

Faith Journeys

Faith Lutheran Church -- ELCA

December 2014

Pastor Joy's Message

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**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Services:**
5 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Come, Worship the Newborn King!

December is a month that for many is filled with excitement and hope. Temperatures start to drop, but aren't usually too cold yet. We typically see some snowfall, but it's not too much yet. Even if it is really cold and snowy, we don't tend to mind because it feels festive and fun at this 'most wonderful time of the year!'

I have always appreciated the month of December and the joy and celebration of Christmas time. I like taking a look back at the year that is coming to an end, and dreaming about what the next twelve months will hold. Four years ago, I was blessed with another reason to enjoy this month. Our sweet son Axel was born in the late evening on December 30th. This year, we are looking forward to spending December by kicking off a new chapter of our lives as Rochelle residents (by the time you are reading this article we should be living in town)!

December is also a Holy and hopeful time in the church year. We spend the majority of the month in the season of Advent. It is the beginning of a new church year and a new set of scripture to focus our time of worship together. We wait in anticipation of the new born King. The Messiah. That tiny baby that God has sent to save us all.

Lately, I have been trying to explain the Bible and particularly the stories of Jesus to a very curious almost-4-year-old. I have found out that this is easier said than done. He has some very challenging questions and I'm not always able to come up with what I would call the "best" answer. Rather it is an answer with which we can both live. He has a lot of questions about the birth of Jesus. Where was he born? Who are his mom and dad? Where is he now?

I realized that in some ways, we are always asking these questions, too. Especially that last one. Where is Jesus now? What was that humble beginning like for the savior of the world?

Please join us for worship this Advent and Christmas as we explore these questions and more. Our Advent worship will take place on November 30th, December 7th, 14th, and 21st at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Then, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on December 24th at 5:00 and 11:00 p.m. Both services will offer candlelight and Holy Communion. On December 28th we will gather at 9:30 for our Christmas worship – lessons and carols (there will be Holy Communion on this day).

I wish you a happy December and a blessed Christmas as we worship the new born King!



Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School & Confirmation Schedule:

Dec. 7th: 9:15 Class/Live Nativity Practice

Dec. 10th: 6:00pm Confirmation Christmas Party and cookie decorating

Dec. 14th: Practice & Live Nativity Schedule

9:15 Class/Live Nativity Practice & Set-Up, Please bring 1-2 dozen cookies for Nativity.

10:30: Preschool-3rd Grade sings during worship

*4:30: Start arriving for Nativity

5-6:30: Live Nativity

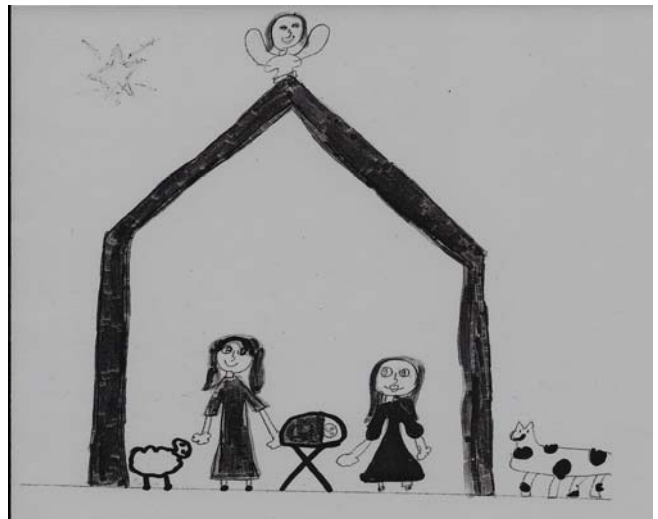
*A schedule will be sent home in regards to time slots that your child will be assigned to. Each time slot will be 20 minutes long. Younger children will have one 20 minute time slot. There will be an opportunity for your child to have dinner at the church.

Live Nativity Volunteers:

We will need a variety of volunteers for this to be a successful event. Please check the volunteer board in the fellowship hall for ways that you can help.

Volunteer Dinner

All volunteers and youth participating in the Live Nativity will have an opportunity to have dinner at the church. Dinner will be available from 4:00-5:30pm.



Resume Sunday school on Jan. 4th 2015



Thank you to everyone for another wonderful year
In youth ministry!

God's Blessings to you and your family this Christmas!

Michelle

Sunday School & Confirmation Schedule

Faith Lutheran Church Presents:

DRIVE THRU-LIVE NATIVITY SCENE!

Sunday, December 14th
5:00pm- 6:30pm
A Community Event!



Come and experience a live reenactment of the night of Jesus' birth featuring our Sunday school youth, choir members, live animals, and other members of Faith from the warmth of your vehicle!



Don't miss our **"Mary and Martha's Hot Chocolate Stand"**- Martha will sure be busy mixing up the hot chocolate while Mary greets you with a big smile at your vehicle.



Gabriel's Goodie Grab: You are welcome to stop in the fellowship hall for our Christmas Cookie Grab. Take a plate of cookies home for a free-will offering towards our Youth Ministry programs and Pizza for Patriots.

Our Confirmation youth will also be selling Gingerbread Man cookies as a fundraiser.

17th Annual Christmas Eve Breakfast:



What better way to start Christmas Eve Day than to have a great breakfast.

We are planning a great menu.

Everyone is invited! Men - Women - Children

Dec. 24th, 2014 8:00 AM

Our renowned Barbershop Quartet will entertain you at no extra cost.

All proceeds from this event will go to the restoration of the Sanctuary carpet .

Birthdays, Anniversaries & News

December Birthdays

- 12/01 Dave Kinn
Jim Primrose
- 12/02 Christopher Rittschof
- 12/06 Danica Rogers
- 12/07 Jeff Payne
- 12/08 Angie Primrose
- 12/09 Mark Zilis
- 12/11 Lois Rewerts
David Roinas
- 12/13 Rhett Watson
- 12/14 Jacob Fransen
- 12/17 Samantha Carter
- 12/18 Ainsley Hale
- 12/19 Abe Anderson
Karen Fransen
- 12/24 Katherine Case
- 12/25 Michelle Heinrich
- 12/26 Peter Malaker
- 12/27 Gene Chaplin
Tasha Hacaga
- 12/30 Axel Alsop
- 12/31 Tawnya Liezert



Anniversaries

- 12/05 Ken & Janine LeMar

Baptisms

November 16th, Lucy Elizabeth Condon was received through the sacrament of holy baptism. Lucy's parents are Jillian & Sean Condon. Her sponsors are Tim Condon & Kayla Broome. Lucy's grandparents are Dave & Laura Sawlsville. Welcome to the family here at Faith, Lucy.

Sympathy

The congregation wishes to extend their sympathies to Laurie Gay & family as they mourn the loss of her father-in-law, John T. Gay.

New Address for Timothy Heitter
925 Tropical Ave. NM
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Poinsettia's

Each year we decorate our sanctuary with poinsettia's. You have the opportunity to purchase a plant/plants up until Dec. 1st. You may purchase them in honor or memory of someone if you wish. Please fill out a pink order form found in the fellowship hall and place that and your payment in the box. Please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church. The cost is \$14.00 per plant.

Important Notice

Please note. Any contributions to be considered as part of the 2014 calendar year must be turned in **NO LATER THAN** December 28th, 2014. Anything past this date will be considered part of the 2015 calendar year.

November's Community Supper was held on Monday, November 10th. Team Leaders were Gene & Bea Chaplin. The menu for the night was Chicken Ala King over baked potatoes. There were 9 of us who served the meal & 5 women who brought dessert. A heartfelt thanks to all who helped in any way. 101 meals were served.

Thank you everyone for your generous donations for WELCA. Our cream puff sale made \$217.00. We also auctioned of three quilts. The Women's quilt action raised \$130 at their quilt sale. The three winners of the ladies quilts were: Pastor Joy, Nick Haws and Barb Harms.



Hanging Of The Greens and Potluck

Sunday, Dec. 7th
11:30 a.m.

'Tis the season to decorate our sanctuary and fellowship hall in preparation of our Savior's birth! We will begin decorating after 10:30 worship, and afterwards, we will have a potluck. Please bring a dish to share. Hope to see you there!

Calendar

Lay Ministry

Prayer Ministry

Members:

Lois Rewerts,
Diane Ruggerio,
Joyce Bialas.

Prayers of sympathy to Laurie Gay & family as they mourn the loss of her father-in-law, John T. Gay

Friends & Family

Josh Byrd (grandson of Harold & Pat Gosse),
Marilyn Casey (sister-in-law of Nedra Knapp),
Keith Dinda (grandfather of Katherine Case),
Alberta Dummer (friend of Gail Rogers),
Cheryl Eich (friend of Nedra Knapp),
Luke Goss (Grandson of Carl & Geneva Brune),
Norm Gruben, (friend of Diana Arntzen),
Connie Hansen (mother of Angie Primrose),
Kevin Larimore (friend of Doug & April Moorehead),
Deb Roberts (friend of Gloria Tyler),
Mike Rogers (Mark Rogers brother),
Tammy Sveta,
Jim Valentine (father of Mike Valentine),
Carl (brother-in-law of Susie Wittwer),
Janice (cousin of Barb Harms),
Marguerite (mother of Margo Wilkinson),
Peggy (sister-in-law of Alice Arjes)



January Newsletter items are due to the office by December 15:
office@faithlcrochelle.org
** Please send items to office so they are all in one place.
THANK YOU!

Shawn e-mail: office@faithlcrochelle.org

Pastor e-mail: Pastor@faithlcrochelle.org

Michelle e-mail:

Yandf@faithlcrochelle.org

815-562-7575

Budget

Revenues			Expenses		Actual Net Income/Loss
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
Month	\$15,540.25	\$15,097.00	\$15,809.60	\$15,172.00	-\$269.35
YTD	\$128,713.16	\$120,784.00	\$136,435.56	\$106,292.00	-\$7,722.40

Building Fund Revenues		Building Fund Expenses		Actual Net Income/Loss	
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
Month	\$5,449.00	\$4,436.00	\$4,463.00	\$4,774.00	\$986.00
YTD	\$39,480.00	\$35,492.00	\$35,704.00	\$38,194.00	\$3,776.00

M&M (Building) Fund Balance M&M (Building) Fund Balance M&M (Building) Fund Balance
\$13,760.47

Newsletter Guidelines (not rules, guidelines—"requests")

- ⇒ Please e-mail your additions to the Church office, not Diana. It will be easier to have everything in one place when it is time to compile. I (Diana) have forgotten entries in the past, because they were sent to me early, and I don't want to do that again! Shawn, Pastor Joy, and Michelle can make sure all items are in our special file in our drop-box—they do an awesome job with that.
- ⇒ Please send your items in a word document if possible—12 pt, CALIBRI font. A text file or even an editable PDF will also work. Powerpoint is very difficult to work with and excel files should be sent as an attachment —not Embedded in an email. Please no "fancy" formatting.
- ⇒ Pictures should also be added as an attachment—not Embedded in your article. It takes a lot of time to re-format things that may not work the way you had hoped due to space limitations!
- ⇒ Anyone can submit something for the newsletter—heartwarming stories, memorable moments—jokes. Please feel free to share if you come across something you think others would enjoy reading.

Newsletter editor is a volunteer position and your help would be greatly appreciated.

Faith Forum

FAITH FORUM: CONNECTING WORD AND DEED

Many readers will remember the worship-time announcements made by John Prabhakar about the adult Sunday School class 'theme for the day' or even the next Sunday. A couple of years ago, when California began to loom large for Esther and him, John decided it was time to allow others at Faith Lutheran to take responsibility for adult education opportunities in the congregation. Like in real life, it often takes several people to do anywhere near to what one individual has usually been doing. And it has taken some extra time.

We would like to introduce you to Faith Forum: Connecting Word and Deed. This will be the name of our Sunday morning education event for the confirmed members of Faith. It will meet regularly at 9:15 AM every Sunday that there is Sunday School. Pastor Joy brought interest and support to this idea from the outset. In fact the four Bible Studies she has led in November were the first steps in our transition.

With your help Faith Forum will strive to connect the Word of God and our Christian faith to the realities of our personal and community lives, both the believing and the doing. It will seek to undergird your daily walk with Christ, offering a place to study, hear, speak to, and consider prayerfully the questions you have, the problems you face, the opportunities to serve. It will hopefully stretch your mind and commitment, whether in your personal life, your home, this community of faith, the city and the world around us.

We are still in the planning stage for specific topics and presenters, but we are listening to your suggestions, collected a few weeks ago. We are also looking into a regular meeting space. Please talk to Eileen Liezert or David Nelson if you would like to make a topic suggestion for Faith Forum, or if you would like to lead or co-lead a discussion on a Sunday morning. We can't give you all the topics for the year just now, but hope to be able to give you advance notice in this newsletter and the Midweek Memo. Stay tuned.



