



FLC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Faith Lutheran Church & School is to share the word of Jesus Christ through a loving and caring ministry responding to the needs of all people.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2265 Red Lion Rd
Bear, DE 19701-1849
Ph. #: (302) 834-1214
www.faithlutheran.ws

WORSHIP SERVICES

Contemporary: 8:15 AM
Traditional: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 8:15 AM &
10:30 AM
Adult Bible Class: 9:30 AM



NEW BEGINNINGS

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’” Revelation 21:5

As we move into a new year, it gives us an opportunity for assessment and for goal-setting. We may look back on 2017 with nostalgia... or we may look back on 2017 with relief that we got through it... or we may look back on 2017 with grief or disgust or disdain for things that happened to us over the course of the year. Looking ahead to 2018 may bring excitement and anticipation for what the new year will have to offer... or looking ahead to 2018 may bring anxiety and worry about things known and unknown in the coming days, weeks, or months... or looking ahead to 2018 may also bring grief as we move into this new year having suffered loss or unwanted change.

The reality is that the turning of a new year is an arbitrary mark on our calendars. January 1 is no different than any other day of the year. The date itself holds no special promise nor looming curse. However, the turning of the new year has traditionally been a moment of reflection and a time for “resolutions” to make positive changes in our lives.

As God’s people, every day provides this same opportunity. We go to bed each night, looking back on the previous day with nostalgia, relief, grief, disgust, or disdain. This is our opportunity to lay it all at Jesus’ feet and ask forgiveness, give thanks, and seek strength and wisdom. His Word provides us grace, hope, and provision for a new day. Ideally, having laid it all out, listening to His Word, and reflecting on His voice to us and our situation, we go to bed prepared for a new day.

Then when we awake, we look ahead with excitement and anticipation, anxiety and worry, or grief. But again, *ideally*, we ask forgiveness, give thanks, and seek God’s strength and wisdom for the new day. We rest in the promise of our baptism – namely, that we are

PASTOR’S MESSAGE CONTINUES...

made new in Christ. The Holy Spirit dwells in us and daily transforms us more and more into God’s image. We daily fail and fall. We are broken and injured. But we are also God’s “workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

Luther’s Morning and Evening Prayers provide a great reminder for us as we go to bed at night and awake in the morning, as well as closing one year and beginning a new one...

Evening

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Morning


I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

May the Lord mightily bless your New Year and each New Day He gives you in His grace.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Thress

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Chad Bradford 6 - Elle Meyer 6 - Cathye Macken 10 - Darby Lyons 13 - Isaac Rufus 15 - Andy Borntreger 17 - Jules Vasant		20 - Brandon Bradford 25 - Lukas Vacula 27 - Eleanor Logan 27 - Rebecca Tepen 29 - Chris Monsell 28 - Maria Faverio 30 - Karlene Jennings
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CHURCH COUNCIL				
Chairman: Jeff Holsinger Ph.: 936-671-9245 faithchairman@aol.com	Vice-Chairman: Bruce Callis Ph.: 302-530-0990 Bcallis7723@yahoo.com	Secretary: Judy Andela Ph.: 410-920-0921 judy@andela.name	Treasurer: Nick Turner Ph.: 303-550-3519 nkturner@gmail.com	Financial Secretary: Beth Monsell Ph.: 302-690-9400 bmonsell@gmail.com
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CHURCH ELDERS				
Issac Rufus Ph.: 302-292-2377 Jibr20@aol.com	Carl Toensmeyer Ph.: 302-834-1704 drt@udel.edu		Ryan Zurakowski Ph.: 302-690-9712 ryanz@udel.edu	



PRISCILLA CIRCLE UPDATES

LWML Sunday will be celebrated on 1/28/18. The message will be presented by Carol Milliken. Mites will be collected.

The Priscilla Circle is currently planning a "Soup and Sandwich" fundraiser for 2/4/18. Mark your calendars. More details to follow. Donations from this event will go toward purchases for our church.



ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANCE NEEDED

We are still looking for a few more ladies to serve on the Altar Guild. The new schedule for 2018 will be out soon. If you have a preference or are interested in learning more about this ministry, please email Jill McLaughlin at labmom101@comcast.net

Ladies of all ages are invited.



FOOD FROM FAITH/GROCERY CLUB

Happy New Year everyone!!! We ended the year with our Grocery Club giving out very nice hams and a \$20.00 gift card for those folks who came to pick them up. It was all sponsored by the United Way of Delaware and the local AFL-CIO union. We are so grateful to them for such wonderful gifts for our families. They were so very appreciated by our families. A huge THANK YOU goes to Valerie Melendez for arranging all of it.

We are still looking for someone to co-lead our group. I would appreciate another person helping me and getting to lead when things come up that I'm not able to attend. Please prayerfully consider this position.

We need some folks to also sign up to help for this months' distribution. The sign-up sheets are behind the glass as you come in the front door.

Thanks to so many folks who helped to make December a success!!! It was so appreciated when a family emergency caused me to not be able to participate in helping this month with our Grocery Club. Looking forward to a wonderful NEW YEAR of helping our neighbors to have the food they need. Couldn't have done it without you all!!! God's Blessings for 2018!

Kim Wanzer



LUNCH WITH SANTA UPDATE

Hello Faith Lutheran Church Families

We would like to thank everyone that came out for Lunch with Santa on December 9th. While the snow looked like it was going to cause issues we had a great turnout as over 60 people attended the event.

The families that attended enjoyed food, crafts, singing Christmas carols, a special Christmas message from Pastor Thress and of course the kids were excited to see Santa and to take pictures with him.

Christie and I would like to thank everyone that attended Lunch with Santa as well as everyone who helped behind the scenes for making this event a huge success. We would also like to thank Thrivent's Action Team Program who provided seed funds that assisted in the success of this event.

God Bless You All – Christie & Chris Moore



UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy 2018! As we embark on the New Year with optimism about what lies ahead, we realize there will be moments of great challenge as we move forward. Thankfully in these times of trial, we know that our Lord will lead and guide us. With the New Year, Faith’s budget requires evaluation and recalibration to account for programs that we continue as well as exploring new opportunities.

In December, the Congregation approved a budget that increases nearly 6% year-over-year. Below are two charts that were distributed during the voter’s meeting. The first breaks down the two largest components (Salaries & Mortgage) and the second summarizes the anticipated expenses for 2018.

Faith Lutheran Church 2018					
	Annual	Weekly	% Adj	Budgeted Expense	\$ 224,539
Pastor + Support	\$115,229	\$2,216	6.9%	Outreach	2,750
Mortgage	\$30,000	\$577	0.0%	Pastoral Support	115,229
The Rest*	\$57,710	\$1,110	7.4%	Christian Worship	2,915
TOTAL	\$202,939	\$3,903	5.9%	Christian Stewardship	375
				Christian Growth	1,550
				Christian Youth	225
				Technology	1,000
				Administration	13,020
				Church Property	65,875
				Christian Pre-School	21,600

*Excludes Preschool

The following is a summarized list of notable changes to the 2018 Budget:

- The Elder’s approved a 3% increase for Pastor Mike and Beth Monsell (Church Secretary).
- “Technology” as an expense category was added to aid in upcoming tech expenses such as website design and IT Support.
- Under “Christian Growth”, an expense for Group Fellowship was added. This accounts for a quarterly luncheon similar to the Reformation luncheon that was held in October.
- A number of “Church Property” line items (Gas, electricity, septic, Trash, etc) were increased slightly to account for cost adjustments that have occurred over time.
- Council approved the increase of remuneration for live musician’s (Organist, violinist, etc) from \$50 to \$100 which is closer to market value of a private musician.

I ask that you prayerfully consider your personal giving situations as you review your personal budget as well as Faith’s budget above.

Yours in Christ,
 Nick Turner
 Treasurer

BIBLE STUDY UPDATES



MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday morning Bible Study will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. We will be studying the Life Light study of Selected Psalms, learning about the various types of Psalms written by inspired authors. Some are calls to the Lord for help, many are Psalms of praise and thanks, there are calls for God's mercy and forgiveness. Several Psalms ask God to judge those who have wronged the psalmist. He is trusting God to judge rightly, but let's God know that he feels wronged. Some of the Psalms rejoice in the worship of God in His temple, some look forward to the coming Messiah who will reign as King. The final category of psalms are known as wisdom Psalms, encouraging God's people to look to Him and His word for help in all situations. Psalm 119:105 states "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Telling us that God's Word will give us guidance in every situation.

Each of the 9 week studies will look at about 4 Psalms. All are welcome and we hope you will join us at 10:00 am on Wednesday beginning on January 10, 2018. Please see Judy Andela for lesson materials or call at 410-996-9748

Meeting Dates: January (10, 17, 24, 31). February (7, 21, 28). March (7, 14)



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

For the month of January, Pastor Thress will be leading the following bible study...

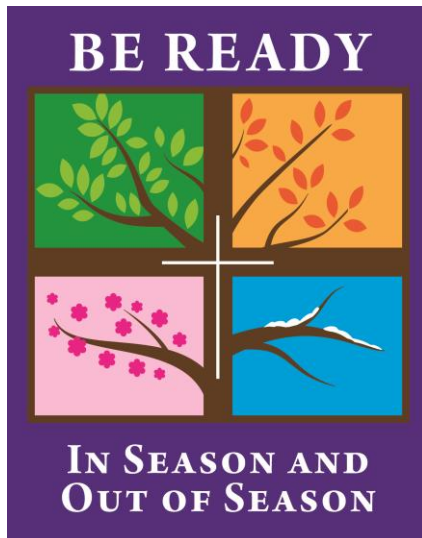
In *The Bible On Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt*, the case is made that the Scriptures are authentic, dependable, God-inspired and worthy-not only of our full attention but of our complete faith. In this Bible study, attorney Craig Parton leads the viewer through relevant points that comprise this important discussion. He asks, "Is this book, the Bible, and its contents-reliable?"

This question has been fiercely debated for centuries-and rightly so. If the Bible is not worthy of our faith, if it is riddled with errors, if it is full of inconsistent and false information, then knowing that up front is vital in forming a decision about it. If, on the other hand, the Bible stands up to critical scrutiny and academic investigation, if it shows itself to be a trustworthy record of historical events and God's dealing with man, then its all-inclusive promise to sinners of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ makes it the world's most important book.

In four sessions, *The Bible On Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt* addresses critical views of the Scripture, examines evidence from the ancient world, surveys how archaeology often corroborates the Biblical record and considers the word of those who were either Jesus' contemporaries or were closely connected to eyewitnesses who knew Jesus -and His remarkable life-well.

This Bible study features expert testimony from Dr. Paul Maier of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Dr. Randall Price of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.; Dr. Jeff Kloha of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. and Joel Lampe of The Bible Museum, Goodyear, Ariz.

LWML SUNDAY – JANUARY 28, 2018



Celebrate LWML Sunday with us on January 28, 2018

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time. Come celebrate here at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 28, 2018. Building on God's promises, we know that this is our time to be distinctly Lutheran. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each woman's identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ, encouraging and equipping Christian women to live out their lives in active mission ministries, and to support missions around the world through their sacrificial gifts of mites, tithes, offerings, and tireless service. Now is our time to "Be Ready to Confess!" faithfully and boldly of Christ's redemptive work for us and for all the world. Mites will be collected on January 28, 2018 instead of the following Sunday (February 4, 2018).

Basic Facts of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League

- The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).
- It has as its "mission heart" thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world.
- "Lutheran Women in Mission" describes in spoken and written form who we are and what we do.
- It is women who are finding avenues to use their God-given talents as they meet the challenges to share the Gospel message.
- It is composed of individual women and women's groups within congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, on campuses, in resident homes, or in other settings.
- The LWML seeks to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among women of the LCMS through education, inspiration, and service.
- A major emphasis is the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of Mite Box offerings. These Mite Box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization's inception in 1942.

UPCOMING YOUTH GATHERING

Attention Faith Youth – 6th through 12th Grade!!

The New England and New Jersey Districts are hosting a regional Youth Gathering April 27 – 29, 2018 in Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania. This conference is open to 6th -12th graders. It would be a great opportunity for the youth at Faith. Please let Amy Cannavo (Ph#: 302-737-9380; Email: acannavo@comcast.net) know if you are interested in attending. Early Registration ends January 15. Fees will be covered by the FLY fund.

**NORTHEASTERN LUTHERAN
YOUTH GATHERING**
TUSCARORA CONFERENCE CENTER, PA
APRIL 27-29, 2018

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COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The start of a new year always brings lots of new. New friends, new additions to family, and renewed hope that the new year will be a lot better than the last. Just like things change from year to year, the way we communicate to each other does as well and has over the years.

Our current website, www.faithlutheran.ws has served us well however it is time for us to move on to a website provider that will allow us to expand our communication not just to each other but to the world. As you know I am currently overseeing design of our new webpage and with the webpage, we will have a new web address which is www.faith-lutheran.church. The reason for this change is our previous web address (www.faithlutheran.ws) has a designation (the .ws) that is reserved for government sites in Samoa.

The goal with the new webpage, www.faith-lutheran.church is to increase our communication with our congregation and the world by sharing the good news of Jesus and the great work we are doing at Faith Lutheran Church. Right now the new website is a work in progress however any webpage is ALWAYS a work in progress so over the next few weeks and/or months you will see new items added.

So this update also comes with a question, what do you want to see with our new website? This is not my website, this website belongs to the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church so please feel free to share with me your thoughts, reactions and suggestions. Please share these items through the new webmaster email address which is webmaster@faith-lutheran.church

On Christmas Eve we recorded a very short video with Pastor Tress who shared greetings and a prayer that was posted to the church's Facebook page. In the short time that video has been available, it reached 906 unique Facebook users (or people) and 446 of them actually took the time to watch the video. The video was viewed by Facebook users in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Utah and even California.

That is all that I have for this month's update. As always, help is needed as we have several areas within communications that assistance is needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact me.

Peace be with you all and have a happy and safe new year!!!

Chris Moore.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT/MEETING	TIME
January 15 th	Priscilla Circle Meeting	7:00 pm
January 21 st	Church Council Meeting	9:30am
January 28, 2018	LWML Sunday Celebration @ 10:30 service	10:30am

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENT/MEETINGS ARE AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH