

FAITH at WORK

December 2024

Dear Beloveds of God at Faith in Albany,

Advent peace in this time of preparing and anticipating Christ's birth and return.

Many years ago, I was invited to attend a preparation inquiry for a Billy Graham Crusade. A year before the Crusade's planned dates an Advance Team would send out invitations to all the clergy in a 25+ mile radius, inviting them to an information meeting about the event. You have no idea, nor did I, of how much preparation went into those Crusades. Willing and interested clergy from all denominations were asked to be part of those days of evangelism and proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ through the Rev Billy Graham's ministry.

At the events people who came forward during the "altar calls" were met by clergy and lay people who would have gone through a brief training to meet and pray with people. Those who came forward were asked to fill out a form that included if they were members of a local church, or not. Those who were not associated with a congregation were later contacted by a clergy person in their neighborhood. That was easily thousands of people to connect or reconnect to a local congregation. The organizational prep was tremendous.

In Biblical times, there were advance teams that would go into the towns to announce and prepare people for the arrival of the king. Most ran on foot to alert towns to the arrival of the royal entourage. People would begin to gather along the roadsides and streets to welcome the king.

As you well know, Advent is a time of getting ready, of preparation for celebrating the birth of the One born King of the Jews and for the return of Christ Jesus. How are you preparing?

Our society has mostly converted this Christian holiday to something very secular and jolly, with Santas, reindeer, elves, trees, snow, and tinsel. There seems to be a rush to get to the good stuff and merriment of Christmas, and a preparation rooted in stress-riddled gift buying. Decorations and Holiday sections at stores are up and selling by Halloween. < sigh > And by December 26th many trees are out on the curb, ready for disposal. The whole focus is on getting to December 25th with wrapping paper and boxes laid to waste.

The Church has long seen the need for a time of penitential preparation. Four weeks have been put to use for this preparation, which includes confession, time for reflection, and seeing the manger and beyond, to the cross and empty tomb, as the work of God in this sin and strife filled world.

Faith Lutheran Church

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Phone: (541) 928-7660



In Holy Communion during this Advent season we dine at the Lord's Table—a vision of the feast to come when all of God's people, through all ages, are reunited in the presence of the One who calls us Beloved.

Our preparations for the Lord's advent are important. Advent begins anew the Church's calendar with remembering the God who is with us, Immanuel, who in flesh and blood lived and taught us God's way of peace and justice, who experienced an unjust death, and was raised.

We cannot have Easter without having had Christmas. And to prepare for the wonder of a God who comes up close to us, we must prepare for that arrival through confession, through reflection, through the hardships of this world. It is then that we see that God comes to be with us, not to whisk away the hard stuff, but walks with us through all that comes, in order to bring us to new life. This is a time of baptism renewal, holding to God's promise of new life, of good news, of Resurrection.

I encourage you to engage in Advent preparation for the greatest gift we have already received—the birth of the Savior of the world and new life in Christ Jesus. Prepare an Advent Wreath and light it every time you eat or have devotions. If you have a Nativity set, put it up a little at a time. Begin with the stable, add an animal or two, add the Baby Jesus on December 24th with an angel and shepherds, and on January 6th add the Magi, wise people from the east. If you need more inspiration for Advent, please pick up the Advent Guide booklet I have written. There are all kinds of ideas there. And if you don't hold devotions, maybe you can pick that up, using the Christ in Our Home devotional.

Welcome to Advent. Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare your hearts and minds. Remember that you are Beloved of God. And Christmas will come.

With hope because of Jesus Christ,

Pr Dorthy Nielsen+



Congregational Meeting—11:30am

Sunday, December 15

The annual December Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 15, immediately following worship. We will vote on the budget and council officers for next year. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Stir Up Your Power, O Lord, and Come!

Date: Wednesday, December 11th
Time: 11:30am—2:00pm
Where: Faith Lutheran Church



Advent Worship Service & Luncheon—11:30am

Stir Up Your Power, O Lord, and Come! Faith and Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches invite you to join them for a shared Advent Worship & Potato Bar Luncheon at Faith on Wednesday, December 11. Worship will begin at 11:30am with the luncheon following the service. Good Shepherd will be providing the potatoes and members of Faith are encouraged to bring potato toppings and desserts to share. Be sure to invite your friends to join with us for the worship and gathering. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Faith Lutheran Church		2024
STAFF		
Interim Pastor	Pastor Dorthy Nielsen	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Hart's Janitorial	
CHURCH COUNCIL		
President	Gordy Gamet	
Vice President	Terry Virnig	
Secretary	Mary Sabatka Gamet	
Treasurer	Janice Lee Virnig	
Financial Secretary	Alice Weber	
Education/Youth	Vacant	
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen	
Fellowship & Social	Peggy Preston	
Property Management	Vacant	
Stewardship & Resources	Vacant	
Worship & Music	Vacant	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	

ALBANY STRING ORCHESTRA
WINTER CONCERT

MOZART
 Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

ELGAR
 Serenade for Strings

GRIEG
 Two Elegiac Melodies

SEASONAL FAVORITES

3pm Saturday, December 14, 2024
 Albany First Christian Church, 432 SW Ferry St
FREE ADMISSION

Cindy Lefton, Autumn Splendor, 2021. Oil on canvas. www.CindyLeftonArt.com

Financial Update

Financials as of: November 27, 2024

Undesignated Income: \$5,006.97
 Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$6,720.83
 Net Undesignated Income: (\$1,713.86)
 Total Expenses: \$12,453.95
 Total Net Income: (\$1,361.98)

Church Announcements and Events

TRANSITION TIME AT FAITH

The FLC congregational vote on November 17th was to continue forward in conversations with Good Shepherd to seek "mutual vision" together. We celebrate with them and await their newly called Pastor Cindy Robles to arrive in early January 2025. So there will be no Transition work until January or February when there may be some community conversations with Good Shepherd people that will include Pr Cindy.

Bingo & More! —3:00pm

Sunday, December 15

Join us for an afternoon of fun & games! Bring a non-perishable food item for admission. Popcorn and Lemonade will be provided.

Quilting and TOPs

Wednesdays @ 9am



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.

TOPs (stands for The Old People, though age is not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have able hands and a willing heart, the TOPs will always welcome some help.

Food Collection for F.I.S.H. of Albany



We are collecting non-perishable food items FISH of Albany. Donations can be placed in one of the baskets in the parking lot entryway.

*** Please check expiration date markings -FISH cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.*



Mary Martha Circle

This is a Bible Study for women. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**. If you would like more information, please call: Karen Glenn at (541) 928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at (541) 967-8309.



Worship Leaders Team 2024					
December	1	8	15	22	29
Assisting Ministers	Janice	George	Carol O.	Shirley	George
Altar Prep	George	Jon	Elaine	George	Jon
Ushers	Dick	Dick	George	Dick	Dick
Sound Technicians	Terry	John	Terry	Jon	Gordy



Prayer Chain:



We are asking those who are part of the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran congregants on a weekly basis and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. This is can be as simple as taking a few seconds to ask God to be with those listed, lifting each one up by name. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: pegprestonn@aol.com



December 2024 Worship Schedule



December 1	10:30am	Worship
December 8	10:30am	Worship
December 11	11:30am	Shared Advent Worship
December 15	10:30am	Worship
December 22	10:30am	Worship
December 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship
December 29	10:30am	Worship

All Worship Services are Live-Streamed on YouTube

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Dorothy Nielsen	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 4:00pm - 7:30pm Family Tree Nursery- Parent Ed. Class - Fellowship Hall	4 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs 6:30pm - 8:00pm Albany Evangelical Church	5 Janitorial Service 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	6 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	7
8 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Don Voeks 3:00pm - 7:00pm Albany Evangelical Church	9 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Council Meeting & Potluck at the Gamet's Home	10 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 4:00pm - 7:30pm Family Tree Nursery- Parent Ed. Class - Fellowship Hall	11 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs 11:30am - 2:00pm Shared Advent Service & Luncheon	12 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	13 Church Office Closed - Carol on Vacation Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 1:30pm - 3:30pm 20th Century Book Club	14 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage
15 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Dorothy Nielsen 3:00pm Bingo & More!	16 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 1:00pm - 3:00pm D.A.R. Monthly Meeting 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 4:00pm - 7:30pm Family Tree Nursery- Parent Ed. Class - Fellowship Hall	18 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs 6:30pm - 8:00pm Albany Evangelical Church	19 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage Janitorial Service 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	20 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy	21 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall)
22 Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. David Jewel 11:15am Fellowship Meeting 3:00pm - 7:00pm Albany Evangelical Church	23 Church Office Closed - Carol on Vacation Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 Christmas Eve Jackson Street - Food Drive Storage 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	27 Church Office Closed - Carol on Vacation 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	28
29 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Patricia Hughes	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring				



Church Office Hours for December 2024

Monday—Wednesday—Friday 10am to 2pm

The office will be closed on Friday, December 13, and all of Christmas week, December 23-27.

Prayer List

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

Tim Berg	Julie Shaw	Virginia
Brenda Carroll	Olivia Hunter	Gabriel
Sandy Hina	Nicholas Glass	Dave Glass
Linda Gail Voet	Karen Hoover	Dick Dodge
Noah Holman	Chuck	Frank Perry
Gigi Douglas	Carol Olufson	David
Stephanie Bauthman	Vanessa Munro	
John Busher	Jim Preston	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Izzy Covalt, Connie Griffis, Margaret Rowland, Sangsau Tran & Melba Wright

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



A Prayer for this Holy Season



Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.



Faith at Work

2024

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Church

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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