

Faith Journeys

Faith Lutheran Church -- ELCA

November 2014

Pastor Joy's Message

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Sharing Our Gifts

Two great church musicians that I was privileged to work with, Craig Carlson and Jennifer Fox, wrote* a beautiful song entitled, "To the Least of These." Here are the words:

He said truly I tell you, just as you have done to the least of these, you have done it unto me.

If I were hungry would you give me food to eat? If I were thirsty would you give me some water to drink? If I were a stranger would you welcome me?

He said truly I tell you, just as you have done to the least of these, you have done it unto me.

If I were naked would you give me clothes to wear? If I were helpless would you show me how to care? If I were a prisoner would you pray for me?

He said truly I tell you, just as you have done to the least of these, you have done it unto me.

What a powerful reminder. It really makes me stop and think. I find myself wondering am I treating everyone and doing everything as if I was in the presence of Jesus Christ? Am I sharing my blessings with those who are considered the "least of these?"

Though stewardship is something that is a part of our daily lives as a Christian, we are in the midst of our focused stewardship emphasis as a congregation – "First, We Give of Ourselves." We do this each fall as we prepare the budget and the ministry plans and schedules for the coming year of Making Christ Known together.

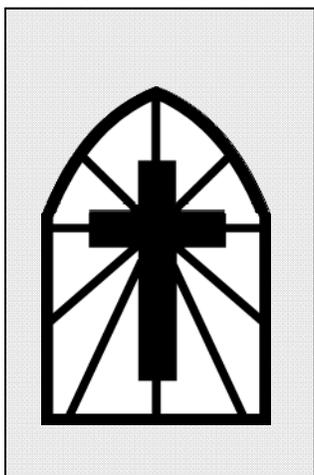
Often when we hear the word stewardship we think of money, and that is important, no doubt. But equally important is the way that we share of our time and of our abilities. God has blessed each of us with an assortment of unique and special gifts. How then can we use those to care for the hungry, the stranger, and the helpless?

Often the greatest gift that we can offer is that of ourselves. It is unbelievable the difference that each of us can make. Not because we have to – but because we are blessed and able to do so.

On Sunday, November 23rd, you are invited to bring not only your financial commitment card, but also your "Time & Abilities Commitment form" (both will be distributed later this month) to the altar to offer them to our good and gracious God.

Please know that I thank God for each and every one of you and the many ways that you live out your FAITH each and every day.

*If you would like information on purchasing their CD's, please let me know!



From Your Youth and Family Coordinator

evan·ge·list

noun \i-'van-jə-list\

: a person and especially a preacher who tries to convince people to become Christian

: someone who talks about something with great enthusiasm

: a writer of any of the Gospels in the Bible

You may be thinking that being an evangelist is just solely the job of a pastor. A common visual that may come to mind when hearing the word evangelist, is the charismatic Tele-evangelist, who enthusiastically preaches God's word from inside huge arenas. We are not like them. We have no formal training to preach God's word. The definition from good old Merriam-Webster says that an evangelist is a person, and especially a preacher who tries to convince people to become Christian. So, let's leave all that evangelizing to the people who are trained to do so, right?

You may know that this Christmas we are putting together a Live (Drive Thru) Nativity Scene on Sunday, December 14th. Usually, it is solely the Sunday school children that participate in the Christmas program. This year, I envision this Live Nativity Scene as an opportunity for all of us to participate as evangelists to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth. We are all Christians, people who believe in the Good News of the Gospels, and our call as Christians is to spread the Good News to all people. We may not have "written" the gospels as the definition states, but we can use our words and actions to spread the Gospel!

We can be people who share the Gospel with "great enthusiasm"! We can be enthusiastic in the acts of dressing up as the Wise Men, singing the songs of the angels, passing out hot chocolate to passing cars, herding live animals, lighting luminaries around the church, spreading the word throughout the community, and enjoying fellowship with one another. What a fantastic way to show God's love to others in our community, who may not be aware of God's unending love and grace that He has for all of us!

