



The Herald Faith Lutheran

December, 2021—January, 2022

December & January Events

Congregation Meeting
December 5, 11:30 a.m.
Activity Center
see page 5

Christmas Festival of Music
December 12, 10 a.m.
Sanctuary
Followed by Christmas Banquet
Activity Center
see page 5



CDC Christmas Program
December 16, 6 p.m.
Sanctuary
see page 8

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
December 24, 5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Gospel Service
January 30, 10 a.m.
Sanctuary
see page 9

Adult Bible Study will not meet in December, due to the congregation meeting on December 5 and the Christmas banquet on December 12; we will take a Christmas break on December 19 and 26. In January, we will meet all five Sundays.

Masks at all events remain required for those who are unvaccinated and are recommended indoors for everyone.

All those eligible are also encouraged to get their COVID booster shots.



Dear Faith members,

After celebrating Thanksgiving in the last week of November, we are finally here at the last month of the year 2021. We look forward to this time of the year where as families, we gather for Christmas in our own homes and also here at church. Despite our busy schedules, we hope to be united as a family at last after the dreadful Covid 19 we all endured. Thank God for those vaccines available for everyone from the age of five years and older. That togetherness is a mark of us being God's children, loved and cherished. And we will all sing Psalm 118:24 which says, **"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

During the Thanksgiving and the Christmas periods, I, like many of you, have been doing a lot of reflecting about the past, present, and future of my own life, my family's, and Faith Lutheran Church as the new ministry site for us. What will 2022 have for us? Whatever it is, we don't know.

But we know who holds the future! Our future is in God's hand, we trust God everyday in our lives, and we take one day at a time, being thankful for every day as a Gift from God. I wish you all a peaceful family reunion and remember to rejoice and be glad in it. Happy and blessed 2022!

Peace!
Pastor Mamy Ranaivoson



Photos from Adult Bible Class







Scripture Readings for December

Pastor Mamy encourages you to read each Sunday's scriptures in advance of worship:

- December 5: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- December 12: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- December 19: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
- December 26: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Scripture Readings for January

Pastor Mamy encourages you to read each Sunday's scriptures in advance of worship:



- January 2: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18
- January 9: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- January 16: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
- January 23: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
- January 30: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Council Highlights from October 25, 2021:



- With Advent season beginning on Sunday, November 28, decorating the sanctuary will be on Tuesday, November 30.
- Congregation budget meeting will be in person on Sunday, December 5, at 11:30 a.m.
- Festival of Music during worship service and luncheon following will be on Sunday, December 12. Congregation members are invited to bring a side dish or dessert reflecting cultural heritage or favorite Christmas dish.
- Masks are required for all who are unvaccinated and recommended for everyone, along with social distancing.
- Coffee/fellowship time and Adult Bible Study will resume after worship service on Sunday, November 7.
- Upbring Angel Tree will be in the narthex.



**Congregation Budget Meeting
December 5, 11:30 a.m.
In person, Activity Center**

Faith's December congregation meeting to approve the 2022 budget will be held Sunday, December 5, following worship. The meeting will be held in person in the Activity Center, using social distancing. Masks will be required for anyone who is unvaccinated and encouraged for all.

Eligible voters are defined in our constitution as confirmed members of Faith who have both communed and made a contribution of record to this congregation at least once during the current or preceding calendar year (2020 or 2021). A contribution of record means one to which your name or envelope number is attached. If you put cash in the offering plate without your name or envelope number, that is **not** considered a contribution of record. Other members of your household may or may not be eligible to participate in the meeting, depending on their own communion and contribution records. Spouses share a contribution record, but confirmed youth and adult children must make contributions under their own name or envelope number to be considered eligible voters. This rule (C8.02) is required by the ELCA of all its affiliated congregations.

In summary: Those confirmed FLC members who wish to speak and vote at any congregation meeting need to commune and make a recorded contribution at least once in the current or preceding calendar year. Deadline to do so for this meeting is November 28.

Questions may be directed to the church office by email or phone.



**Christmas Festival of Music
December 12, 10 a.m.**

**Please plan to worship with us either in person
or by live stream on Facebook.**

**Worship will be followed by our traditional
Christmas banquet, in the Activity Center.**

Faith's Church Council will provide entrees, bread, and drinks.

