

VOICE OF FAITH

MARTIN LUTHER TEACHES US TO HELP THE INFANT JESUS IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY

Among his many roles, Martin Luther probably considered his role as preacher to be most important. In Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther (Abingdon, 1950), biographer Roland H. Bainton writes, "Luther is at his best and most characteristic in his sermons on the Nativity," and then excerpts one of them in which Luther unfolds the familiar story of Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem:

The inn was full. No one would release a room to this pregnant woman. She had to go to a cow stall and there bring forth the Maker of all creatures because nobody would give way. Shame on you, wretched Bethlehem! The inn ought to have been burned with brimstone, for even though Mary had been a beggar maid or unwed, anybody at such a time would have been glad to give her a hand. There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby! I would have washed his linen! How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!" Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.

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4:00 p.m.
Saturday,
December 18th
BACK-UP DATE
4:00 p.m.
Sunday,
December 19th

Youth Mission Trip to Alabama

We are looking for a few more youth and adults to complete the Work Camp team! Please contact Theresa Nunemacher 273-4011 or Madonna Fohrman 254-6287 to ask questions or to get signed up! (Don't miss this amazing youth mission trip.....it creates "forever memories") Next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the commons area at SC Borromeo Church. We have WC surprise gifts for everyone.....join us for the great fun!

Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction



The High School Youth Group will be caroling at the SC Assisted Living on Sunday, Dec. 19th at 4:00 p.m. (pizza at the Church afterward) and the Golden Living Center on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd, at 7:30 p.m.

Silent Auction Items: winter items (sled with mittens--Christmas holiday items--decorator pillows--baskets with mugs and hot cocoa and much more!) We can help with your shopping!!!

Sat., Dec. 11th, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Simmering spaghetti - garlic bread - desserts and beverages. Silent Auction will end Sun., Dec. 12th at 11:00 a.m.

Thank you for supporting the Youth Mission Trip to Alabama!

God is Sending His Best!!

SIMPLY GIVING

A wonderful alternative to writing checks.

The money is automatically withdrawn from your check book and the information is then emailed to the church office to be entered.

Contact Laurie in the Church office for more information.



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you have not donated "Choice Dollars" from Thrivent, please call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" and follow the prompt. If you need more help, please call Helen Pierce, 932-3070; Joan Hager, 932-4546; or Judy Kruempel, 932-3182. There are several thousand dollars available. You have until March to apply.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We still need help in grades 3 & 4. Classes are co-taught,



which means *only* a few Sundays left during the school year and for only 40 minutes of classroom instruction (*rest of hour is with music teachers!*).

Call Dan at 932-4829.

Janet Dailey is in charge of the Altar Guild for the month of December.



ALTAR GUILD

Youth Committee is in charge of Coffee Fellowship in December.



WELCA

will going to the Plainview Lutheran Church for their lunch & bazaar on Sat., Dec. 4th at 10:00 a.m.

Call Janice Gilbert (932-3296) or Louise Kjosa (932-3143) if you would like to go or if you want to carpool.

WELCA NEWS

THANK YOU to everyone who worked or brought goodies for our Holiday Bazaar. We couldn't do it without everyone's help.

Don't forget your shut-ins and special friends this Christmas.



Ruth Circle Potluck

at the Church on Wed., Dec. 8th Noon

Lydia Circle Birthday Party

at Golden Living Center on Wed., Dec. 8th 1:45 p.m.

Christmas in St. Charles



Come join us for an afternoon of Holiday entertainment!

St. Charles Catholic Church

Sun., Dec. 5 1:30 p.m.

Local Musical Talents

Free Will donation for the St. Charles Area God Squad

The need never ends...

Use the shopping cart in the narthex (lobby) of church.



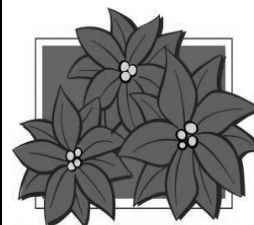
Please help

Feeding the Community



Duane & Carole Jacobson have a 1970s Kimball Organ (Temptation) to donate. It has an entertainment package and cascading strings. It is in very good shape and has always been in Duane's mother's house & never stored. If interested, call 932-3512.

Order



POINSETTIAS

The Poinsettia sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board above the Cradle Roll table in the narthex.

The cost is \$12.00.

Deadline for ordering is December 15th.

**DECEMBER
CONFIRMATION
CLASS SCHEDULE :**

Dec. 1 Class
 Dec. 8 Class
 Dec. 15 **NO CLASS —
 it's a third Wed!**
 Dec. 22 **NO CLASS**
 Dec. 29 **NO CLASS**



**CLASS TIME is
 7:30 p.m.**



Dec. 5 Tanner Simon
Dec. 12 Derek McCready
Dec. 19 Lance Mollert
Dec. 24 Brett Strand
 (4:30 p.m.)
Dec. 24 Need a Volunteer
 (6:30 p.m.)
Dec. 26 Need a Volunteer
 (9:00 a.m.)



Dec. 5 Taylor Johnston
Dec. 19 Collin Boekhoff
Dec. 24 Need a Volunteer
 (4:30 p.m.)
Dec. 24 Need a Volunteer
 (6:30 p.m.)
Dec. 26 Need a Volunteer
 (9:00 a.m.)

**REVIVING THE
 HIGH SCHOOL
 YOUTH GROUP**

In October, Mr. Fred Troendle of our church led two focus groups on what High Schoolers and their parents want out of a youth.

Then in November, Pastor Steve had lunch with seven of our youth, just to get a start on planning for youth events.

We are planning on at least one activity a month.

In December, we will have a couple chances to go caroling—(see page 2). We are also planning on a lock-in in January, and a water-park trip in February.

Want to know more as the days get closer?

SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO Pastor Steve's email: pastor@hbcs.net

He will put you on the email reminders he sends out every now and then.

How to be a Communion Assistant

- ❶ Tell Pastor you are here when you arrive. Please arrive by 8:50. You don't have to dress formally, but do wear something more dignified than ratty jeans and a t-shirt.
- ❷ When offering is brought forward, you will come forward and stand over where Pastor usually sits, near the organ.
- ❸ When Pastor motions you over, you will stand next to him in the center aisle with the cup of wine. Pastor will give people the wafer/piece of bread. He will also bless children who do not take communion yet.
- ❹ People will take their wafer/piece of bread to your cup of wine. You will say to them: "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Be sure to hold your cup of wine low enough for each person, so that person can see the wine and dip the wafer/piece of bread.
- ❺ When Pastor sees one side of the church is finished taking communion, he will switch you to the other side alongside him.
- ❻ When everybody else has taken communion, Pastor Steve will give you communion. Then you will give Pastor Steve a wafer with the words, "the body of Christ, given for you" and offer the cup with the words, "the blood of Christ, shed for you."
- ❼ Return to your seat.



**Confirmation Sunday
 May 1, 2011 10:30 a.m.**

December Birthdays

Tim Ask	12/01
Dennis Barth	12/01
Jacob Dessner	12/02
Allison Swiggum	12/02
Rick Anderson	12/03
Alex Campbell	12/03
Derek McCready	12/03
Steven Zickrick	12/03
Zachary Hursh	12/04
Patti Raak	12/04
Erik Ickler	12/05
Kade Manley	12/05
Kevin Mundt	12/06
Collin Boekhoff	12/07
Austin Hawk	12/07
Angela Matzke	12/08
Abigail Spitzer	12/08
Sharon Woxland	12/08
Karen Dunlay	12/09
Ava Geiman	12/09
Joshua Campbell	12/10
Emmett Dunn	12/10
Becky Lemke	12/12
Ben Seinola	12/13
Wilma Bushman	12/14
Audrey Davis	12/14
Kara Delger	12/14
Darius Koehler	12/15
Jason Polzin	12/15
Jeremy Walters	12/15
Andrew Dechamps	12/17
Pete Strand	12/17
Emily Hawk	12/19
Katie Johnson	12/19
Elle Johnson	12/19
Christopher Heim	12/20
Jacob Minnis	12/20
Connor Simon	12/20
David Vermilya	12/20
Debra Wait	12/21
Gordon Austin, Jr.	12/23
Cassie Prigge	12/23
David Baer	12/25
Erin Steward	12/26
Derek Ihrke	12/27
Katie Janus	12/27
Sharonne Baylor	12/29
Brittany Prigge	12/29
Lindsey Harne	12/30
Todd Hulshizer	12/30
Hallie McCormick	12/30
Mildred Feine	12/31
Lynda Otterson	12/31

