

NOVEMBER 2023

FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

AND THOUGH ONE MIGHT PREVAIL AGAINST ANOTHER, TWO WILL WITHSTAND ONE. A THREEFOLD CORD IS NOT QUICKLY BROKEN. ECCLESIASTES 4:12



Dear Friends,

In Christian marriage two are bound together in Christ; that threefold cord is not, as the Scripture reminds us, quickly broken. We think of a unity candle at a wedding when we read this verse. It is good to remember that marriage, as we read in Ephesians 5, is a living picture of Christ and His relationship with His bride, the Church.

It should come as no surprise that the vision we see of the Church and discipleship in Scripture reflects this threefold cord. Our relationship with God is interconnected with the Body of Christ, and the Church reflects those relationships when we welcome others to Christ with sacrifice and love. A relationship with God demands a relationship with the Body of Christ. A relationship with God demands a life boldly sharing the Gospel. A three-legged stool, to be sturdy, doesn't function with only two legs. Therefore, the vision of the Body of Christ we see in Christ is reflected in the three-fold vision is affirmed when we remember that, "Faith is home where we walk a path living a Jesus-shaped path with God, each other, and the people we encounter."

As Christ the head of the church is ALL IN for us by sacrificing Himself for us, He calls us to be ALL IN with sacrificial love for God, each other, and the people we encounter who desperately need the Gospel. I am praying we will be united on this path together. How is the Lord leading you to be fully devoted to following Jesus in this three-fold cord? The gift of this kind of mystic union like marriage isn't always easy, but it is beautiful. His will be done, His Kingdom come.

IN CHRIST,

Handwritten signature of Jerry Watts in cursive.

DR. JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR

The Church's Annual Journey

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing. We yearn for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates again, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace, justice, and righteousness to this world.

Part of our expectation also anticipates a judgment on sin and a calling of the world to accountability before God. We long for God to come and set the world right! Yet, as the prophet Amos warned, the expectation of a coming judgment may not be the day of light that we want, because the penetrating light of God's judgment of sinfulness will shine just as brightly on God's people.

Because of this important truth, Advent has come to be celebrated more in terms of expectation or anticipation. Yet, the anticipation of the coming of the Messiah throughout the Old Testament was not in connection with remembrance of sins. Instead, the Messiah's coming was expected in the context of oppression and injustice, the longing for redemption, not from personal guilt and sin but from the evil of the world made known in evil empires and tyrants. It is in that sense that all creation groans for its deliverance as we witness the evil that dominates our world (Rom 8:18-25).

Of course, there is the problem of wanting relief from an evil world when we are contributors to that evil. This is the power of Amos' images when he warns about longing for the "Day of the Lord" that will really be a day of darkness (Amos 5:18-20). Still, even with Amos' warning the time of Advent is one of expectation and anticipation, a longing for God's actions to restore all things and vindicate the righteous. So, while some church traditions focus on penitence during Advent, the spirit of expectation from the Old Testament is better captured with a joyous sense of anticipation. Rather than a time of mourning and fasting, Advent is celebrated as a time of joy and happiness as we await the coming of the King.

There will be time during the rest of the journey through the Church Year to remember our sins. We begin in Epiphany when we hear about the intended fellowship of God's Kingdom, and realize our failure to produce it. Then as we move toward and through Lent, we realize that the coming of Jesus served more to lay bare our own sin than it did to vindicate our personal righteousness. There will be time to shed Peter's bitter tears as we realize that what started with such possibility and expectation has apparently ended in such failure.

The Church's Annual Journey *cont.*

It is only as we experience that full cycle, beginning with joy in Advent, that slowly fades into the realization of what we have done with and to the Christ, that the awful reality of Good Friday can have its full impact. And in that realization we can finally be ready to hear the Good News on Resurrection Sunday! That is the journey that the disciples took. There is value for each of us to take this annual journey beginning with the anticipation and joy of Advent!

The spirit of Advent is well told in the parable of the bridesmaids who are anxiously awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom (Matt 25:1-13). There is profound joy at the Bridegroom's expected coming. And yet a warning of the need for preparation echoes through the parable. But even then, the prayer of Advent is still:

*Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel!*

(At Faith, Advent will begin with our worship on November 25th and 26th.)

May the peace of the soon-to-be-born Messiah be with you,
Pr. Mark Behenna



More great reads inside this issue:

PR. STRACHAN - 4
MISSION CORNER - 5
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE - 6
THANK YOUS - 6
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS - 7
OCT 2023 COUNCIL SUMMARY - 7
FINANCIALS - 8
ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT - 8
EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - 9-10
WED. NIGHT MENUS - 10
MILITARY PRAYER LIST - 11

For **ALL IN** resources,
information, and more,
please visit faithallin.org!



All Ages Serving Together

WRITTEN BY PASTOR SCOTT STRACHAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It was with great excitement that our Ignite Youth Leadership team was able to lead worship on October 22 alongside other members of Faith. It is my prayer, and one I share along with the other Pastors, that the opportunities for all ages of our Faith family only continue to grow.

That being said, beginning now, you will begin to see our youth participating in the weekend worship services more regularly as our Ignite team has transitioned fully into worship support alongside all of those who have been faithfully doing it for quite some time. This was always our goal in the youth leadership team and I'm excited to see how God will continue to work through all of us.

Below you will find a couple more opportunities for all ages at Faith to serve in Christ's name together:

February 23 & 24: Feed The Need 2024

FEED THE NEED is a FREE Community Worship and Service Event!

This project for all ages will include opportunities to bless people throughout Albuquerque.

Last year we packed hundreds of blessings bags, made appreciation cards for military members, made pastoral care bags, and much more! Let's exceed those goals this year!

FEED THE NEED will once again be SERVING right here in Albuquerque. This year we are working through several service projects at Faith that will go out to bless people in the community. This will include packing snacks for young children in schools through FeedNMKids, blessings bags for people experiencing homelessness, and unique Gospel gifts for young adults at UNM & CNM.

Additionally, all are challenged to bring non-perishable food snack items for FeedNMKids on Friday, February 23rd in the evening. Financial gifts can be given directly to Faith Lutheran Church to be used in missions outside of the church.

FEED THE NEED will bless you with a weekend of worship & fun, while God will use you to bless those in need right here at home in Albuquerque!

Help us FEED THE NEED and grow in Christ - Sign Up Today!

June 24-29: Family STM Week with Joni & Friends

In June of 2024, all ages are invited to participate in this short-term mission in support of Joni & Friends at their family week camp. We will be working directly with families affected by disabilities to help them experience a time of rest and fun at Lone Tree Camp in New Mexico.

Cost per person is \$250 which includes travel, lodging, activities, and food.

Check out this link for more information:
<https://www.joniandfriends.org/ministries/retreats-and-getaways/>

Or this awesome video from camp last year:
<https://vimeo.com/845528113>

Visit this link to learn more or to sign up:
<https://stmfamilycamp.eventbrite.com>

Thank you for your support of youth discipleship at Faith!



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 **September 2023 Mission Offerings** as follows:

\$345.00 to Cuidando Los Ninos (CLN Kids): Breaking the cycle of homelessness for children and families by providing high quality early childhood education, therapeutic services, supportive housing, and parent education. clnabq.org

\$345.00 to Meals On Wheels: Delivering over 141,000 meals per year, where Seniors and others are waiting for a knock at the door to bring food, company and hope. One knock at the door saves lives. www.mow-nm.org

\$345.00 to Saranam: For families experiencing homelessness in New Mexico, success starts at Saranam. Their proven, two-year program provides everything they need to break the cycle of generational homelessness and achieve long-term stability and independence. They offer housing, food, education, and training. But their residents receive so much more: a place of refuge, a supportive community, help healing, and hope for a brighter future for themselves and generations to come. saranamabq.org



Today, missionaries are not being sent to Madagascar, because The Malagasy Lutheran Church has people educated, trained, and ready to serve as Evangelists (The New Missionaries).

It is their mission to spread the Gospel to villages in their Synods, preaching and teaching the Christian faith, connecting evangelism and humanitarian actions as one resulting in the growth of church members and new congregations. **Randriamanana Tovohery** is the Evangelist sponsored by the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church.

Evangelist's Name: Randriamanana Tovohery
 Place of Service: Anakafy Betroka Synod
 Years of Service: 10 years
 Family: Married with 6 boys and 2 girls
 Prayer concerns: "Please pray for health for my wife and that my children would find jobs."

AN URGENT CALL FOR HELP



For almost 6 years, a team of volunteers from Faith Lutheran Church have served lunch at **The Rock at Noonday** (a day shelter for the homeless) on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For many reasons, beginning with COVID in 2020, but also changes in team members' health, job changes, other responsibilities, and more, our team has dwindled. This is a great opportunity to serve with other Faith members, with a limited commitment of 1 day per month for less than 2 hours. The work is not difficult and we have a lot of fun together in fellowship, providing lunch to so many less fortunate individuals in our community. Please consider joining our Team.

Contact **Karen Kainer** at 505.296.0762 or kkainer@faithabq.org for more information.

See Page 6 for information on our **Annual Christmas Toy Drive** for the Salvation Army, beginning **November 18th!**



The poster features a red border and a green holly leaf wreath at the top and bottom. In the center, there are two green Christmas trees with yellow stars on top and colorful ornaments. Between the trees is a red Salvation Army shield logo. The text is as follows:

**CHRISTMAS IS ON THE WAY!
LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR
NEEDY CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Annual Christmas Toy Drive for Salvation Army
November 18 - December 10**

**Donate unwrapped toys for infants through 14-year-old girls and boys.
Bring them to the table in the Centrum beginning November 18th.**

Thank You

Dear Pastor Watts,

We at Wangen Prairie wanted to thank you for your nice letter regarding prayers for our little country church. Along with you, we are so grateful to be part of the LCMC and thankful that we can pray and share God's Loving Word. We also pray for 2 LCMC churches each week and had the honor of praying for your church earlier this year.

Thank you, from
**Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church
Cannon Falls, Minnesota**



Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ:

Thank you kindly for your prayers on behalf of Martin Luther Church in Johnson, Nebraska. We, in turn, offered prayers on behalf of your congregation in our prayer group on Monday, October 2. We appreciate your ministry of prayer on behalf of our church and others.

"The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." (James 5:16)

Blessings,
**Ken Tubbesing, Pastor
Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church**



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board, staff, and families of Saranam, we thank you for your generous contribution of \$345.00. Your donation will go directly to support our families as they break cycles of homelessness and poverty to pursue paths of independence and self-sufficiency. Thank you for your support of families at Saranam!

Sincerely,
**Tracy Weaver, Executive Director
Saranam**



November Birthdays

PREPARED BY DIANE WILDER, CHURCH OFFICE

1 Jamison Calvert, Loren Cox, Susan Ellenwood,
Diana Haven, Matt Meyer, Campbell Roberts,
Nathan Roberts

2 Patricia Forshaw, Damian Hausermann, Jeremy
Oswald, Lois Stueber

3 J.R. Arnold

4 Harper Kist, Lori Steward

5 Sarah Majors, Bryn Orell

6 Liz Trainor

7 Marleta Anderson, Matt Bohnhoff, Kent Childs,
Megan Eickman, Stephanie Goodrich

8 Pam Limke, Rob Pease

9 Scott Lasher, Sarit Mall, Jacob Oswald

10 David Abbott, Alex Ellenwood, Tom Kirby, Brandi
Lords, Liberty Watts

11 Ann Bolton, John Hausermann, Kathy Hedeman,
Iris Kelly, Debbie Patterson, Bonnie Smith

12 Nancy Thurow

13 Matt Burger, Eric Jorgenson, Debra Ransom

14 Kaye Myers, Shawn Stewart

15 No Birthdays

16 Alan Brackett, Linda Hansen

17 Susan Craycraft

18 No Birthdays

19 Dylan Blomker, Linda Oberdorfer

20 Sue Dederman, Jan Gale, Jayson Wintermute-
Covel

21 Ashley Walker, Naomi Walker

22 Janiece Mattison, Gayle Puls

23 Pr. Mark Behenna, Marcia Castillo, Ann
Greenberg

24 Meghan Frankland

25 Tony Sill

26 Sandra Johnson, Christy Strachan

27 Amy Gee, Marianne Lasher

28 Howard Ahlness, James Patterson, Beth Zauche

29 Joshua Burns, Aaron Frankland, Gina Meyer,
Diane Wilder

30 Terry Hinnerichs



October 2023 Council Meeting Summary

The October meeting included a presentation from Frank Lovato, CPA, on the results of the 2022 fiscal review. President Matt Meyer also gave details on his trip to the annual LCMC gathering and shared some of the things he learned while there. New business included the determination of spending priorities for the One Fund once it is in place. A vote was held on the proposed list. The annual meeting agenda was voted on and approved. The upcoming election was discussed. The task forces were approved and updates given on each.

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 September	Year-To-Date as of 09/30/23	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$98,496	\$1,077,640	
budget	\$141,286	\$1,271,542	(\$193,902)
expenses	\$202,093	\$1,231,958	(\$154,318)

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

ALL IN Advance Commitment Night



ADVANCE COMMITMENT WORSHIP NIGHT

Friday,
November 3rd
6:30pm
at Menaul School

Let us know you're ALL IN! - RSVP online or in the Centrum



Scan the QR code or
[CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP

Events & Announcements

A graphic for a Veterans Day Dinner and Dance. It features a hand holding an American flag against a sunset sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Veterans Day Dinner and Dance
Friday, November 10th
Doors open at 5:30pm
Childcare will be available
*Please sign up so that we know
how much food to prepare*
We celebrate those who have protected us all!

**VETERANS DAY
DINNER AND DANCE**
Friday, November 10th
5:30pm

**HONORING VETERANS
IN WORSHIP ALL
WEEKEND!**
November 11th & 12th



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The national dates for
collection week are
November 13-20, 2023.

We can collect boxes earlier but
the deadline for Faith Lutheran will
be 11/19 at Noon. We will deliver
them all after the last worship
service that morning.

[BUILD A BOX ONLINE HERE!](#)

Events & Announcements *cont.*

November menu

for Wednesday nights

1

HOT DOGS



8

BREAKFAST
FOR SUPPER

15

PIZZA



29

PASTA



December menu

for Wednesday nights

6

CHICKEN PATTY
SANDWICHES

13

SLOPPY JOES

20

PIZZA



Revelation class with Pr. Mark Behenna

Sundays, 9:30 & 11am

Wednesdays, 6:30pm

(NO CLASS 11/19 or 11/22)

VITALANT BLOOD DRIVE

November 5, 8:30am-

12:15pm in the Gym

"The Chosen" season 2 study

November 1, 8, 29

Moms' Bible Study

November 3 & 17

Men's Bible & Brew

November 7 & 21

Lunch & Learn

November 16, 11am

Volunteers
needed

Front Office

Please consider helping answer phone calls in the church office! Contact Diane Wilder at 505-296-0762 or dwilder@faithabq.org.

Food Prep

Our food prep team would love to have your help - many hands make light work!

- Email Beth (bzauche@faithabq.org) to volunteer on Wednesday evenings
- Email Joan (jseward@faithabq.org) to help with special events like funerals

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

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:

- Leileda Billie, mother of Zeria & Xaleah Humelsine
- Wona Deverman, mother of James Deverman, on October 4
- Clark Aamodt on October 5
- Harold Walter, brother of Lora Humelsine, on October 20
- Steve Gibbs, brother of David Gibbs
- Roses Straughan on October 27

Baptism:

- Walker Rey Schapekahn on October 22

Confirmations on October 15:

- Josh Burwinkle
- Laila Strachan
- Caden Williams (on October 7)
- Bryce Wilson

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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Email: faith@faithabq.org
Website: faithabq.org

Current Resident or...

Thank you Lord for:

