



# Faith Journeys

## Faith Lutheran Church -- ELCA

January 2014

### Pastor's Message

Let's Get Excited!

Another year has wound down. The excitement of Christmas is coming to an end. So what's next for us here at Faith? Let's be honest, we're in the dead of winter, and the temptation is that this is the time when we can slow down. Christmas is over. Gifts have been opened, and thanks has been shared. Days are short, nights are long. But even in the midst of winter, we are reminded that this is not a time to slow down. Not really. For us, ministry never really slows down. There are still lives that need to be touched with the gospel, and people who have not heard the good news that we are invited to share, that God has come down to be with us in Jesus Christ.

Think of it. This is exciting news! When the shepherds left the stable where they found Mary, Joseph, and the child that the angels told them about, they went from there praising God and shouting for joy! For God had shown them the salvation of the world present in the most humble of beginnings. I have to be honest, I think of this image, and I long for that infectious excitement. I long for the hearing again for the first time that Jesus Christ has come down to live among us, and that God's salvation is found through him. I wonder what it would be like to hear that news through the excited voices of those first witnesses of the realization of the gospel.

But that also makes me wonder what makes us excited these days? I must admit, it's not too often that I see congregants leaving the building on Sunday morning praising God and shouting for joy. If anybody knows how I can get my preaching to deliver that kind of a response, please let me know! But there are reasons that we have come to find Faith Lutheran as our church home, and I'm hopeful that these reasons are things that we can still get excited about as well. So I ask again, what gets you excited about Faith Lutheran Church? Why do you keep coming back week after week?

You might remember that in my last newsletter article I mentioned some of the reasons that the youth of Faith felt that Faith Lutheran was the right place to be. I asked the adult Sunday School group the same question a couple months back, and here are a few of their responses: "Faith's tradition of family," "The liturgical services," "Active in community and global awareness," "Spiritual needs are met," and "how we live up to our mission statement." My favorite, however, for the purposes of this article, was, "fellowship and friendships".

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#### Annual Meeting

Faith's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th,, 2014 after 9:30 am worship.

In case of inclement weather, we have a snow date of January 26th, 2014 following the 10:30 am service. Please plan to attend!

## Christmas Program

We are giving Michelle a much needed break after all of her hard work writing and putting together the Christmas Program : **“The Best Christmas Present Ever”**. We are ever thankful for Michelle and her ministry with our kids (and adults and families). Enjoy these snapshots from the program.



Top Left: Musical Direction from Linda Hoffman, Top Right: “oops” Bottom: anxiously awaiting their big performance. Next page: Sheep, Angels, Shepherds, The Best Present Ever, and after program relief. Celebrating Jesus’ birth can be both meaningful and fun. Thanks to all involved.



**Sunday School & Confirmation Return at 9:15 on January 5th!**

## Birthdays, Anniversaries & News

### Birthdays

01/03	Wally Brooks
01/04	Troy Rittschof
01/05	Samantha Lower
01/07	Kailee Lynn
01/08	Andrew Zilis
01/12	Dianne VanDrew
01/13	Savannah Moore
01/14	Barbara Harms
01/15	Sam Hacaga
01/16	Traci Sedlock
01/17	Isella Zepeda
01/18	Ed Heitter
01/20	Linda Daub
01/21	Judy Carter     Ed Hoffman
01/23	Doug Gay
01/25	Judy Payne
01/27	Brian Sieg
01/29	Diane Ruggerio

### Anniversaries

01/08	Mark & Katie Zilis
01/15	Tom & Deb Lower

### Address changes

Emily Duthie  
319 Cedar Ct., Apt. 6  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Marjorie Stichter  
1655 Overlook Dr.  
Dixon, IL 61021-9636

Dianne VanDrew  
710 Independence Dr.  
Princeton, IL 61356



### Life Line Screening

Faith Lutheran Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 1/21/2014.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).**

**Thank you all Women of Faith** for your Thank-offering. In 2013, your gift totaled \$484.75 and was sent to the Women of the ELCA, the church wide women's organization which supports women at home and around the world.