We are all Evangelists! Here is our opportunity to Make Christ Known Through Lives Of Faith!

I encourage you to look for ways that you can help. Please check out the list of things that we need donated and for the volunteer opportunities.

Thank You!

Michelle

Sunday School & Confirmation Schedule

All through November the kids will be working on songs and special crafts for our Live Nativity Scene in December.

11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23: 9:15 Class

*11/12: Wednesday evening confirmation class at 6:00

11/30: No Class- Thanksgiving Break



Looking ahead to December:

12/7: 9:15 Class

12/14: 9:15 Live Nativity Scene Practice, 5:00 pm Live Nativity Scene begins. A more detailed schedule will be mailed to you in December.

Live Nativity Scene Volunteers Needed

We need everyone's help to make this a successful event! Here are some ways you can help from home:

- * Help cut milk jugs to make into luminaries
- * Help glue popsicles into stars (all jugs, glue, and popsicle sticks are provided)



Some ways you can help on Sunday, Dec. 14th

- * Sign up to be a parking attendant, to be a character in the nativity, kitchen helper, cookie coordinator, photographer, decorator, and to spread the news! See the volunteer board in the fellowship hall.

We hope we can make this a community-wide event to help spread the true meaning of Christmas.

Youth Ministry Fall Fundraiser

Buy One Get One cards for \$20.00 for Wendy's and Alfano's that last for an entire year! Our fundraiser purpose is to help us with funding future youth activities such as our youth encounter trip, youth activities for all ages, camp discounts, service projects, and our "Goat For Christmas" campaign. We would like to purchase a Goat through the ELCA World Hunger program- 10% of our earnings will go towards purchasing a goat to help alleviate hunger in parts of our world.

Thank You for your support!

Birthdays, Anniversaries & News

Birthdays

11-01 Aubry Liezert,
Kari Ortega
11-06 Eileen Liezert
11-10 Steve Arntzen



11-11 Rachael Hale
11-14 Christopher Sedlock
11-16 Carl Brune
11-18 Devyn VanDierendonck
11-19 Mary Ann Tarvestad
11-20 Jack Tarvestad
11-22 Lindsey LeMar
11-24 Nick Haws
11-25 Claudia Nelson
11-27 Audrey Payne
11-29 Alex Ortega
Sonya Tarvestad



Anniversaries

11-4 Doug and Connie Wood
11-12 Brian & Diane Sieg

Baptism

On October 5th, 2014, David Christopher Sawlsville became our newest member of Faith Lutheran through the sacrament of holy baptism. David's parents are Chris & Amanda Sawlsville. His sponsors are Felicia Sage & Brian Sawlsville. David's paternal grandparents are Dave & Laura Sawlsville.

Sympathies

The congregation would like to extend their deepest sympathies to the following people:
-Judy Carter & family at the death of her sister Marlene Cahoon
-Tim Heitter and Ed & Lois Heitter at the death of his daughter/their granddaughter Olivia Heitter

-Doug Wood at the death of his aunt, Wiona
-Pam Bauer at the death of her cousin, Patricia Helms Tanaka

LWR Quilt & School Kit Donations

The Quilting ladies were able to complete 40 quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to everyone for your generosity of school supplies. We were able to ship 64 kits. Thank you to those who helped pack everything for shipping: Bettie Helm, Peg & Blayne Bakken, Roxann Weber, Duane Truckenbrod, Pat Gosse, Vivian Carlson, Alice Arjes, Diane Ruggerio, Shirley LeMar, Dick Schutte and Pam Bauer.

Poinsettia's

This year we will be purchasing poinsettia's from Colonial Flowers. They will be \$14 each. If you are interested in purchasing one, please call the office or watch for the pink insert in your bulletin. Deadline for orders is Dec. 1st.

Change of Address

Ed & Lois Heitter
2232 Conway Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-625-6476



Tim Heitter
Tim's mail can be sent to the above address for the time being.

Calendar

Lay Ministry

Prayer Ministry

Members:

- + Carl Brune
- + Lois Rewerts
- + Diane Ruggerio
- + Alberta Taylor

Friends & Family: Friends & Family:

- + Josh Byrd (grandson of Harold & Pat Gosse)
- + Marilyn Casey (sister-in-law of Nedra Knapp)
- + Cheryl Eich (friend of Nedra Knapp)
- + Luke Goss (Grandson of Carl & Geneva Brune)
- + Norm Gruben (friend of Diana Arntzen)
- + Keith Haggstad (father of Todd Haggstad)
- + Connie Hansen (mother of Angie Primrose)
- + Kevin Larimore (friend of Doug & April Moorehead)
- + Tammy Svela
- + Carl (brother-in-law of Susie Wittwer)
- + Marguerite (mother of Margo Wilkinson)
- + Peggy (sister-in-law of Alice Arjes)
- + Deb Roberts (friend of Gloria Tyler)



December Newsletter items are due to the office by November 15:
office@faithlcrochelle.org

Shawn e-mail: office@faithlcrochelle.org
Pastor e-mail: Pastor@faithlcrochelle.org
Michelle e-mail:
Yandf@faithlcrochelle.org
815-562-7575

Budget

General Fund

	Revenues		Expenses		Actual Net Income/ Loss
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
Month	\$16,776.15	\$15,096.00	\$12,662.83	\$15,163.00	\$4,113.32
YTD	\$145,489.31	\$135,880.00	\$149,143.19	\$136,627.00	-\$3,653.88

Building Fund

	Revenues		Expenses		Actual Net Income/ Loss
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
Month	\$4,679.00	\$4,435.00	\$11,463.00	\$4,774.00	-\$6,784.00
YTD	\$44,159.00	\$39,927.00	\$47,167.00	\$42,968.00	-\$3,008.00

M&M (Building) Fund Balance \$6,976.47

Ladies Tea—*You're Invited*

LADIES-leave the turkey & football behind!

Come to a **Tea on Sunday Nov. 30th** at 1:30

Bring your favorite tea cup. Sign up in fellowship hall.



Thank offering Sunday

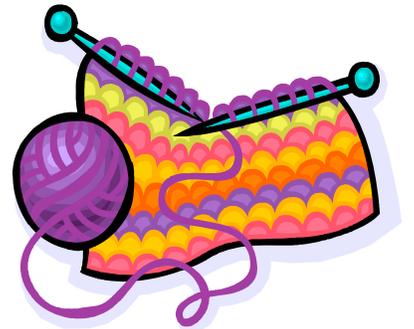
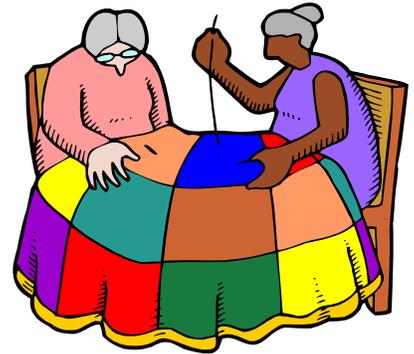
Mark your calendars!

Ladies of Faith will have their Thank offering Service on Sunday, November 9th. A silent auction will be held for 3 different quilts. Auction ends at 12 noon this day.

A variety of cream puffs will also be for sale. All ladies are encouraged to participate in this day!

Who is WELCA? All Women of the congregation . Some of the things that the women participate in are as follows:

- * Making quilts/ raise money to ship the quilts
- * Collecting items for LWR school kits
- * Purchase confirmation flowers
- * Worship Ministries
- * Lead monthly Bible study/circle
- * Serve funeral luncheons
- * Manage the church library
- * Collect hats & mittens, crochet scarves for local school children.
- * Help serve & prepare meal/desserts for the monthly Community Dinners
- * Teach Sunday School.



OUTREACH MISSION FOR FAITH: Rochelle Food Pantry

November: Diapers and baby wipes
December: Cookie mix, box of tissues.

Monetary donations always appreciated.

Outreach Opportunities

LSSI Holiday Hope Chest

It is hard to believe, but Christmas will be here before we know it. One of the ways that we celebrate our Savior's birth is by sharing our blessings with others. We are partnering with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) to provide gifts to our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout our community. LSSI has invited us to provide items for the following categories: Babies, Children, Teenagers, and Senior Citizens. Items that are needed are listed below. You may purchase one item, or several. The support is greatly appreciated. Please return these items **unwrapped** to the church fellowship hall by **Sunday, November 23rd** so they can be delivered and given at Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Joy.

Baby Items:

Onesies (Sizes NB-18 months)
 Sleepers (Sizes NB-18 months)
 Diapers (Sizes NB-3)
 Pull-ups (Sizes 2-3T & 3-4T)
 Baby wipes
 Receiving Blankets
 Baby Toiletries (lotion, soap, shampoo)
 Tub Toys
 Teething rings/rattles
 Musical/push toys

Teenager List:

Body lotion/spray/soap/cologne
 Hair accessories/jewelry/Watch
 Make-up kits/nail polish/lip gloss
 Curling iron/flat iron
 Books/games/cards
 Baseball hat
 College/Pro-Team Sweatshirts (Sz. Lg. & XL)
 Ear phones
 School supplies
 Wal-Mart/McDonald's/Subway gift cards
 Packs of "fun" paper/pens
 Small duffle bag
 Alarm clock
 Top 40/Country CD's

Children's Items:

Hair accessories
 Dolls
 Collector Cards
 Trucks
 Building block/assembly toys
 "Little Tykes" school bus, dump truck, etc.
 Learning/educational toys
 Nerf basketball/football
 Age appropriate movies & DVD's
 McDonald's gift cards
 Arts & Crafts supplies
 Science kit/microscope/astronomy/insects
 Balls

Senior List:

Gifts cards from Dollar General, Sullivan's,
 Walgreens, or Wal-Mart (You choose amount).
 Cleaning supplies
 Paper products
 Towels/Wash clothes
 Large print items
 Personal hygiene (soap, bath products, etc.)
 Pet supplies

Council Highlights & Outreach

Council Highlights – September Edition

- ◆ It was reported that the parking lot work (seal coating and crack repair) had been completed.
- ◆ It was reported that the balance of the Memorial Fund is about \$2,000. \$3,600 was applied towards the mortgage principal and \$3,200 was used to pay for the new banners (both items were completed with the donor's approval). A letter has been drafted to enable people to designate their money in a way that is most meaningful to them at the time of donation. It describes church needs and possible uses for their monetary gifts.
- ◆ The 2015 budget process will begin in the coming weeks.
- ◆ It was discussed to contract with the same person as last year for snow removal.

Community Suppers

Faith Lutheran continues to participate with St. Pats and other community churches and service clubs to provide one meal a week for the needy in the Rochelle community. On Oct. 13th we provided our 14th dinner since beginning in August of 2012. During that time period we have served 1321 meals.

We have 4 team captains and they take the lead every fourth month. We usually need 6-8 members for a particular night which includes creating the menu, preparing the food, setting up tables and chairs, decorating the tables, serving the food, and then restoring the hall to it's original condition. This usually requires a commitment from 4:00 – 6:00 PM on the second Monday of each month.

We have many people that serve each month but are looking to create 4 distinct teams. We are always looking for help and look forward to incorporating more youth into this outreach. There is more information on the Adult Sunday School Bulletin Board in the fellowship hall. Team captains are listed .

If you cannot provide the physical needs of this program please feel free to make a monetary donation by placing an envelope in the collection plate marked " Community Supper" and it will be put to good use.

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Return Service Requested

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Fax: 815-561-9166

Email: office@faithlcrochelle.org

Web: www.faithlcrochelle.org

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Daylight Savings Time ends!

Don't forget to

Fall Back at 2:00 a.m. Sunday November 2

