

## *Faith's Door* -- December -- 2022

### A NEWSLETTER for FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship Service -- Sunday Morning -- 9:00 am -- Sunday School 10:30 am

#### From the Pastor:

Martin Luther claimed that music was second only to theology. His sentiment towards the place of music in the life of the church is seen in some of the changes that took place during the Reformation.

For example, the worship service began to use hymns in the language the people spoke. Luther, himself, wrote several hymns in German many of which had the purpose of teaching the catechism that summarized the teaching of Scripture. Music conveyed or carried the teaching in a way that was conducive to remembering one's faith.

Imagine the joy of not only *hearing* and *knowing* and *believing* the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus Christ, but also the *singing* of the recently rediscovered truth!

Since music is so highly praised and placed next to theology, music must meet a high standard -- especially music within the church. There are a couple of things to keep in mind.

**First:** as I noted in my newsletter article two months ago, Jesus said, "*I am the way and the truth and the life,*" John 14:6. Also, "*The truth will set you free,*" John 8:32. Only truth can set one free. Jesus is that truth for He is the way and the life.

Music in the church, as a conveyor of the faith, must present truth, that is God's Word, that is, Jesus Christ. In other words, the church's music cannot contain false doctrine. One could argue that falsehood put to music is quite dangerous. Music is *that* powerful. It is safe to presume that we all have had a song stuck in our head because the music is so catchy and memorable. However, there are those times that we do not want the song stuck in our head because the words of the song are not good. They promote drug abuse or infidelity or the pursuing of self-interest over obligation towards those in one's life. Now, if the song stuck in our head is a hymn with false teaching, how dangerous is that especially in consideration of Jesus' warning against false teachers? False belief leads away from the Gospel, and so leads one away from eternal life to eternal death. (In fact, as indispensable as truth is to our faith and life, one could make the case that the church's music ought to be everyone's favorite music because of the message of truth it promotes.)

**Second:** music can convey meaning without words, which is a reason that not just any music will do in church. This holds true even when the words may be acceptable. I once had a colleague sing the words of Amazing Grace to the tune of Gilligan's Island. You know, no matter how hard I tried I could not think of the words to Amazing Grace while singing that melody. Instead of thinking about God's amazing grace, I could only think of "Gilligan, the Skipper too, the millionaire and his wife, the movie star, the professor and Mary Ann, here on Gilligan's Isle."

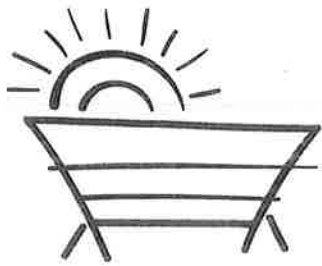
When Luther realized the importance of music to the church, it was how the music supported and carried the truth of God's Word. He knew quite well, however, that music could also be used for evil purposes. Music was not so well thought of under those circumstances.

Luther once stood before Charles V, the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, and said that his conscience was bound to the Word of God. Music can be highly esteemed among us. But it too must be captive to the truth of God's Word, and music should not overpower it.

Pastor Neugebauer

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Richard H. Neugebauer, Pastor  
Mike Brunner, Congregational President  
Debra Neugebauer, Secretary  
Debra Schmer, Preschool Director



# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Wednesday Advent Services

5:15pm Meal provided  
6:00pm Worship Service  
(with Hymn Sing preceding)

6:30pm Christmas Eve Children's Candlelight Service

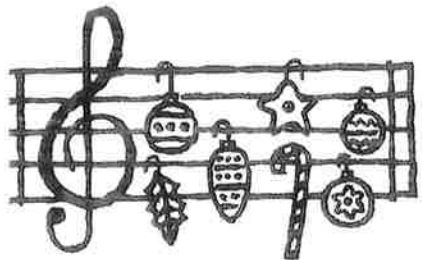
10:00am Christmas Day Worship: Divine Service with Holy Communion

KEEP  
CHRIST IN  
CHRISTMAS



## YOUNG ADULT GROUP

We will be having a *Christmas Party* on Thursday, December 15.  
Time and place to be announced. Call Janel with questions: 308-672-3935



*Caroling, Caroling, Caroling*  
Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm  
Meet at the church

As we go a-caroling we will be delivering Christmas baskets (put together by the LWML) to our shut-in members.

After caroling you are invited for goodies and fellowship at the Neugebauers. Bring a finger food or Christmas goody to share.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY.  
*Jesus!*

## Baptism Birthdays

## Birthdays

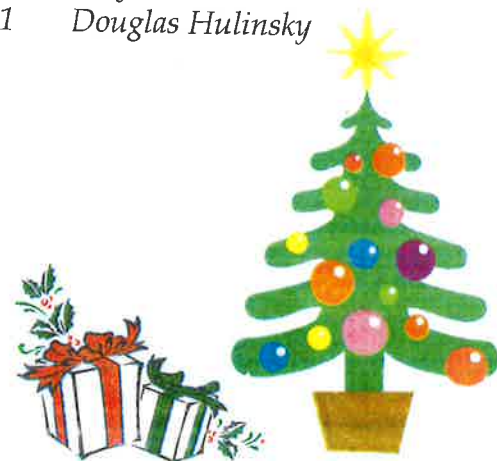
- 4 Eli Wolf
- 5 Dr. George Schlothauer
- 6 Neal Dueker
- 10 Anna Meier
- 11 Rhonda Kautz
- 15 Nyla Sibal
- 16 Kathy Livingston  
Edna Hessler
- 18 Hallyn Nauenburg
- 19 Kory Knight
- 25 "Jesus"
- 28 Katherine Carrizales
- 29 Jada Schlothauer
- 31 Celeste Knapper  
Kenneth Niedan



- 1 Emily Kohut
- 3 Terry Lofing
- 5 David Worthman
- 8 Jeffrey Brunner  
Barbara Dvorak  
Kayleigh Nyquist
- 11 Hallyn Nauenburg
- 14 Katie Carrizales
- 17 Robert Miller
- 18 Jordyn Welsh
- 19 Shelby Aaberg
- 21 Jackson Schlothauer  
Tayley Streeks  
Eli Wolf
- 23 Devin Suhr
- 25 Kaithan Kautz  
Richard Neugebauer  
Berrina Sibal  
Lincoln Sorensen
- 27 Cade Harris  
Wendy Streeks  
Clayton Woodson
- 31 Douglas Hulinsky



- 10 Kenneth & June Keller
- 31 Roger & Mary (Hunt) Schmidt



## Cookies! Fudge! Candies!

It's that time of year to share your favorite Christmas goodies with everyone else at church!

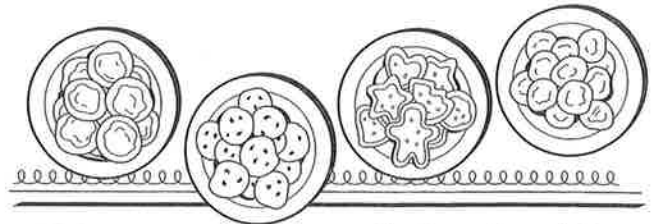
Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>

Bring your goodies with you to church.

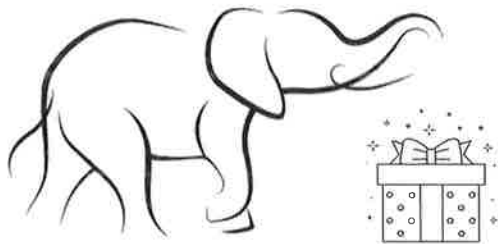
Label if they contain nuts!

Donation of \$8.00/lb. (cash & checks only),

To the Benevolent Fund to help members in need.



# Cookie Walk



## White elephant gift exchange

Faithful 55+ will hold a Christmas party on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at noon with a luncheon. Bring your favorite food dish to share. To continue the fun bring a white elephant gift, one per person, to exchange.

Everyone is welcome for an afternoon of fun!

## December LWML News

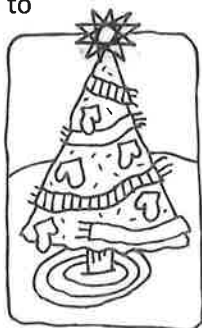
**What a wonderful soup and pie dinner!** Everything was delicious and thanks go to Rhonda Kautz and Dianne Lana for hosting. Now as we look forward to celebrating our Savior's Birth we look to sharing our blessings with others. Due to delay by CAPWN the **Sharing Tree** was not up by the 13<sup>th</sup>. Once word has been received it will go up and you can select an item or two for sharing with our community. Please have all items returned to the church by December 15 so delivery can be set up. Items can be brought unwrapped.

**December 18** will feature LWML serving treats with donations going to our seminary student. Thanks to all who help in this encouraging event. Also following services will be a short presentation of one of the grants that LWML sponsors given by our Christian Life officer. Ladies please remember to bring your mites to put in the large mite box as December is our regular mite month.

We will also be packing Christmas stockings for our member shut ins following services. Please bring fruit, cookies or other treats to put in these. They will be delivered in the afternoon during Christmas caroling. More information will be coming on that after checking with nursing facilities to see if they will allow this year.

All in one month we have served all of the missions of LWML to serve congregation, community and country in our mission to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Blessings as we remember the true meaning of Christmas. Christ the best gift of all.



## DECEMBER PRESCHOOL NEWS

We celebrated Thanksgiving with a Taste Feast! The kids made rolls and butter, we had a little turkey and cranberry sauce and we made a Pumpkin Layer Pie! Very yummy!

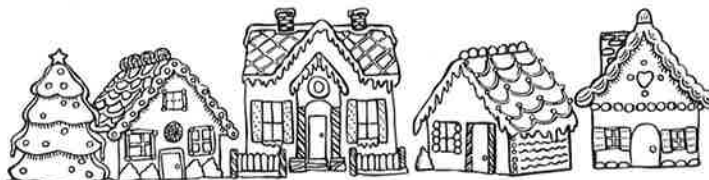
We are now getting ready for Christmas, that most joyous of all the Seasons. Advent is here. We are so excited to tell the REAL REASON FOR THE SEASON! Our Christmas Program will be on Thursday, Dec.8th, at 6:30 pm.

We are practicing songs and hope that you will hear the Wonderful Christmas Message: God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior! We will be making parent gifts and decorating the Preschool with our Christmas decorations. Our Christmas Party will be on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> and we will have a Special Guest join us (Santa), if things go as planned.

When we return after our Christmas Break we will have 3 new children attending our class. We're very excited to have them join our group.



Our school will be closed Dec.22<sup>nd</sup> - Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>! We hope that you all have a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and Share the Good News of Christ's Birth with family, friends and neighbors.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



# December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
			<b>Elder of the Month:</b> Mike Kautz	10am Daniel Study		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 9am Acolyte: Reece Cantor: Keegan Lector: Mike Ushers: Team 4  <b>Faithful 55+</b> Christmas Party - noon		3pm: Veterans Home Communion Service  Wed. 10am: The Village, Communion Service>>>>>>	7am Rise 'n Shine @Perkins  5:15pm Meal (Elders) 6pm Worship Acolyte: Reece 6:45pm Midweek Classes @ St J	10am Daniel Study  6:30pm <b>Preschool Christmas Program</b>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship/HC 9am Acolyte: Allison Cantor: Bill Lector: Landon Ushers: Team 5 Altar Guild: Karen K, Ginger	>> <b>Cookie Exchange</b> After service	<b>Elders:</b> 6:30pm <b>Council:</b> 7:30p Circuit Meeting @ Grace, Gordon	7am Rise 'n Shine @Perkins 5:15pm Meal ( ) 6pm Worship Acolyte: Allison 6:45pm Midweek Classes @ St J 6:30pm Pew Sisters	Young Adult Group Christmas Party		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 9am Acolyte: Beau Cantor: Janel Lector: Dennis Ushers: Team 1  <b>LWML:</b> Fill Christmas Baskets after Service.	>>> <b>3:00pm Christmas Caroling</b> Followed by Goodies @ Neugebauer Home.		7am Rise 'n Shine @Perkins 5:15pm Meal (Young Adults) 6pm Worship Acolyte: Beau 6:45pm Midweek Classes @ St J			<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6:30pm</b>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>Christmas Worship/HC 10:00am</b> Acolyte: Jonas Cantor: Irma Lector: Mike Ushers: Team 2 Altar Guild: Irma, Rhonda			7am Rise 'n Shine @Perkins			New Year's Eve

GREETERS: 4<sup>th</sup> Schilds

11<sup>th</sup> Kizzires

18<sup>th</sup> Haddens

25<sup>th</sup> Streeks

Faith Lutheran Church, Gering, NE  
Church Council Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 8, 2022

1. Call to order ~ by Mike Brunner at 7:34 p.m. Attendees: Dusty Lana, Dianne Lana, Mike Brunner, Steve Smith, Landon Oelke, Stanna Funk, and Pastor Neugebauer
2. Opening Prayer ~ Pastor Neugebauer.
3. Reports
  - 1- Secretary ~ Amy Hauser was not present. Minutes from the September 13, 2022, council meeting were published in the newsletter and available on the website for viewing. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dianne Lana and seconded by Stanna Funk. Motion carried. Minutes stand approved. Dianne Lana will take minutes for tonight's meeting.
  - 2- Treasurer ~ Dusty Lana – Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report were reviewed and approved.
  - 3- Financial Secretary ~ Dennis Hadden – No report.
  - 4- Trustees ~ Dianne Lana – Reported that new HVAC system has been ordered from Gering Valley Plumbing. Funds for the payment of the new system, which will be due after installation have been set aside in the Steward Account. We are working with Pipe Works Plumbing to have a new waterline put in to resolve sprinkler system issues. Have not received an estimate as to cost. Clarification from Steve Smith as to current board of trustees: Dianne Lana, Terry Lofing, Doug Hulinsky, and Juan Carrizales. There are no longer any term limits for the board of trustees. Mark Safford has served several terms and did not want to remain on the Board
  - 5- Elders ~ Steve Smith – Lectors were assigned for November and December. Approved transfer in of new member Kim Schledewitz from Trinity Lutheran Church in Morrill, Nebraska.
  - 6- Evangelism ~ Stanna Funk – Reported on Faith's Walk for the Community. The total amount taken in from sponsors and registrations was \$4,530. The only expense was the cost of the T-Shirts which totaled \$946 - \$250 paid by Thrivent leaving a balance owed by the church of \$696.00 Thrivent also provided snacks and water on the day of the walk. Proceeds to Camp Scott will be \$3,334. Check presentation is planned for Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - 7- Education ~ Jesse Neugebauer was not in attendance. Pastor Neugebauer reported that the Board of Education is working on having a scaled down children's Christmas Program on Christmas Eve in conjunction with a Christmas Eve worship service with Communion. Stanna Funk suggested the possibility of having a children's program on the last Advent Service. More details to come.
    - a. Preschool – No report.
  - 8- Stewardship ~ Dusty Lana – No report.
  - 9- Youth ~ No Report
  - 10- Faithful **55+** ~ Cathy Schwindt was not in attendance. Pastor reported that two members, Shirley Schubarth and Zuladawn Hall need transportation to church. The Faithful 55+ Carry-In Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange is planned for Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.
4. Pastor Richard Neugebauer
  - 1- Upcoming wedding – Pastor will be taking time off for Jesse's wedding. Pastor Temme will preach on November 27<sup>th</sup> and John Schmall will be the organist on that date.

- 2- Pulpit Assistance for Trinity – South Divide. Pastors Neugebauer, Grams, Strawn, and Naylor take turns providing assistance. Pastor Carlson is going to be getting back into the worship services as his doctor is recommending that he start using his voice.
5. Unfinished Business
  - 1- Tree Donation Status Update – Jim Neuwirth with ABC Nursery will be contacting us soon.
6. New Business
  - 1- Memorial Fund Suggestion – Baldwin memorial funds to go to technology upgrades. Will look into use of existing undesignated memorial funds which have remained unused for the past few years.
  - 2- Door Keys to new front door – Do we provide key to Gering Public Schools for use during emergencies. Suggestion was made to provide telephone numbers to school personnel instead of keys. School Personnel can contact someone to let them into the church if needed.
7. Upcoming Dates

President Mike Brunner informed the council members that he will not be available for the January 2023 Planning Council Meeting and the January Voters Meeting.

  - 1- Elders | Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.
  - 2- Church Council | Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Smith and seconded by Landon Oelke. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by  
Dianne Lana for Amy Hauser