's care and keeping. We do not need to be afraid of the uncertainties of the times, whatever they may be, for we are ultimately God's. Whatever happens, we belong to God. So whatever the uncertainties of this life, whatever the uncertainties of this world, we do not need to worry or be alarmed, for we belong to Christ.

What Jesus also tells his disciples, and us, and all Christians at all times is this: stay awake (Mark 13:37). We aren't to worry about pandemic, or political uncertainty, or inflation, or anything else. We are instead to keep doing that which he has shown us and told us – a radical, all inclusive, love of God and neighbor. Jesus message, which we will see again and again as we read through Luke's gospel this year, is consistent: that everyone in all the world, from homeless shepherds to mighty kings, from peasant girls in the hill country to soldiers, everyone is a part of God's family. Everyone who follows Christ in hope and love has a future, whatever else may come.

So my sisters and brothers, what I say to you this advent season is: do not be afraid and stay awake in Christ.

Amen

## December Worship Schedules

December 5:	10:30 AM Live Worship & Streaming
December 12:	10:30 AM Live Worship & Streaming
December 19:	10:30 AM Live Worship & Streaming
December 24:	7:00 PM Christmas Eve
December 26:	10:30 AM Live Worship & Streaming

**Masks and Social Distancing are Required for Indoor Worship**

## Christmas' True Meaning

By Deborah Ann Belka

Let Christmas' true meaning,  
 rise up in you today...  
 may you see the real splendor  
 of Jesus' birth on this day.  
 May His beauty and grandeur,  
 cause your heart to sing  
 may the gift of His excellence  
 become your eternal spring.  
 May His majesty you behold,  
 with all dignity and honour  
 may the fullness of His truth  
 glorify His heavenly Father.  
 May the wonder of His grace,  
 reveal its magnificence in you  
 may the gratefulness you feel  
 be in all you say and do.  
 Let Christmas' true meaning,  
 bring your Saviour near today  
 may you see the need for Him  
 today, and every day.



## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2021

### 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 Concerns	Peggy Preston
Property Management	Jon Aaberg
Stewardship & Resources	Gordy Gamet
Worship & Music	Terry Virnig
Mission Endowment Fund	Gordy Gamet



Financial Report as of 11/21/2021:

Undesignated Income: \$7,787.00

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$8,885.00

Net Undesignated Income: **(\$1,098.00)**

Total Expenses: \$7,647.21

Total Net Income: \$3,579.79

# *Church Announcements and Events*



## **Christmas Eve Worship December 24th at 7 PM**



**Come to the Mass for Christ! Come to the celebration of the birth of the babe of Bethlehem, come and behold him, born the king of angels.**

**We invite you to join us as a part of the body of Christ, to celebrate Jesus being born among us with water and word, song, candles and communion (a mass together) reminding us of who saves us and sets us free.**

## **Food Collection for Holiday Baskets**

We are collecting non-perishable items for the **Salvation Army Holiday Food Baskets** in December. Your donations can be placed in a basket located in the parking lot entry-way.



## **We have a new video system!**

Thanks to the generous gift from Nona Sabatka (as directed by Amy, Carol, Jayne, Julie and Mary) we have a new video system. We are livestreaming our services weekly at 10:30 am and hope that you will join us online if you are unable to join us in person. I encourage you to copy and paste the link below, and subscribe to Faith Lutheran's channel so that you'll be alerted when a new video is presented.

**Faith Lutheran YouTube Channel:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOc3OSfTzpjasgFljUnnK-w>**

## Annual Bazaar December 4-11

The Bazaar will be presented virtually on the Faith Lutheran Church Facebook page beginning Saturday, December 4th through Saturday, December 11th.



This is a new format for us and will enable us to safely navigate the pandemic without putting volunteers and shoppers at risk of exposure of COVID-19. It also opens up our bazaar to a larger audience who live in other areas of the country. So please share our Facebook page with your friends and family so they can shop too!

Log in to Facebook and start shopping on December 4 – 11, 2021  
<https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-111520355554826>

### Office Hours for December

Monday , Wednesday and Friday hours 10 AM—2 PM

The Church Office will be closed Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) and New Year's Eve (12/31) in observance of the holidays.

