

FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

In the summer of 1980, my family lived in a small apartment on the corner of a busy intersection of a south Seattle community. It was no small endeavor for a nine-year-old to traverse the six lanes of traffic by foot or by bicycle, but adventure awaited. Crossing that street was scary, and as I think back on it as an adult now, there were more dangers than I was even aware of then. When I traveled that road with others it was much easier than when I went alone.

.....
*So do not fear,
for I am with you;
do not be dismayed,
for I am your God.
I will strengthen you
and help you;
I will uphold you
with my righteous
right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

.....

Advent and Christmas remind us that we don't walk alone. The Lord holds our hands as we cross the streets of this life; He upholds us with His righteous right hand. Remember that this is true no matter how scary or difficult the street you are crossing may be. Leading up to Advent we have considered what it means to be **ALL IN** on a Jesus-shaped path. It begins by us remembering it is the LORD who holds us by His hand, and continues as we cross the streets of life together as the Body of Christ. Thank you for reflecting that togetherness: members from ages 7 to 95 joyfully made pledges to the LORD and His work through our **ALL IN** commitments.

As we remember this great Christmas gift of God With Us, we continue our mission to lead others to Christ. We don't cross that street alone; we do it together. Our annual **Generosity Initiative** reflects the fact that we are blessed to be a blessing. This year, three families are leading the way with gifts totaling \$65,000 to Faith Lutheran so that on Christmas Eve our gifts up to that amount can go out to others, including:

Salvation Army, Faith Comes by Hearing, The Son Network, The Rock at Noonday, Joni & Friends of NM, CareNet, and the FeedNMKids project here at Faith.

Gifts above the \$65,000 total on Christmas Eve will go to support Faith's **ALL IN** mission together.

As we cross the street of the disciple-life God has for us, let us remember that we never walk alone. We walk this Jesus-shaped path no matter how hard it is – with God, with each other, and sharing this wonderful Good News with those we encounter!

MAY THE JOY OF GOD WITH US STRENGTHEN US ALL!



DR. JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR



May Your Christmas be Quiet

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Advent is now underway and Christmas is on the horizon. The busy-ness of the church is at a fever pitch. Young people have prepared their Christmas program. Your senior pastor has been designing liturgies for the coming changes in Church season which happen quickly at this time of year. Diane and Karen, our administrators, are adding the products of all the work of others to their normal (heavy) workload. And, lest we forget, many volunteers are working behind the scenes to plan and prepare many, many things to make this time of year special—decorating the church's worship and gathering spaces, preparing for special events, offering Christmas cheer to our neighbors, and much more.

At the same time, we all prepare for the celebration of these important holidays in our homes too. We anticipate the arrival of family members and dear friends; therefore, we clean and decorate our homes, prepare foods, and make ready to welcome those who will come to sing the song of life with us at Christmastime.

At work, hopefully, things are extra-busy for you too. There often seems to be more for many of us to do at this time of year and fewer work days to get things done.

Then, there are the many things necessary to make our homes and yards ready for the coming winter. These necessary chores are made more difficult by the colder weather and the shortened periods of daylight.

Let's face it; it's easy to find ourselves in the doldrums at this time of year. Even if you are one who is energized by the busy-ness of the season, your mood can be affected by those around you who do not share your enthusiasm.

Whether you are one who loves this season or one who dreads much of what the season brings, my prayer for you is the same. May you separate yourself from the busy-ness of this time of year. May you do something counter-cultural ... may you find quiet time to be alone with God. Your quiet time may be found in your breakfast nook early in the day before the rest of your family rises or the telephone begins to ring. Your special time with God might be late in the evening when you can turn the TV off and push the computer aside. Perhaps you may have the chance to commune with God during a portion of your lunch hour when you can be away from your desk at work. May the purpose of your time of quiet be to reflect on the meaning of the birth of the Christ child in your own life.

From creation's perspective, the coming of the baby Jesus makes all things new. Hope is placed in our hearts because God demonstrates his love for us and does so in our midst. Joy springs into our lives because we are no longer burdened by the sinful ways things have always been. Love is available for us to share because the ultimate gift of love has been given to us all by the God who created everything in the first place. Then, with hope, joy, and love in our hearts, peace – the sense of well-being we all long for – is available for every child of God.

Creation collectively receives and rejoices in the birth of Jesus Christ. You are an important member of the Body of Christ. But remember, God's gift of His Son is for you, too ... personally. May you set aside that time of communion with God so that the busy-ness of this season does not distract you from God's special message of inspiration meant just for you.

May the Christ Child come, and give you peace,
Pr. Mark Behenna

What is Hope?

WRITTEN BY PASTOR SCOTT STRACHAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means God is with us) -Isaiah 7:14

Let's consider three questions as we enter into the Advent season:

What is hope?

What is the difference between hope and optimism?

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised a Savior, but few expected our savior to be incarnated as a helpless baby in a dirty stable. What role did hope play in the lives of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men as Jesus came into the world?

As we consider these questions, I encourage you to read through the following Bible verses:

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's armies will make this happen! -Isaiah 9:6-7

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" -Luke 1:26-33

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail." Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. -Luke 1:34-38

And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. -Titus 2:12-13

Simply put, their hope and our hope is assured in the fact that God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to fulfill his promises and to redeem us.

In Christ,

Dr. Scott Strachan



Mission Corner

PREPARED BY GINNI WEBB AND MISSION & SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM

"GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO THE WHOLE CREATION. -MARK 16:15

Your Mission & Service Ministry Team recently made distributions of **October 2023 Mission Offerings** as follows:

\$830.00 to Common Hope: Where there is hope, there is a way forward. In partnership with Guatemalan families, Common Hope strives to provide the means and opportunities essential for a better life. They believe there's more to an education than supplies, so from healthcare to housing, becoming more starts with doing more. Our congregation sponsors the education of two students in Guatemala. This payment is for the sponsorship of 14-year-old Juan Daniel Hernandez Flores. He and his family will be supported with education, health care, housing and Family Development for the 2024 school year. commonhope.org

\$300.00 to Roadrunner Food Bank: As the leading hunger relief organization in New Mexico, Roadrunner Food Bank plays a major role in distributing a variety of donated and purchased food items to people struggling to cover all their nutritional needs. This commitment to hunger relief has been at the core of their work since their founding in 1979. Their food industry partners have helped make their work a reality by donating millions of pounds of food from across the country and right here in New Mexico year after year. It has become a secondary part of their mission to "SEED partnerships that build self-sufficiency for tomorrow and LEAD to achieve their vision of permanently ending hunger in our state." rrfb.org

\$900.00 to Samaritan's Purse: This donation is earmarked for war-torn Israel and Ukraine Assistance where needed most. As the fighting between Israel and Hamas intensifies, Samaritan's Purse is supporting churches and Christian partners in Israel as they reach out to civilians who have been impacted. In the midst of incredible suffering, Samaritan's Purse has been providing massive relief in Ukraine for over 18 months. Partnering with Ukrainian churches and others, they are bringing critically needed food, water, and other critical items to areas devastated by war. All of this relief is provided in Jesus' Name while they also distribute Bibles in their languages. samaritanspurse.org

2023 Annual Christmas Toy Drive for Salvation Army

November 18 - December 10

Donate unwrapped toys for girls & boys, infants through 14 years old. Bring them to the table in the Centrum beginning November 18th.

faithabq.org/missions

Faith
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Let's be a blessing to needy children in our community!



Thank Yous

Dear Faith Members and Mission and Service Team Members,

Your recent donation of \$345.00 was received and your support means the world to your neighbors, and we want to share some incredible news with you. Fueled by the generosity of caring friends like you, Meals on Wheels New Mexico (MOWNM) is making an even greater impact on your community this year.

It's truly astonishing to realize that as of the end of September, MOWNM will have delivered more meals than the total delivered in all of 2022. This represents an increase in the number of meals served, friendships forged, and lives improved!

With your continued support of Meals on Wheels New Mexico, you play a vital role in ensuring that our neighbors' most essential needs are met. Your kindness rings deeply within our community and it is genuinely appreciated.

Thank you for being such a compassionate and essential part of our mission.

Warm regards,
Shauna Frost
Chief Executive Officer, Meals on Wheels New Mexico

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift and investing in the children and families of Cuidando Los Ninos. With your support and partnership, we are breaking the cycle of homelessness. Our amazing staff gets our families off the streets, into housing and on the right track for a successful future.

At Cuidando, we provide young children experiencing homelessness with the highest quality pre-school experience, nutritious meals throughout the day and most importantly we provide a safe environment for our families both in and out of the classroom. Parents receive education and support which builds self-confidence and resiliency ensuring that the family is stable. For us at Cuidando Los Ninos, this is our goal for every family that walks through our doors.

