



# FLC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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.faitlh-lutheran.church](http://www.faitlh-lutheran.church)

## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

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



## GOD WITH US

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).” Matthew 1:23

I cannot think of a greater comfort than the comfort God gives us in the simple name ‘Immanuel.’ It’s much more than a name or even a title. It tells us the true miracle of this child, born in a stable, laid in a manger. God gives us a promise – a promise first given to Adam and Eve, a promise fulfilled in Christ our Savior, a promise which He keeps for us every day of our lives, a promise which will never end.

What is this promise? This promise is about God’s faithfulness, God’s constant presence, God’s personal touch on our world and our lives. ‘Immanuel’ tells us so much about our God who revealed Himself in this Jesus who was born as a baby, who lived for thirty-three short years, who died an innocent death on a cross. What does it tell us? It tells us exactly what it means – God is with us! You see, this ‘Immanuel’ is none other than our eternal God and King! This baby is no ordinary child, but GOD WITH US!

As we embark on this season of Advent, leading into Christmas, we not only look back to see the promise of ‘God with us’ fulfilled 2000+ years ago in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we also stand today with a keen awareness of God’s constant presence, that God remains with us every day, just as Jesus promised before He ascended to heaven: ‘And surely I am with you ALWAYS, to the very end of the age.’ Matthew 28:20

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE CONTINUES...

Please join us during this Advent and Christmas season as we cling to that great promise of our God and Savior – Immanuel! During our midweek Advent services, each Wednesday at 7PM, we are examining the “O Antiphons”, which are the basis for the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” As we look at the vivid imagery of this hymn, it encourages us to delve into the wonderful hope and peace and joy that our Immanuel brings.

‘O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!’

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Michael Thress

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 – Payton Athes     |                         |
| 2 - Breena Knapp     | 20 - Jim McGaughan      |
| 5 - Jonathan Scurato | 25 – Jesus Christ       |
| 7 - Roy Nuernberg    | 25 – Marcus Sinibaldi   |
| 8 - Krista Miller    | 25 – Scott Gibson       |
| 8 - Jeff Monsell     | 25 - Chris Jones        |
| 8 - Dennis Wanzer    | 26 - Ryan Zurakowski    |
| 12 - Steve Cannavo   | 27 – Kathy Alfe         |
| 13 - Linda Miller    | 27 - Leah Thress        |
| 13 - Kathy Heverin   | 28 - Jim Martin         |
| 14 - Raychel Thress  | 28 – Mike Miklus        |
| 16 - Chris Moore     | 28 - Terrie Zelano      |
| 18 - Karen Barlow    | 30 - Larry MacLaren III |
| 19 – Loren Caudill   | 31 – Greg Zeland        |

## BI-ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING

Please join us between services (9:30am) on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for our Bi-Annual Voters Meeting. The main order of business will be adopting the 2019 budget as well as year-end reports. Please plan to attend to hear about all the exciting things happening in our ministry!

## COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is now fully upon us, that wonderful time of the year that we call Advent and Christmas! I do so look forward to this time of the year when we can visit with friends and family, eat way too much food and overall just enjoy life. But as we go about this busy time of the year, we need to take time to worship and pray. Here at Faith we have the opportunity to worship together each Wednesday with our Advent services as well as Christmas Eve services and our Sunday services. We have the opportunity to pray about anything and everything! When we pray it helps bring God near to us and us nearer to Him. Over the past year I have spent much time in prayer for our church, my family, and for Gods help in making decision that would affect both me and my church family. We pray to ask for Gods help in everything that we do and say but we need to also pray prayers of thanks for all the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. We need to realize that Prayer is a Privilege, an honor that that we can do freely. We alone have access to the throne room of God—not for the purposes of judgment but because He has added us to His family, made us heirs to His Kingdom. We have been invited to interact with our Father. We need to remember that we can pray to our Father this season as we shop, bake, wrap packages, sign cards, and decorate or anytime. Remember that in God word the Lord says, “It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.” (Isaiah 65:24 NKJV) We have been blessed to have this direct line to our Father and we can know that he hears us.

May you have a Blessed Advent and Christmas season.

As always with the help of God  
 Jeff Holsinger  
 Council Chairman

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

As we begin the Advent season is it important to note upcoming services for the month of December. We will hold Wednesday Evening Advent Services as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. On December 24<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with 2 Christmas Eve Candlelight services (all dates and times are below).



DATE	SERVICE	TIME
December 5, 2018	Midweek Advent Service	7:00pm
December 12, 2018	Midweek Advent Service	7:00pm
December 19, 2018	Midweek Advent Service	7:00pm
December 24, 2018	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	4:00pm & 7:00pm

Come and join us as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus.



## PRISCILLA CIRCLE/LWML NEWS –

### Mites

Our next Mites collection will be Sunday, December 2.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Saturday, December 15 at 10:00 AM. This is our annual Christmas gathering. Bring your favorite savory or sweet holiday brunch dish. You won't want to miss this special opportunity for fellowship. Secret Sister's will find out who their sister was. Want to join in the fun? Fill out the Secret Sister form and bring it with you. There will also be a Pollyanna gift exchange. Look for an invitation in the mail with more details or contact Kym Caudill. Sign-up sheets for set up, clean up, etc. are on the "clipboard".

### Upcoming events:

#### **Bake Sale - December 23**

Stock up for the holiday at our "pre-Christmas" bake sale. Donations will be sent to Preston's March for Energy, a charity that recently provided a bike to Will Harp.

#### **Altar Guild**

The schedule for 2019 is now available. Please see Jill McLaughlin if you haven't gotten your copy.

#### **Secret Sister Program**

The Secret Sister Program returns for 2019.

For those not familiar with The Secret Sister Program: The Secret Sister program is an outreach ministry for women in our church fellowship. All the ladies of our church are invited to participate. If you participate you will draw a name and that woman becomes your Secret Sister for a year. You become her silent prayer partner and her secret up-lifter. She doesn't know who you are. Likewise, someone will be caring for you in that way too. Secret Sisters are about encouraging, praying for, and supporting each other in small ways. You do not have to regularly attend Priscilla Circle meetings to participate.

More information and sign up form for the Secret Sister Program can be found at the end of the newsletter.



## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Faith Lutheran Church Family came together for one service as we welcomed new members into the family of Faith Lutheran Church. Please welcome...



Joshua & Jennifer Mertz -  
Emmett, Ryder, and Kaelyn



Ryan & Denyelle Hart –  
Ian and Devin



Debbie Eisenhauer –  
Raeanna and Jamie



Pastor Pete & Adele Mueller



Tom & Diane Roman

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT/MEETING	TIME
December 5, 2018	Midweek Advent Service	7:00pm
December 12, 2018	Midweek Advent Service	7:00pm
December 15, 2018	Priscilla Circle Christmas Brunch	10:00am
December 16, 2018	Bi-Annual Voters Meeting	9:30am
December 19, 2018	Midweek Advent Service	7:00pm
December 24, 2018	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	4:00pm & 7:00pm

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

## ADDITIONAL CHURCH UPDATES

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Breakfast with Santa was held on December 1<sup>st</sup> with 15 families attending. During the event we sang Christmas Carols, enjoyed lots of breakfast treats, Pastor Thress shared a special message with the attendees and of course the children got to spend some time with

Santa. Santa got to see 37 very good boys and girls who made sure Santa knew what they wanted for Christmas. Pictures from this event are available on FLC’s Facebook page. This event was sponsored through Thrivent Action Teams. We would like to thank everyone that came out to help with this event.

### YOUTH GROUP QUARTER AUCTION

The Youth Group Quarter Auction was held on December 1<sup>st</sup> with lots of people attending and anxiously awaiting to bid on various items. One of the prized items, the lighted Christmas Tree, went home with Mr. Christmas himself (see picture on right). The Youth Group Quarter Auction raised \$1307.50 that will be used for Youth Group Activities. Thank you to everyone who donated items and their time for this event.



### DONATIONS NEEDED – HILLTOP LUTHERAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

This year we are partnering with Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood (<https://www.hilltoplnc.org/>) to purchase gifts for children. Some donations are still needed. Please see the poster/sign-up sheet on the Nursery door to see what else is needed. All donations must be brought to the church by **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**.

# FAITH LUTHERAN SECRET SISTER PROGRAM

## What is the Secret Sister Program?

The Secret Sister program is an outreach ministry for women in our church fellowship. All the ladies of our church are invited to participate. If you participate you will draw a name and that woman becomes your Secret Sister for a year. You become her silent prayer partner and her secret up-lifter. She doesn't know who you are. Likewise, someone will be caring for you in that way too. Secret Sisters are about encouraging, praying for, and supporting each other in small ways. You do not have to regularly attend Priscilla Circle meetings to participate.

## What responsibility do I have as a Secret Sister?

Once names are drawn you can immediately begin sending notes, cards, or special secret greetings that can continue throughout the year. Something homemade, a sweet treat, or a simple gift is an appropriate way to say: "You're in my thoughts". Pray for your Secret Sister. Keep her in your thoughts. Please send a message at least once a month. Thinking about our Secret Sisters daily, and sending a little "hello" card at least monthly is why the program is so enjoyable. It's especially nice to receive those notes saying you're being thought about or remembered in a special way, or for a special reason.

**Encouragement:** Cards, thoughtful notes, poems, bookmarks, a journal or maybe her favorite candy bar or snack can be a delightful surprise. Review her personal profile sheet to get ideas, and remember to keep gifts small. While there is no set limit on the amount to be spent on gifts, keep in mind that this program is not about giving and receiving gifts. (If you do not have money to spend, don't!) Your words, even on a blank piece of paper, can go so far! And don't forget that prayer is powerfully encouraging!

**Support:** Send a bible verse or a special quote that you feel she would like. Maybe it is a comic strip for some laughs! Maybe it is secretly arranging a meal to show up at her door when you know she is very busy. Be creative, the opportunities are endless.

## How do I get a Secret Sister?

Complete the "All About Me" form and bring it with you to the Priscilla Circle Christmas meeting on Saturday, December 15. If you are unable to attend the meeting, hand it to Julianne Harp, Kym Caudill or Amy Cannavo by December 9. You can also mail the form to the church to the attention of the Priscilla Circle or scan it and email it. The forms will be drawn at the Christmas meeting.

## When do I find out who my Secret Sister is?

The program lasts for one year. Your secret sister will be revealed at the Christmas meeting next December.



## ALL ABOUT ME Information Sheet for Secret Sisters

I have been a Secret Sister before? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date (M/D only) \_\_\_\_\_ age (circle) 18-24 25-35 36-46 47-57 58-68 69-79 80+

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_ We have been married for \_\_\_\_\_ years

I am retired \_\_\_\_\_ I am at home \_\_\_\_\_ I am employed \_\_\_\_\_

If employed, where/what \_\_\_\_\_

My children and grandchildren. Share whatever you wish \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have the following pets \_\_\_\_\_

I like to collect \_\_\_\_\_

As a hobby, I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_

Candy bar favorites \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Magazines I like \_\_\_\_\_

Snack food or comfort food \_\_\_\_\_

Colors that suit me \_\_\_\_\_ My kitchen/bathroom color is \_\_\_\_\_

Books/Authors I like to read \_\_\_\_\_

The following prayer requests and/or concerns are often in my heart.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_