## Covid-19 Practices at Faith Lutheran Church

Out of love and concern for our neighbors, Faith Lutheran Church will be following the practices listed below:



- Masks are mandatory indoors
- Masks are mandatory outdoors if six feet cannot be maintained between people (OHA Mandate 8/27/2021)
- Keep social distance (6 feet apart)
- No food or beverages indoors
- We **WILL** continue to share in the meal of salvation

As Martin Luther said, “God doesn’t need your good works but your neighbor does.”

## Quilting and TOMs

Wednesdays at 9 AM

Wednesday mornings are a busy time at Faith Lutheran Church. We have quilters working to create comforting quilts that are donated to bring people warmth, privacy and shelter. If you are interested in joining them, there is always plenty to do.

The TOMS (stands for The Old Men, though age and gender are not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have skills to share or able hands and a willing heart, the TOMs will always welcome some help.

## Mary Martha Circle



This is a Bible Study for women. We will be meeting on Second Tuesday of Each Month @ 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us and bring a friend! If you would like more information, please call Karen Glenn at 541-928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at 541-967-8309.

## Salvation Army Giving Tree in the Fireside Room

Once again Faith Lutheran Church is hosting a giving tree in support of the Salvation Army. The gift tags on the tree have information about the age/gender of the sponsored child as well as a list of items the child expressed interest in. Please return **unwrapped gifts with the gift tag attached** to the church before 2:00pm December 8th.



**GIVING TREE**

If you have any questions, please call Jeannette at 541-926-1134 (home) or 541-974-2010 (cell)

**Pastor Mark is glad to visit folks at their home, particularly those who have trouble getting to church nowadays. If you or someone you know would appreciate a visit, feel free to contact the church office or Pastor Mark to let us know. Additionally, if you are in the hospital, please contact us so that we can come see you.**





## Rejoice This Christmas Day

By Deborah Ann Belka



Unto us a Son was given,  
rejoice this Christmas day,  
a gift from God to you and I,  
the Truth, the Light, the Way.  
To the world a Savior's born,  
rejoice this Christmas day,  
He fills the soul's hunger pain,  
the Bread, the Life, the Way.  
To every heart bound in sin,  
rejoice this Christmas day,  
the gift of grace will set you free,  
the Christ, the Lord, the Way.

To thirsty souls everywhere,  
rejoice this Christmas day,  
and drink from the Fountain of Life,  
the Grace, the Mercy, the Way.  
To all those who are heavy-laden,  
rejoice this Christmas day,  
for He is the Prince of our Peace,  
the Door, the Lamb, the Way.  
Rejoice on this Christmas day,  
your Lord and Saviour is here.  
Rejoice, I say again rejoice,  
let His birth bring your heart cheer.

## Finding Liturgy in Life and Life in Liturgy

### An Oregon Synod Lay Education Course

How does liturgy shape us? How might we shape it? Gather with people from across the Oregon Synod this January and February to explore liturgy in daily life, communal worship, and public witness. We'll pay particular attention to the seasons of the church year, the flow of worship, the invitation of sacraments, and daily practices that help us cultivate a life of depth and meaning. We'll create space for the integration of blessing, celebration, lamentation, prayer, song, symbols, and ritual crafting. You're encouraged to bring your whole self as we seek to live in holy rhythm. [Pr. Matta Ghaly](#) will be the primary instructor. The course is designed with a Lutheran lens and inclusive heart; all are welcome.

This on-line course is offered through the Oregon Synod's [SALM and Lay Education Program](#). We'll meet the following eight Tuesday evenings on Zoom from 6:30-8pm (Pacific Time): January 11, January 18, January 25, February 1, February 8, February 15, February 22, and March 1. Authentic participation and relationship-building are the priority. Course participants and/or their congregations are encouraged to donate, as they are able, on a sliding scale between \$20-\$160, but donations are not required to register. If you'd like to sign up for the course, please do so through the [registration form](#).

## Community Events



- December 3-19: *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberly* at Albany Civic Theater  
Several Performance times and dates available
- December 3-17: Christmas Storybook Land at Linn County Expo  
Several dates and times available
- December 4-24: Candy Cane Express—Holiday train excursion via Santiam Excursion Trains  
Several dates and times available
- December 5: Twice around Christmas Parade & Community Tree Lighting—Starts at 5:00pm  
Downtown Albany
- December 12: Christmas Parlor Tour 2021— For Tickets contact Albany Visitors Association  
at 541-928-0911

\*\* For additional information about events listed visit Albany Visitors Association Website to view their online Calendar.

## Corvallis Nativity Festival 2021

This year is the 28th year of the Corvallis Nativity Festival and we are excited to continue sharing this tradition of art and music related to the glorious birth of Jesus Christ with those in the Willamette Valley. Please consider attending this year's Festival. I would love to meet you and give you a personal tour of the festival, just look for me in our "office" located near the back east entrance.

The exhibit is located at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4141 NW Harrison Blvd, Corvallis. We will be open at 11 am each morning (Friday-Tuesday, Dec 3rd - Dec 7th) and close at 8:30 pm each night except the last day when we close at 4 pm.





# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOM's	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM String Therapy 10:00 AM Reports to Council Due	<b>4</b> Christmas Bazaar (Facebook Event)
<b>5</b> Christmas Bazaar (Facebook Event) 10:30 AM Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15 AM Altar Guild Meeting 4:00 PM Eagle Scouts Court of Honor for Nathaniel Arnott	<b>6</b> Christmas Bazaar (Facebook Event) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> Christmas Bazaar (Facebook Event) 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>8</b> Christmas Bazaar (Facebook Event) 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOM's 7:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>9</b> Christmas Bazaar (Facebook Event)	<b>10</b> Christmas Bazaar (Facebook Event) 9:00 AM String Therapy	<b>11</b> Christmas Bazaar (Facebook Event)
<b>12</b> 10:30 AM Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 1:00 PM Mary Martha Circle 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOM's	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 AM String Therapy	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Circle of Friends (Peggy's Gazebo)
<b>19</b> 10:30 AM Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>20</b> 8:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOM's	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Church Office is Closed 9:00 AM String Therapy	<b>25</b> Christmas Day
<b>26</b> 10:30 AM Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15 AM No Fellowship Meeting Today	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM No Quilting Today 9:00 AM TOM's	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Church Office is Closed 9:00 AM String Therapy	

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



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](mailto:pegpreston@aol.com)

	Worship Leader Team 2021				
December	5	12	19	24	26
Assisting Ministers	Diane	Shirley	Charles	Gordy	Elaine
Lector	Carol	Kim	Jackye	Jon	Carol
Altar Prep	Fleishers	Aabergs	Cynthia	Carol A.	Elaine
Ushers	Kim	Diane	Allen	Nancy	Dick
	Wally	Dick	Gavin	Wally	John
Sound Technician	John	Gordy	Jon	John	Gordy

## Worship Helpers are needed!

If you can help with worship, either as an usher, or assisting minister/lector (the two roles are combined for now) or working on the sound board, let us know. We are adapting to a changing world and counting on excited adaptable people.



## Prayer List

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



Tim B	Gigi Douglas	Gene Hebert
Brenda Carroll	Ron Wold	Heather
Sandy Hina	Chiera Family	Julie Shaw
Robert Jon	Cindy Harms	John & Margarite Fusa- ro
Daniel Sullivan	Eleanor Barr	Lee Horst
Linda Gail Voet	Izzy Covalt	Nancy George
Melba Wright	Oliver	Kerry Casner
Brandon Crawford	Garrett Baarsch	Margaret Rowland
Noah Holman	Stephanie Bauthman	Allison
Jerry Sheffield	Carl Wogomon	Olivia Hunter
Pat Norby	John Busher	Terry Virnig

**REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:** Ruth Irwin, Connie Griffis, Ray Knuth, Eleanor Barr, Izzy Covalt, Cindy Harms, Margaret Rowland, Melba Wright, Sangsau Tran

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

### Healing Prayer:

O Holy Spirit, please come like a dove  
Shield and protect now the ones that we love.  
Cover their wounds with Your grace feathered wings,  
Shield them from sorrow, breathe hope songs within.

Tend with Your goodness the pain that they bear  
Heal now their sickness with miracle care.  
Carry them high far above till they see  
Your rainbow of promise, and hope lies ahead.  
Amen





Faith at Work

2021

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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