

Faith Weekly

A NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



PASTOR'S STUDY

*"Drop down, ye heavens, from above, And let the skies pour down righteousness:
Let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation."*
Isaiah 45:8a

Dear friends of Faith, Christ is coming! Advent, a time of preparation for His return, is drawing to a close as we see in the words of our Introit for both Ember Wednesday (yesterday) and this coming Sunday, Rorate Coeli. This name is the Latin translation for "Drop down," the first words of our Introit from Isaiah. The weeks of repentance over sin have led us to join the prophet in crying out, "Let the skies pour down righteousness," "Let Christ come!"

Let the skies pour down, and the earth open, let them bring forth salvation. Salvation comes not from our acts of repentance, or penance, but is poured forth from heaven. It is a life-giving rain poured into the parched and arid hearts of mankind. Salvation comes as the Son of God becomes the Son of Man at the Incarnation—the earth, the womb of Mary, opening to receive her Lord. This is God's grace to you. Righteousness poured into your heart in the person of Jesus Christ.

The Ember days of the Church year, including this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, are traditional days of fasting and self-denial. The modern church has emphasized such things much less than the church of our grandfathers. Yet, if Christians wish to reclaim our culture, it must begin with self-discipline. To the world Christmas is a time of excess. Who can get the most presents, the best gifts, eat the most cookies, and drown in egg nog. The Ember days of Advent strike at the heart of these gods of our world. They signify a pause from consumerism to focus on the true gift to mankind, the coming Messiah.

(Continued on p. 2)

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

21st Church Council Meeting - 11:45 a.m.

22nd "Generations of Faith:
Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 p.m.

24th Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 p.m.

25th Christmas Morning Service - 10:15 a.m.

27th Target Shooting Club - 10:30 a.m.

31st New Year's Eve Service - 7:00 p.m.

January

4th Celebration of Baptisms - 11:45 a.m.

10th Maintenance Workday - 9:00 a.m.

12th Confirmation Class - 7:30 p.m.

13th Board of Elders Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to join our Bible Studies online please notify the pastor and specify which Bible Study you would like to attend.

(Continued from p. 1)

Fasting for a few days from sweets, TV, tech, or food, won't bring you salvation, but it does help you to know you have the ability to say, "No." No to the world. No to the cravings of the flesh. No to the noise and chaos of life. And "yes" to the Word of God. Use a little of that "no" time to meditate on the coming of your Messiah. Ponder for a moment what it would look like in your life for the skies to pour down righteousness; the earth to open; and for your Savior to come.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor Sorenson

*O Lord, have mercy.
O Christ, have mercy.*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Names will be kept on the prayer list for 30 days unless otherwise requested.

| CATEGORY | THOSE IN NEED | PETITIONS |
|----------------------|--|--|
| THE CHURCH | For unity of doctrine and practice; faithful pastors, teachers, administrators, and laity; and courage to preach and teach the whole counsel of God. | <i>Kyrie elieson!</i> Lord, have mercy! |
| THE NATION | Elected officials; First Responders; Military; and Justices. For economic stability; for peace in our nation and around the world and especially for peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa. | For just rule, a peaceful, orderly society, and relief from natural disasters. |
| HOSPITALIZED | | For healing, safety, and strength. |
| IN CARE FACILITIES | Edna Opatka, George Klemaier, and Shirley Sorenson | For healing, strength, hope, and that they may know Christ's love. |
| UNDERGOING TREATMENT | Colton Hafner, Jim Watters, and Neal Laeder. | For healing, strength, patience, compassionate & wise care givers, and faith. |
| HOSPICE | | For comfort, peace, and faith. |
| GRIEVING | David Sieja | For comfort, and the peace in the hope of the Resurrection. |
| NEW LIFE | | For a healthy pregnancy for mother and child, safe delivery, and God's blessings on both family and home. |
| SPECIAL REQUESTS | Gail and her family (Connie, Maya & Jaxson), Carol (Linda R's niece), Jane Sternemann (Rachel's aunt), Bart Tallent (Kathy Kreiman's brother), Lisa Kunder (Kathy Kreiman's sister), Marge Sieja, Lara Musumeche (Jeff's sister), Tom Fowler, Linda Richardson, JoCarol Kautz (Sue Laeder's cousin) Stephen Fenton (cancer), Johanna Punch, Fred Robbins and Karl Streitenfeld (Kathleen Kreiman's son). | That the Holy Spirit, knowing the needs of His children, would intercede on their behalf before heaven's throne. |

3 LET'S TALK FINANCES

Faith Weekly

A regular update of the financial health of our congregation.

The numbers below are the unrestricted offerings and current expenses of the Church.

We received additional donations of \$100 for the Sunday Bible Study, \$100 for the Wednesday Bible Study, \$3,590 for Stained Glass Windows, and \$45 for the new Musical Instruments Fund that consolidates the former Organ and Piano Funds. The current Musical Instruments Fund balance is \$10,100 and the balance of the Stained Glass Windows Fund is \$3,750.

| | NOVEMBER | 2025 |
|---------|----------|-----------|
| INCOME | \$18,369 | \$331,636 |
| EXPENSE | \$16,882 | \$267,483 |
| TOTAL | \$1,487 | \$64,153 |

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE...

Website - www.faithdunedin.org
Zelle pay - Check with your bank.
Email: treasurer@faithdunedin.org

THIS WE CONFESS

The following excerpts come from the Lutheran Confessions. Unless otherwise note, they are from the Tappert edition of the Book of Concord, Mühlenberg Press, 1959.

Behold, here you have the true honor and the true worship which please God and which he commands under penalty of eternal wrath, namely, that the heart should know no other consolation or confidence than that in him, nor let itself be torn from him, but for him should risk and disregard everything else on earth.

On the other hand, you can easily judge how the world practices nothing but false worship and idolatry. There has never been a people so wicked that it did not establish and maintain some sort of worship. Everyone has set up a god of his own, to which he looked for blessings, help, and comfort.

(The Large Catechism, I, 16-17)

BIRTHDAY

2nd Esther Engwall
6th Melinda Larson
6th Yvonne Stange
9th Kyle MacLean
12th Barbara Treubig
16th Tina Sunday
24th Mary Malinowski
25th Lowell Stange

ANNIVERSARY

3rd Jack & Janine McKenna
29th Andy & Martha Sorenson

BAPTISM

1st John Wood
15th Martha Sorenson
19th Elda Thomas
19th Johanna Punch
22nd Esther Engwall

*There is one body
and one Spirit*

Thank you!

For continuing to support the Word and Sacrament ministry at Faith Lutheran with both prayer and your donations.

DONATIONS

If you would like to donate flowers to beautify the Sanctuary during our services, please sign up using the Flower Calendar posted on the bulletin board in the Mail Room behind the Sanctuary. Please use the provided envelopes & request forms. Cost is \$25 per arrangement. Orders may be placed in Sharon Murawski's mailbox.

Thank you to everyone that brings in aluminum cans to be recycled. The monies generated are placed in the general church budget. Please keep bringing empty cans and placing them in the trash bin outside of Luther Hall.

SERVANT NOTES

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATED

The church photo directory has been updated for May 2025. Printed copies are available on the table in the mail room. A link to download a digital copy has been emailed to all members.

MEMENTO

Memento is an effort to help Christian men "Reclaim the Man" through the exercise of spiritual discipline. It includes learning how to practice physical and spiritual discipline in your life - rooting your life in prayer, fasting, and the Word, to discover the man God created you to be. This is a program developed by LCMS pastors and laymen. You can learn more about it at Memento70.com. The program is set to commence in 2026.

If you sign up before Christmas Day, you can lock in at the rate of \$60/year. After Christmas this increases to \$90/year. Several men from the congregation have already enrolled.

SERVING IN DECEMBER

| SUNDAY SERVANT | 7th | 14th | 21st | 28th |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| GREETERS | Peggy Harting | Peggy Harting | Peggy Harting | Peggy Harting |
| USHERS | Brian Murawski & Jeff Phillips |
| SERVERS | Paul & Flo Bellhorn |
| ALTAR CARE | Steven Arsenault | Steven Arsenault | Steven Arsenault | Steven Arsenault |
| ACOLYTE | Lukas Nieminen | Lukas Nieminen | Lukas Nieminen | Lukas Nieminen |
| COMMUNION ELDER | Carl Belknap | Carl Belknap | Carl Belknap | Carl Belknap |

FAITH FAMILY PHOTOS



Pink or Rose

This past Sunday, Gaudete, and the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare) are the two Sundays of the Church year when the rose colored paraments are used. Why rose?

The traditional color for the penitential seasons is violet (purple), which signifies penitence, preparation, and royalty. However, on the two Sundays above, the Church strikes a more anticipatory note and so lightens the color.

Rose was chosen because it is a lighter, softer version of violet. It is created by mixing the penitential violet with the pure white of Christmas and Easter joy. This reflects the theme of darkness slowly giving way to light—penitence to salvation. It's a visual reminder that our repentance is not without hope. Christ has come. Christ is coming.

December 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--------|------------------------------------|
| 30 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship | 1 7:30pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal | 2 | 3 10:15am Advent Matins 7pm Advent Vespers | 4 7pm Bible Study (Online) | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Celebration of Baptisms | 8 7:30pm Confirmation Class | 9 7pm Board of Elders Meeting | 10 10:15am Advent Matins 7pm Advent Vespers | 11 7pm Bible Study (Online) | 12 | 13 9am Maintenance Workday |
| 14 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship | 15 6pm Christmas Caroling | 16 11:30am LWML Christmas Luncheon at Pineapple Jacks 5:30pm Dunedin Youth Guild | 17 10:15am Advent Matins 7pm Advent Vespers | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Church Council Meeting | 22 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve 7pm Christmas Eve Service | 25 Christmas Day 10:15am Christmas Morning Service | 26 | 27 10:30am Target Shooting Club |
| 28 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship | 29 | 30 | 31 7pm New Year's Eve Service | 1 | 2 | 3 |