

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

Dec. 2017/ Jan. 2018

---



Dear Friends in Christ,

## “Christmas” by John Betjeman

The bells of waiting Advent ring,  
The Tortoise stove is lit again  
And lamp-oil light across the night  
Has caught the streaks of winter rain  
In many a stained-glass window sheen  
From Crimson Lake to Hooker’s Green.

The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
“The church looks nice” on Christmas Day.

Provincial public houses blaze  
And Corporation tramcars clang,  
On lighted tenements I gaze  
Where paper decorations hang,  
And bunting in the red Town Hall  
Says “Merry Christmas to you all.”

And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children’s hearts are glad,  
And Christmas-morning bells say “Come!”  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window’s hue,  
A Baby in an ox’s stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissue fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,  
Nor carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare –  
That God was Man in Palestine  
And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.

*Have a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas,  
and a Glorious Epiphany!*

**Pastor Birkholz**



# In and Around Faith Church

---

## Ladies Aid

Thank you to everyone that helped at our Bazaar. We appreciate those who worked, donated and those that came to this event. We appreciate your support.

We invite all the ladies of Faith to our Christmas Party on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Please bring a dish for the common table; the meat will be provided. If you would like to participate in the grab bag, please bring a \$5:00 wrapped gift.

There is no January meeting.  
Have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

---

## Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the church for Christmas at 11:00 AM on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stick around after Sunday School and Bible Class to set up the Christmas Tree and the Nativity Scenes as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Decorations will be taken down at 11:00 AM on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

---

## Christmas Caroling

Christmas caroling will be on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. We'll be leaving promptly at 2:00 PM to visit Marshall Peterson at Providence in Palos Heights, and then we will see Gene Tebo at Park Villa at 3:30 PM. Everyone is invited to join us!

---

## Children's Christmas Service

The Sunday School students will help to lead the first part of our service on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The children will help with the readings and the songs, focusing on the different names of Jesus revealed throughout the Christmas story.

## Advent Services

Midweek services for Advent will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. These evening prayer services are the perfect way to end a busy day. There will also be a Soup Supper at 6:00 PM, and you will have the opportunity to sing some Christmas Carols before the service, starting around 6:40 PM. Stay after the service to help with our mission project for the month, making blankets for the Southside Pregnancy Center.

### December 6<sup>th</sup>: St. Nicholas

Santa Claus is actually based on a real person, the bishop Nicholas of Myra. Nicholas was known for his generosity, especially towards children. He was present at the Council of Nicea when the Nicene Creed was written. Join us on his feast day, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, to learn more about him, and bring a spare shoe to church for a special surprise.

### December 13<sup>th</sup>: St. Lucia

St. Lucia was a famous martyr of the early church. She helped to carry bread to the hungry, and is often pictured wearing a wreath with candles on her head. St. Lucia's Day is December 13<sup>th</sup>, and is highly celebrated in Sweden.

### December 20<sup>th</sup>: St. Thomas

St. Thomas wanted to touch Jesus as proof of His resurrection. On St. Thomas's Day, we remember that Jesus came as a real, physical human being, just like us.

---

## Wednesday Evening Service Schedule

There will be no Wednesday evening prayer services on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> or Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Services will resume on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and continue through May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

# More Church Happenings

---

## Hymns of the Months

### **December: “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” (# 336)**

Charles Wesley was the great hymn writer of the Methodist movement. Nine of his compositions appear in our hymnal, including “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” and “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.” “Lo, He Comes” was written in 1758, and tells of Jesus’ return in glory. It is a meditation on Revelation 1:7, “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.”

The hymn was included in Lutheran Worship with the same tune as “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.” The tune in LSB is actually the original tune for this hymn. It sounds more regal and majestic, rather than haunting and mysterious.

### **January: “Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure” (# 533)**

This hymn, originally published by Johann Allensdorf in 1736, originally had 23 verses, of which four are included in our hymnal. The tune dances along like a waltz. The text comes out of the Lutheran Pietist tradition, and focuses on the internal experience of Jesus’ saving work. The first verse tells of the joy we have in Jesus’ incarnation as both God and Man. In the second verse we hear of how Jesus liberates us from guilt and fear. Jesus’ destruction of death and Satan is the theme of verse three. The final verse concludes with Jesus as our glorious king.



**Joy to the World!**

---

## Epiphany Service

Faith will be hosting our area Epiphany service again this year. We will have a festival Divine Service at 7:00 PM on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, including special music from the Southwest Lutheran Chorus. Light refreshments will be served immediately after the service.

---

## Bingo

Save the date! Family Bingo Night will be on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

---

## Installation of Officers

All officers and servants of the congregation will be installed during the Divine Service on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. We will also have our January Voters’ Meeting following the service on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

---

## Missions of the Month

Our mission for December is the Southside Pregnancy Center. You can help in the following ways:

- Pray for the mothers and their families in their time of need.
- Pray for the staff and workers as they show love and compassion.
- Help to tie fleece baby blankets after the Advent Midweek services.
- Donate needed items such as diapers, wipes, and baby clothes, using the Giving Tree in the church narthex.
- Give a monetary gift as a door offering after the service on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our mission for January will be the Faith homebound members. If you have any suggestions of projects that we could do to benefit them, please speak with Pastor Birkholz

# Member Recognition

---

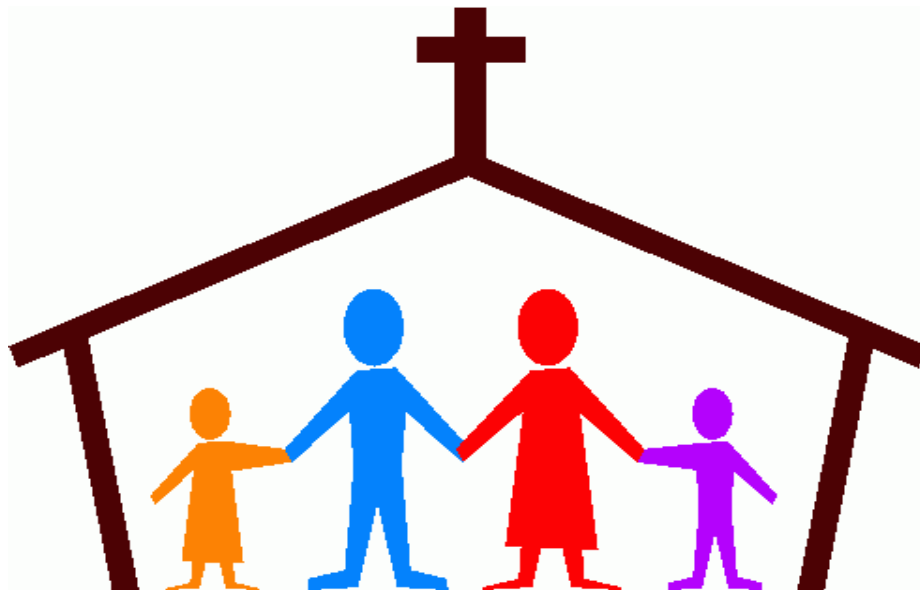
On Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have a special reception following the service to honor those new members who have joined our congregation in the past year, and those with significant anniversaries of confirmed membership here at Faith in the coming year.

## New Members:

Shyleena Cruz  
Kathie Nowak  
Angela Schillaci  
Bob & Tomi Stroh

## Anniversaries of Membership:

60 Years: Marilyn Diehl  
50 Years: Ed Neaves  
40 Years: Bob & Sue Stegmann  
35 Years: Alden & Marge Ketchum; Frank & Celeste Oslakovic; Lynne Trojanowski  
30 Years: Linda Machtan  
25 Years: Debbi Hochgesang; Renee Machtan  
20 Years: Jaclyn Robbins  
15 Years: Ken & Tracey Breitbarth; Ray Godbout; Dan Konrath; Alyssa Robbins; Pat Wiksten  
10 Years: Pastor & Amberleigh Birkholz; Ruth Boye  
5 Years: Dorothy Blume; Scott Boye; Judy Kozola; Kim LaMantia; Karen Mirabile; Matt Piergies; Lewis Radosevich; Eric & Mary Rosenbrock



# Schedule of Dec.2017 / Dec. 2018 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Dec. Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
6	6:00 PM	Soup Supper
	7:00 PM	Advent Worship
10	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
13	6:00 PM	Soup Supper
	7:00 PM	Advent Worship
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	Children's Service
		Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
20	6:00 PM	Soup Supper
	7:00 PM	Advent Worship
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship / Communion
25	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship / Communion
31	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class

## Weekly Meetings

<b>Bible Study</b>	Fri. - 10:00 AM
<b>AA Groups</b>	Mon. & Fri. - 6:00 PM
	Wed. & Thur. - 7:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
<b>Alanon</b>	Tue. - 7:30 PM

## New Bible Class

Our Sunday morning class will be wrapping up our series on Martin Luther in December.

Starting in January we will have a new study on the Gospel According to St. Mark. Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels and the most focused on Jesus' actions. Most of our Gospel readings in the Divine Service will be from Mark.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Jan. Event</u>
6	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
7	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
10	7:00 PM	Prayer Service
14	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
17	7:00 PM	Prayer Service
20	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
21	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 M	Sunday School / Bible Class
24	7:00 PM	Prayer Service
28	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
31	7:00 PM	Prayer Service



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

# Dec.2017 / Dec. 2018 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

---

## Dec. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Dec. 3** Alden Ketchum  
Ed Neaves  
Mary Slepski  
Ray Bennett

**Dec. 10** Mike Kampenga  
Richard Clark  
Kenilynn Breitbarth  
Mark Trojanowski

**Dec. 17** Alden Ketchum  
Gene Osmanski  
Marilyn Diehl  
Sheila Kush

**Dec. 24** Mike Kampenga  
Ed Neaves  
Richard Clark  
Katie Kampenga

**Dec. 31** Gene Osmanski  
Richard Clark  
Cheyenne Breitbarth  
Mark Trojanowski

---

## Midweek Services 7:00 PM

**Dec. 6** Mike Kampenga  
Gene Osmanski

**Dec. 13** Alden Ketchum  
Ed Neaves

**Dec. 20** Richard Clark  
Ray Bennett

**Dec. 24** Gene Osmanski  
Alden Ketchum  
Richard Clark  
Sheila Kush

**Dec. 25** **Christmas Day 9:00 AM**  
Ed Neaves  
Mike Kampenga  
Katie Kampenga  
Marilyn Diehl

## Jan. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Jan. 7** Mike Kampenga  
Alden Ketchum  
Mary Slepski  
Ray Bennett

**Jan. 14** Ed Neaves  
Richard Clark  
Sheila Kush  
Dora Haynes

**Jan. 21** Gene Osmanski  
Alden Ketchum  
Marilyn Diehl  
Katie Kampenga

**Jan. 28** Ed Neaves  
Mike Kampenga  
Mark Trojanowski  
Richard Clark

---

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**Dec. 3** Ray Benett

**Dec. 10** Mike Kampenga

**Dec. 17** Children's Service

**Dec. 24** Debbie Hochgesang

**Dec. 31** Mark Trojanowski

**Jan. 7** Ed Neaves

**Jan. 14** Dora Haynes

**Jan. 21** Kenilynn Breitbarth

**Jan. 28** Gene Osmanski

---