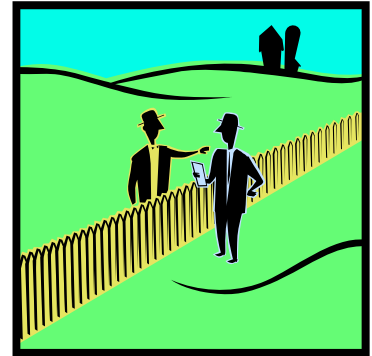
OUTREACH MISSION FOR FAITH: Rochelle Food Pantry

December: Cookie mix, box of tissues.
January: Peanut Butter & Jelly
Monetary donations always appreciated.

Evangelism

Do you know your neighbors?

Do we know the people that live next to us, work close to us or many people in the community? Do we know the needs of our neighbors? Chances are we don't. It's most likely that the extent of how well we know our neighbors is a wave as we are getting in the car to leave. Unfortunately, that is common in our society today.



I recently attended a Discipleship Gathering hosted by the NI Synod. Pastor Brent Dahlseng discussed the importance of getting to know our neighbors. It's not about increasing the number of people that come in our doors, but increasing the number of personal relationships. I'm not saying that coming to church isn't important, but it's not likely that we will get them to believe and have a relationship with God only by attending a worship service. They can learn about God through our love and genuine concern of what is going on in their lives. As our relationship grows, so can their knowledge of God. God meets us where we are in our lives. Shouldn't we meet our neighbors where they are?

Another question that was raised was "What does your church want to be known for?" Churches do have reputations in the community. I started asking myself that question. A few organizations Faith has helped come to my mind, the Rochelle Area Community Emergency Shelter (R.A.C.E.S), Hand-in-Hand, Hope, and the Community Dinners. I hope that our church is known for how we can reach out and make a difference in our community. Our vision statement, "Making Christ Known through Lives of Faith", reflects the point Pastor Dahlseng mentioned. Through our relationships with others, we can make Christ known.

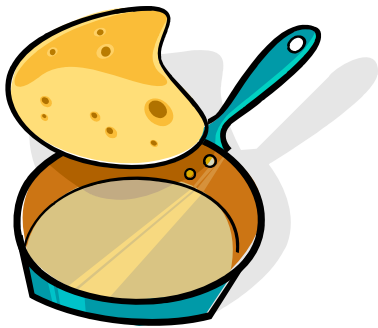
Dietrich Bonhoeffer said "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving." "Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place." Is a quote by Henry Nouwen. We need to reach out to our neighbors by going to where our lives can intersect. How about it.....Why don't you meet your neighbor.

-Shelley Haws, Evangelism Committee

Council Highlights & Outreach

Council Highlights – October Edition

- ◆ It was discussed and decided that in an effort to provide more options as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we will offer worship at 5:00 & 11:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.
- ◆ The process of identifying and inviting members to join the council in 2015 has begun.
- ◆ We reviewed the lawn care service that was provided by Brad Schabacker and felt that it went well. Dave Kinn will look into a plan with him for next season.
- ◆ The 2015 budget process is underway. Everything will be reviewed and assessed based on this year's expenses and the incoming pledge cards.
- ◆ The current coffee set-up is being reviewed to find a set-up that makes hosting fellowship time more accessible and inviting.



Divine crepes were made & served with a variety of toppings on Nov. 16th with the donations going to the RACES (emergency shelter) in Rochelle.



Thank you for your generous donations of \$187.00 for their utility bills!

I want to thank all the ladies who created the warm articles for our local elementary children. A delivery was made the last week of Oct. There were 13 hats, 83 scarves, 9 pairs of socks & 14 pairs of gloves. We are in need of more socks, hats & gloves. Another delivery will be made in mid- Dec.

Bea Chaplin



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December Worship Schedule
Hanging Of The Greens and Potluck
Sunday, Dec. 7th
11:30 pm

Christmas Eve: This year we will have two worship services: 5 & 11 pm. Both services will be candlelight and have distribution of Holy Communion.

Dec. 28th will be our Service of Lessons & Carols and distribution of communion @ 9:30 am.