We appreciate you being the voice, light, and energy that it takes to change lives.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Hoehn
Executive Director, Cuidando Los Ninos

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

I'm writing this on behalf of our Sombra family who received your amazing and generous gift to assist with their electric bill. Your monetary gift has helped this family get their electricity back on! Thank you for making going home from school each day easier for this family. Your kindness, generosity, and altruism say so much about your caring congregation.

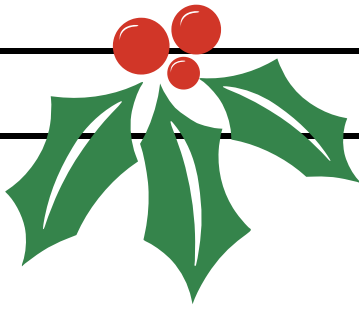
Sincerely,
Sombra Del Monte School

To Faith Lutheran Church,

We want to thank Faith Lutheran Church on behalf of our entire household. We as a family are going through financial difficulties and our electric bill came at a time when family members were either unemployed or changing their jobs, and we had to delay this payment. Unfortunately, PNM turned our electricity off. We really had difficulties continuing our daily activities like washing, cleaning, eating and so on. It was particularly difficult for our son as it affected his school performance and his daily homework. With your help, we will be able to save for the future, and look for jobs. Thank You!

Sincerely,
Sombra del Monte Family





DECEMBER 2023

December Birthdays

PREPARED BY DIANE WILDER, CHURCH OFFICE

1 Rachel Archer, Mark Baumann, Bill Dennis, Laura Thurman, Brooke Volza

2 No Birthdays

3 Karin Anderson, Elliot Mortensen, Loran Huber, Malia Orell

4 Emily Eckelman, Mary Hinderla

5 Kathy Gehrke, Jesse Lynch

6 Allyson Boyer, Carol Cox, Katelyn Edwards, Willa Lisica

7 Thomas Krekel, Elizabeth Petruno

8 Gary Baltzer, Alec Kainer, Russel Pederson

9 Laila Strachan

10 Heidi Draper, Darryl Droemer, David Mattison, Sue Saracsan

11 Joshua Burwinkle, Iona Klinetobe, Rhoda Nelson, Jeannene Telck

12 Jessica Behenna, Roy Benson, Noah Meyer, Yvonne Weiss

13 Debbie Peres, Emma Zepper

14 Andy Crossland, David Johnson, Jeffrey Mortensen

15 Gary Sandoval

16 Carla Hendricks

17 Jane Bielejec, Jennifer Gonzales, Phyllis Hersey

18 Tim Canales, Luther Watts

19 Vera Thompson, Jim Wilder

20 Amy Martino, Gwenda McLamb, Nickolaus Roeseberg, Andrew Schultz, Brenda Yager

21 Maggie Volk

22 Barbara Gardner, Gerrie Gutowski

23 Diana Lanes

24 Greg Buterbaugh, Ted King, Marilyn Whelchel

25 Hank Bohnhoff, Nicholas Ritz, Don Wooten

26 Tom Bohnhoff, Mason Calvert, Mary Konrad

27 No birthdays

28 Luann Dawson, Beth Gehlert, Liz Kurens, Eric Orell, Patty Webb

29 Ashley Abbott

30 Nicholas Dahlquist, Carole Enea, Carol Koepke

31 Kelli Christensen

November 2023 Council Meeting Summary

This month the Council had several items of new business to discuss. Among them, the election results were certified and approved and bus repairs discussed. Due to the closing of a local business, we have purchased the dance floor that we normally rent on a yearly basis and the purchase of a lift was approved for pursual. A vote was taken to specify \$2000 a month be approved for the Mission and Service budget line item. Each task force gave and update on their activities, as well. Newly elected councilors joined the meeting to get familiar with the process. They will become official in December.

Did you know you can read the full minutes of each Council meeting? Once the minutes from the previous month's meeting are approved, they are placed in a binder that is kept in a drawer of the curved counter in the Centrum. You are free to access it at your convenience.



Financials

2023	Month of October	Year-To-Date as of 10/31/23	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$183,786	\$1,261,426	
budget	\$141,286	\$1,412,828	(\$151,402)
expenses	\$121,570	\$1,353,508	(\$92,082)

Please note: Expenses are subject to change pending the Annual Financial review.