Calendar July

## Lay Ministry

### Greeters

8 am Harold & Bettie Helm  
10:30 am Jeremy & Cayce Groves and family

### Ushers

8 am Vivian Carlson  
10:30 am Mark & Gail Rogers

**Altar Care** \*\*Deb Lower, Angie Williams & Kim Zepeda

### Acolytes

01-05  
8 am Derek Primrose,  
Alyssa Stechschulte  
10:30 am Ethan Albers, Mark Hopkins  
01-12  
8 am C.J. Sedlock, Shane Sedlock  
10:30 am Mason VanDierendonck  
01-19  
9:30 am Logan Ortega, Brett Heinrich  
01-26  
8 am Samantha Carter, Derek Primrose  
10:30 am Mason VanDierendonck,  
Isella Zepeda

### Worship Assistants

01-05 8 am Nedra Knapp  
10:30 am Barb Harms  
01-12 8 am Eileen Liezert  
10:30 am Barb Harms  
01-19 9:30 am Al Duthie  
01-26 8 am Doug Wood  
10:30 am Barb Harms

### Communion Assistants

01-05 8 am Karen Fransen  
10:30 am Gail Rogers  
01-12 8 am Steve Liezert  
10:30 am Katie Queller-Zilis  
01-19 9:30 am Holli Duthie  
01-26 8 am Shelley Haws  
10:30 am Gail Rogers

### Readers

01-05 8 am Brian Fransen  
10:30 am Gail Rogers  
01-12 8 am Gloria Tyler  
10:30 am Diana Arntzen  
01-19 9:30 am Brittini Moorehead  
01-26 8 am Connie Wood  
10:30 am Gary Petersen

### Fellowship Hosts

01-05 Barb Harms  
01-12 Deb Lower  
01-19 Shirley LeMar  
01-26 Judy Payne

\*\* All Dates for Flowers in January are available.  
Contact the office if you'd like to sponsor them.

### Book Study Opportunity

Beginning Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. we will meet weekly to discuss Kelly Minter's study, "No Other Gods; Confronting Our Modern-Day Idols". In this 8 session Bible study, join Kelly and her friends – five fun, smart, women on a journey that makes room for God by confronting the modern-day idols that clutter and claim our hearts. There is a sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Information on the cost of the book will also be provided.

We hope you will join us. If you have any questions please contact Shelley Haws at [hawspaws@comcast.net](mailto:hawspaws@comcast.net) or 815-562-5382.



# Prayer Ministry

## Our Family

Ellie Hynson, Duane Truckenbrod,  
Mary Lowe, George Primrose,  
Mel & Betty Letheby, Bob Daub, Janine LeMar,  
Harold Helm, Claudia Nelson, Diane Sieg

## Our Friends

Keith Haggstad (father of Todd Haggstad),  
Carl (brother in law of Susie Wittwer),  
Dave (uncle of Margo Wilkinson),  
Al & Bev (parents of Al Duthie),  
Connie Hansen (mother of Angie Primrose),  
Keith (son in law of Chaplin's),  
Steven Groves (brother of Jeremy Groves)  
Tim Primrose (son of George & Marilyn Primrose),  
Marguerite (mother of Margo Wilkinson),  
Bruce Anderson (son in law of Vivian Carlson),  
Keith Dinda (grandfather of Katherine Case)



### Prayer Ministry for January

01-05	Tim & Paula Albers; Ethan & Ava Abe & Anne Anderson Alice Arjes
01-12	Steve & Diana Arntzen; Joe, Jamie, Peter & Matthew Angie & Ken Balcombe; Dalton & Tyler Pam Bauer
01-19	Kim Bear Darryl & Katie Bergeson; Alexis, Ethan & Kaylie Gene & Joyce Bialas
01-26-2013	Kristin & Brian Bozinovich; Haley & Abigail Mic & Tracy Brooks; Chad Wally & Norma Brooks

### Annual Meeting

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will be held on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
following 9:30 am worship. In case of  
inclement weather, snow date is  
January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 following  
the 10:30 am service.  
Please plan to attend**

February newsletter items are due to the  
office or Diana Arntzen by January 15.  
office@faithlcrochelle.org  
darntzen63@gmail.com

**Shawn e-mail: office@faithlcrochelle.org  
Pastor e-mail: Heller01@gmail.com  
Michelle e-mail: Yandf@faithlcrochelle.org**

# Pastor's message continued

*Continued from page 1*

The reason why I want to highlight this one is because of how we experience friendship and fellowship. When we speak with our friends, we often share about important things happening in our lives. We share our sorrows as well as our joys. I would hope that we share things that we are excited about in life.

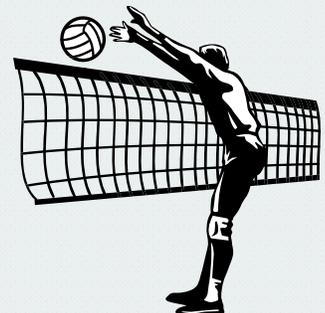
And the beauty of fellowship and friendship is that these are things that happen at Faith Lutheran, but is not exclusive to Faith! We can be active in fellowship and friendship wherever we are, and in these moments of fellowship, we have the opportunity to share with others. What are we going to share with them? Is our faith life an important thing to share with those who are not joining us on Sunday mornings? If we are sharing important aspects of our lives with others, and we believe that our faith life is important to who we are as people, doesn't that mean that we are going to then share what we are excited about at Faith Lutheran Church with those we encounter? If we are excited about Faith, might we find that that excitement could be contagious to our friends and loved ones? Perhaps they, too, in sharing in our excitement, might want to hear more about the good news of Jesus Christ, that lamb of God come down to earth. Perhaps our joy, much like the joy of the shepherds, will become an integral part of the faith journey of those around us. So may we all find the joy and excitement of the renewal of hope that comes from Jesus Christ our Lord. May we speak to it and speak to the part that Faith Lutheran plays in its renewal. May we see the Lord and know him with joy. *Peace, Pastor Chris*

## Budget

<b>Revenues</b>			<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Actual Net Income/Loss</b>
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
Month	\$14,898.81	\$14,541.00	\$13,862.15	\$15,268.00	\$1,036.66
YTD	\$156,723.41	\$159,959.00	\$170,992.08	\$168,151.00	-\$14,268.67
<b>Building Fund Revenues</b>			<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Actual Net Income/Loss</b>
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
Month	\$4,661.00	\$4,932.00	\$4,463.00	\$4,774.00	\$198.00
YTD	\$50,890.00	\$44,392.00	\$49,354.24	\$42,968.00	\$1,535.76
<b>M&amp;M (Building) Fund Balance</b>			<b>M&amp;M (Building) Fund Balance</b>		<b>M&amp;M (Building) Fund Balance</b>
					<b>\$9,558.47</b>

### Floorburners looking for a Few Good Men

Faith is bringing back Faith Floorburners co-ed volleyball team. We are looking for a couple of guys that would like to be on the team. We have five women who have already committed to playing, but only three guys. You must be over age 18 to play. Games are on Friday evenings starting in January. We play at the new Lincoln School. The cost is \$24.00 per person. If you are interested please let Laurie Gay (815) 562-2168 know as soon as possible.



# More News



Pick up your 2014 envelopes in the Fellowship Hall or you can sign up to have your offering automatically deducted from your bank account using Simply Giving.

Did you know Simply Giving can be set up for contributions to the M&M fund, as well as, the general fund? You can select when your account will be charged. Enrollment forms can be found on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. You may change the amount of your giving or discontinue your participation in the program at anytime.

Some people prefer not to use Simply Giving because they want to place their contributions in the offering plate. We have Simply Giving stickers you can place on your envelopes. This will inform the counters that your contribution was made by an automatic debit to your checking account.

Contact the church office for assistance on any of these items.



## The Tower

The wind storm that roared past the front of the church on Sunday, November 24 knocked our memorial bell tower into a neat heap on the ground. Thankfully no other part of the church was injured by that crash. Although the tower has been leveled, it will be rebuilt in the spring.



Thanks to the great teamwork of the following fellows, the debris was carted away and the bell secured.

Grateful thanks to all of you!!

- Doug Fisher [The man with the front-end loader]
- Jonny Myers
- Doug Wood
- Todd Haggstad
- Al Duthie
- Stephen W. Liezert [The man with the truck]

## OUTREACH MISSION FOR FAITH: Rochelle Food Pantry



- \* **January: Peanut Butter & Jelly**
  - \* **February: Cleaning Supplies & Paper towels**
- Monetary donations accepted.**

**Faith Lutheran Church --ELCA**  
**14206 Flagg Rd**  
**Rochelle, IL 61068**

Return Service Requested

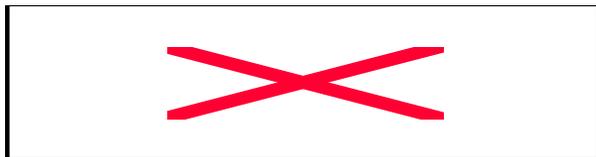
Phone: 815-562-7575

Fax: 815-561-9166

Email: [office@faithlrochelle.org](mailto:office@faithlrochelle.org)

Web: [www.faithlrochelle.org](http://www.faithlrochelle.org)

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### ***Annual Meeting***

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*Thank you to DNA Communications for the  
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