December Anniversaries

Robert & Sue Lyngaas	12/04
Dan & Tina Hursh	12/06
Dennis & Marcia Reps	12/10
Duane & Carole Jacobson	12/14
Dan & Donna Swiggum	12/15
Cecil & Beverly Hulshizer	12/16
Don & Audrey Snyder	12/16
Craig & Lori Hilmer	12/23
Bill Davis & Katie Rossi	12/27

Funerals**Charles D. "Charlie" Hawk**

Died 11-20-10, Funeral 11-24-10

*Please keep Sherrie and their kids Emily and Austin and the entire family in your prayers.***Gerald W. "Gerry" Seitz**

Died 11-23-10, Funeral 11-27-10

*Please keep Olinda and the entire family in your prayers.***USHERS****December**

- 5 Barth Family
- 12 Barth Family
- 19 Barth Family
- 24 (4:30 p.m.) Need Volunteers
(6:30 p.m.) Need Volunteers
- 26 Need Volunteers

(sign up on bulletin board in narthex)

LECTORS**December**

- 5 Cheryl McCready
- 12 Carl Clingman
- 19 Lyle Peterson
- 24 (4:30 p.m.) Need a Volunteer
(6:30 p.m.) Need a Volunteer
- 26 Need a Volunteer

COUNTERS**December**

- 5 Don & Sharon Swenson
- 12 George & Janice Gilbert
- 19 Aaron & Tisha Hooks
- 26 Tom & Shelly Stowell

NURSERY**December**

- 5 Kathy Gerry
- 12 Scott & Stacey Kobs
- 19 Kimberly Spors
- 24 No Nursery (Xmas Eve)
- 26 Melanie Zickrick



Do you have a special occasion you'd like to celebrate with your Faith family—like a birthday, anniversary, or in honor/memory of a special occasion or individual? Or perhaps you would like to enhance the altar with **fresh flowers**.

There's a **sign up sheet** on the bulletin board outside of Laurie & Kris' office.

Here's the drill: you can provide flowers from your own garden or order them from any flower shop for delivery directly to the church. Vases are available at the church or you can use your own.

November Baptisms

Timothy Todd Johnson Jr.
Baptized 11-07-10 DOB 6-26-10
Son of Timothy Todd Johnson
& Lindsey Marie Harne

Daltyn Daniel McCready
Baptized 11-14-10 DOB 8-20-10
Son of Casey Daniel McCready &
Nicole Lynn (Kieffer) McCready

Henry David Omdahl
Baptized 11-28-10 DOB 07-11-10
Son of Eric Douglas Omdahl &
Tami Kay (Olson) Omdahl

**OPT-OUT AVAILABLE IF YOU DON'T WANT
A PORTION OF YOUR OFFERING
TO SUPPORT THE ELCA**

In light of the ELCA churchwide assembly's August 2009 vote to permit practicing gay and lesbian clergy as pastors in ELCA churches, some households here at Faith Lutheran Church have asked that the portion of their offering that goes to the national offices of the ELCA be diverted to non-controversial causes instead.

The church council has deliberated over this issue for much of the last year, and has voted to give households an 'opt-out' that works like this:

- \$12,500 of our proposed \$224,000-plus budget for 2011 is designated for financial support of the ELCA, via the regional synod office in Rochester, which equates to approximately 5.5% of our budget.
- If you choose to opt out of giving to the ELCA, 5.5% of your offering will be diverted to a non-controversial ministry instead.
- Non-controversial ministries up for consideration might, for example, be Lutheran World Relief, mission churches here or abroad, Lutheran Hunger Appeal, etc. To simplify things, the church council will choose one ministry each year for all 'opt-out' diverted funds.
- If you want a portion of your offering to continue to go to the ELCA, **you simply do nothing**. 5.5% of whatever you give next year will continue on to the ELCA as before.
- If you **want to divert** the 5.5% portion of your offering to the designated non-controversial ministry/cause, you will need to email to an address provided in your **January newsletter and bulletins**. Put OPT OUT in the title line and body of the email, and also type your name in the body of the email. Those without email will be provided a simple form in the January newsletter and bulletins. Your 'opt-out' will be confidential.
- You have until January 31, 2011, to indicate you wish to opt out from giving to the ELCA. This is for no other reason than to simplify our bookkeeping. We will assume you wish to continue to opt out every year, unless you tell us otherwise. Households who want to opt out in the future will be given a reasonable amount of time to do so, starting in late 2011 or early 2012.