**Congregation Members are invited to bring:
a side dish or dessert reflecting your cultural heritage
or a favorite Christmas dish.**



Foster In Texas Angel Tree





THANK YOU for so quickly adopting all 25 angels. They were “claimed” in 2 Sundays!! Popular requests among the kids this year included Spirograph Deluxe and Squashmallow stuffed animals. There will be BIG smiles in many Texas foster homes on Christmas morning thanks to your generosity!!



Do you know someone who needs a little extra love and care this holiday season? Care Notes are little inspirational booklets on a variety of topics such as “Getting Through the Holidays When You’ve Lost a Loved One” or “Finding Hope in the Holidays.” These FREE booklets are available on a table at the back of the church. Take them for yourself, or for a friend.

Looking for Christmas Gift Ideas? Consider. . .

	<p>ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts – As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we believe that God’s love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others.</p> <p>Visit ELCA.org/goodgifts and provide a family with items such as farm animals, a water well, a latrine, a microloan, a computer for a community center, school supplies, immunizations, food for orphans, warm blankets and much, much more. You can donate in honor of or in memory of someone, and print a personalized card to mail or email to let them know of your gift.</p> <p>If you don’t have access to the internet, there are a few ELCA Good Gifts Catalogs on a table at the back of the church.</p>
	<p>SERRV International – This fair-trade organization sells handmade craft items and foods for a fair price which reduces the effects of poverty and transforms lives. Enjoy the creativity of artisans from around the world. Shop the collection at: www.serrv.org OR look for a few physical catalogs on a table at the back of the church.</p>

COMING IN JANUARY, 2022 – so put this on your calendar NOW!!!

Stock the Pantry!

===Drive-Thru===

Benefitting ACL Bread for All Pantry

Saturday, January 29, 2022

Watch for details in bulletins and on Faith’s website in early January.



Hi, ladies:

Thanksgiving has come and gone and, although the coronavirus pandemic is still with us, hopefully you and yours were able to get together to give thanks and celebrate this year. Already decorations are going up, people are shopping for Christmas gifts, and plans are being made for the Christmas holidays when we as Christians gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Before you know it, we'll be celebrating the start of a New Year, looking forward with hope for good health and life for all with an end to this pandemic!

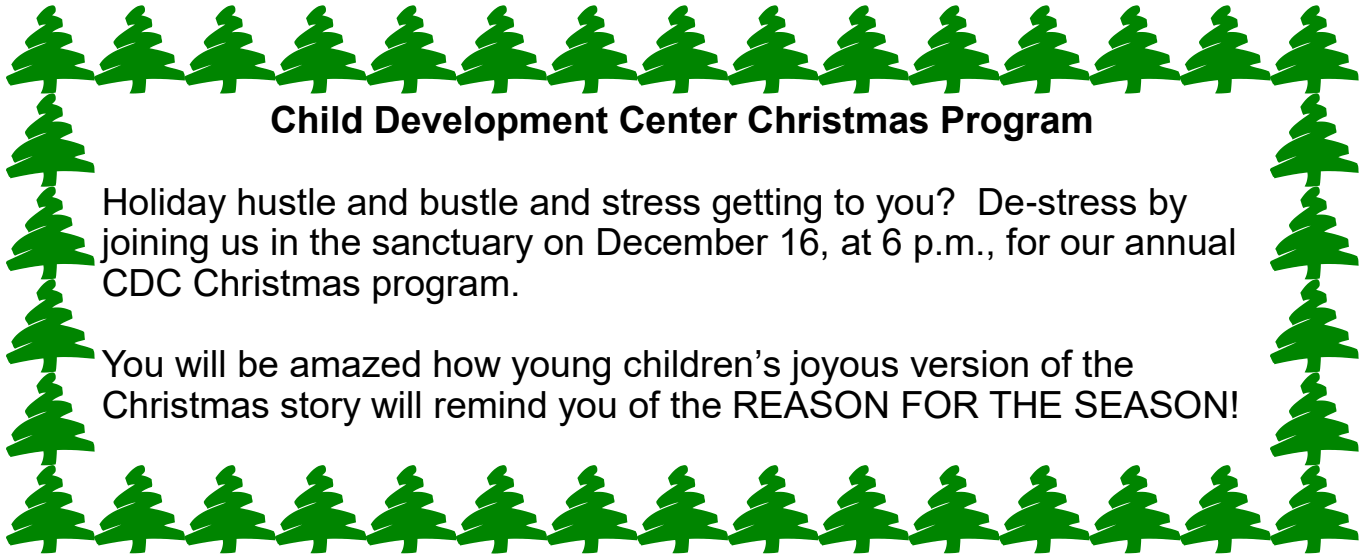
Bible Study -- The November/December issue of the *Gather* magazine includes the last session of the Bible study on "The Gift of the Spirit: A Divine Wild Goose Chase," a study of the Holy Spirit to help us understand the Spirit's action in scripture and our lives, teaching us "Spirit-sighting" skills through studying the Bible. The study, which focuses on how we act and the choices we make, will track down the images of Spirit as wind. In Greek the word for Spirit is "pneuma" (pronounced "nooma") and--like the word ruach for "Spirit" in Hebrew--pneuma means not just Spirit but also wind and breath. The study of "pneuma" is separated into several sections with pertinent scripture verses: A Playful Wind (John 3:1-10), Wind that Refines (Matthew 3:7-12), Wind that Refines Our Fruitfulness (Galatians 5:16-23), Wind that Re-Routes Our Lives (Acts 9:10-19 or the full story Acts 9:1-22), Wind that Re-Routes the Church (Acts 10:25-34, 44-48 or the full story Acts 10:1-48) and the Spirit Who Dwells in Us (Romans 8:14-28, 38-39 or the whole chapter). Geese don't fly alone, their V-formation gives them the command strength to face strong winds giving them endurance and speed. The lead bird is in complete service to the rest but the geese take turns sharing the burden while flying together. Paul wrote in Romans that the Spirit doesn't just accompany us but dwells within us, giving us strength and power to endure hardships and to hold onto hope when things are uncertain. The Spirit will birth new things in and through us. The Spirit is a Reviver, a Reformer, a Refiner, and a Re-Router and stays with us through struggles and joys, hears our groans, and gives us hope and courage. Just as geese don't fly alone, we don't live faith alone and are held together by the love of God.

Christmas for Burnet Road Nursing Home Residents This December -- For the past several years, Faith ladies have helped provide a merrier Christmas with gifts of stuffed animals to hold and cuddle for 13 residents at Burnet Road Nursing Home who seldom receive visitors (about 10 years ago when I first became involved with taking gifts to Burnet Road Nursing Home at Christmas, the Activities Director at that time told me there were usually about 13 residents who seldom had visitors). For this year's Christmas, enough cuddly animals have already been collected and it is my hope you ladies would also be willing to help gather socks for those residents. For those wishing to make sock donations, a box for collecting adult-sized socks will be put in the narthex through the second Sunday in December, after which the gifts would be delivered to the nursing home.

LWR Kits and Quilts -- The packed boxes of Personal Care Kits and School Kits were successfully delivered on Friday, November 5, to the LWR In-Gathering held in Marion, Texas. A total of 31 Mission Quilts, 76 Personal Care Kits, and 182 School Kits were delivered by members of the Outreach Committee. The women of the church greatly appreciate and extend our many thanks for all the support and help received from the Outreach Committee and other members of Faith Lutheran's congregation. Without the help of others who opened their hearts so willingly to help those in need, the Women of the Church would have been unable to have such a successful donation of LWR kits to this year's in-gathering!

May God bless each and everyone one of you and keep you healthy and safe. With the pandemic at Stage 3, hopefully, we soon will be able to gather together safely in the new year. Best Wishes to you all for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Charleen Schneider
WELCA Unit President



Child Development Center Christmas Program

Holiday hustle and bustle and stress getting to you? De-stress by joining us in the sanctuary on December 16, at 6 p.m., for our annual CDC Christmas program.

You will be amazed how young children's joyous version of the Christmas story will remind you of the REASON FOR THE SEASON!



Altar Guild



I will be contacting folks the second week of December who purchased poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service. I need to get information for the dedication list that will be included with the Christmas Eve bulletin. If you would like to contact me before then, I look forward to talking with you. Karen N. and I do have wording from some folks already.

I will put the 2022 Flower Chart signup sheet in the narthex on Sunday, December 19. I am happy to work with your budget.

We have had to adapt Altar Guild Saturday/Sunday duties during Covid. If you are not currently an Altar Guild member and would like to help, the time commitment is reasonable and the experience very rewarding. Most Saturday duties can even be done on Thursdays or Fridays. Any questions, please visit with me. Current members, let me know when you might like to help out.

Wishing you and your loved ones a special Christmas and a New Year that is filled with good health and many blessings.

Mary Beth Meiske
Altar Guild Chair and
Flower Coordinator





FAITH RINGERS

HANDBELL PRACTICES
in room 210 at 6:30 p.m.
December 1
December 8

Play for worship: December 12 & 24

January rehearsals TBD

If you are interested in ringing
with us, please contact
Karen McGuire.

Ability to read music is not necessary,
only a desire to learn.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Figures are approximate, since multiple people
may attend via each Facebook connection.

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook</u>	<u>Total</u>
October 31	50		
November 7	50	63	113
November 14	44	68	112
November 21	51	181	232



Gospel Service
January 30

Please join the Faith Gospel Singers
as we sing some of our
favorite old hymns.

Assisting Minister December & January Schedule

December 5	Lynn Davidson
December 12	Carol Roberts
December 19	Karen McGuire
December 24	Lynn Davidson
December 26	Cathy Zwernemann
January 2	Open
January 9	Open
January 16	Karen McGuire
January 23	Open
January 30	Open

MONTHLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$ 17,345	\$ 8,470	+\$ 8,875
Feb.	\$ 11,475	\$ 8,185	+\$ 3,290
Mar	\$ 14,011	\$ 12,869	+\$ 1,142
Apr	\$ 14,608	\$ 21,094	-\$ 6,486
May	\$ 14,377	\$ 17,028	-\$ 2,651
June	\$ 17,090	\$ 19,327	-\$ 2,237
July	\$ 13,861	\$ 19,816	-\$ 5,955
Aug.	\$ 15,736	\$ 24,104	-\$ 8,368
Sept.	\$ 13,470	\$ 22,363	-\$ 8,893
Oct.	\$ 25,982	\$ 21,311	+\$ 4,671
YTD	\$157,956	\$174,568	-\$ 16,612



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS
November, 2021

Altar Guild

Anonymous

In Memory of David Meiske

Altar Guild Flower Fund

Ben & Karen Noyes

*In Honor of Verlene Schoen's
90th Birthday*

CDC Playground

Pastor Gary & Maxine Goodson

In Memory of Novellia Hagar

Emergency Reserve

Bertha Emshoff

In Memory of David Meiske

Carl Schoener

In Memory of David Meiske

Carl Schoener

In Memory of Dorothy Mogonye

Stuart & Sondra Schwotzer

In Memory of David Meiske

Britt Thompson

In Memory of Dorothy Mogonye

Alan & Shelly Van Dyke

In Memory of David Meiske

Unified Budget

Pat Meiske & Cindy Dolezal

In Memory of David Meiske

Upbring

Byron & Ella Rode

In Memory of David Meiske

Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Call or text Karen Noyes, Administrative Assistant,
if assistance is needed on Thursday & Friday.

Member Updates

Transfers In:

From Messiah Lutheran Church, Austin, 11/21/21:
Clinton Henderson
Clinton, Jr. & Janet Henderson
Terry Henderson

Transfer Out:

To St. James Lutheran Church, Portland, OR, 11/21/21:
Darlene Wiersig



For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
6600 Woodrow Avenue
Austin, Texas 78757
Office: 512-451-1116

Website: *FaithLutheranAustin.org*
Faith is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Worship & Bible Study

Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study 11:30 a.m.
3rd Sunday Praise Service 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Day of Prayer
12:00 p.m. - Noon Prayer

Pastor: Manny Ranaivoson

Organist/Choir Director: Sam Bauer

Director of Handbells: Karen McGuire

Accountant: Lynn Davidson

Administrative Assistant: Karen Noyes

CDC Director: Melissa McCoy

MISSION STATEMENT OF
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

**We at Faith Lutheran Church believe in Jesus Christ
as Lord and Savior of all life and creation.
In response to His grace and love toward us,
we are called to share His love by reaching out to all people.
We are called to be a worshiping, caring, learning community.**

Faith Lutheran Church
6600 Woodrow Avenue
Austin, Texas 78757-2596

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