Christmas 2023

This year we will offer **one morning service** and **four evening services** on **Christmas Eve**. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to be a part of the celebration!



Saturday 12/23: No 5pm service

CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday 12/24:

9:30am: a service of lessons & carols

Christmas Eve candlelight services at

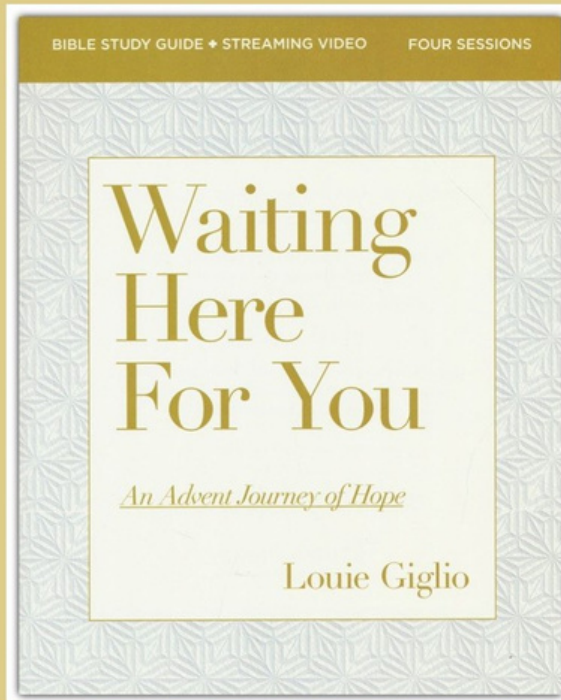
- **3pm**: brass and organ
- **5pm**: Emmaus praise band
- **7pm**: Emmaus praise band
- **9pm**: Campanas de Fe handbell choir, Chancel Choir, string quartet, organ

Monday 12/25: No services

Events & Announcements

Advent Zoom Bible Study

Begins Monday,
December 4th
at 6:30pm
for three weeks



Sign Up
in the
Centrum

Revelation class with Pastor Mark Behenna

- Sundays, Dec. 3/10/17
9:30 & 11am
- Wednesdays, Dec. 6/13/20
6:30pm

Military Mission Support Packing December 4, 5:30pm

Single Sisters Trip to Santa Fe December 13

Moms' Bible Study December 1, 15

Men's Bible & Brew December 5, 19

"The Chosen" season 2 study December 6, 13

Lunch & Learn December 21, 11am

December menu

for Wednesday nights

6

**BBQ CHICKEN
SANDWICHES AND
MAC & CHEESE

**note change

13

SLOPPY JOES

20

PIZZA



Military Prayer List

SUPPORTING OUR MEN & WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY THROUGH PRAYER,
SHARING THE WORD OF GOD, AND ENCOURAGING THEIR MORALE & WELFARE.

For changes/additions to this list, please contact Pr Mark Behenna or the church office at 505-296-0762.



Ainsley Burrell

Leah Gallegos

James Hansen

Chris Hinnerichs

Alec Kainer

Joshua Fanning

Liam Fink

Logan Nebl

Faun O'Brien

Joseph O'Brien

Jason F. Ruetschilling

Courtney Werth

William Werth

Patrick Winkels

General News

Recent Deaths:

- Helen Bielejec's father on October 30
- Sharon Winkler, sister of Diane Wilder's brother-in-law, on November 10
- Richard Berg, father of Sue Brown

Help Us Stay Up-To-Date!

If you've moved, changed your cell phone number, gotten rid of your landline, changed your email address, etc. - Don't forget to let your church know! You can contact Diane Wilder at 505-296-0762 or dwilder@faithabq.org to update your records.

Prayer Chain

Volunteers for this ministry respond to all prayer requests by praying for the names they receive. All requests are confidential. To notify us of a prayer need, contact the church office at 505.296.0762.

Listen to Church with your Landline

Listening to Services Over the Phone
Please dial 1.833.531.1980

Hospital & Home Visits

Please call the church office to let us know of hospitalizations, illnesses, and situations of need and we will make every effort to be present with you or your loved one. Our prayers continue for all those in need of healing, comfort, and peace.

LCMC (lcmc.net)

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ is an association of independent, evangelical and mission driven congregations grounded in the Scriptures and working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.



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Albuquerque, NM 87111
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Email: faith@faithabq.org
Website: faithabq.org

Current Resident or...

Thank you Lord for:

