



THE FAITHFUL NEWS

Church Phone 812-282-6993
Pastor's Cell 260-273-1250

*"Faithful Lutherans sent by Christ to
serve God's children"*

DECEMBER, 2011

From the Pastor

*In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen
All the world lay under death eyes were closed in sleeping
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light
Brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope,
Highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning, Son beloved of heaven*

This is the second verse of the little-known Christmas carol, Cold December Flies Away. As I reflect upon the coming Christmas celebration, this verse spoke to me. The world of first century Palestine was not that much different from our world today. Deep shadows have fallen across our world and we live in a time of sin. At times, the world wants us to look out for number one and give no thought of other people. We cling to possessions, we resent the opportunities of others, we lament the lack of compassion. All the world lays under death with our sleeping eyes closed to the needs of others.

But when all seemed lost in night, just when the world looks like it will live forever in darkness and sin, comes the sun whose golden light brings unending joy. The wonder and mystery of the Nativity of Jesus Christ is the coming of this light into the world. A light that brings hope for a better world, hope for a world free from sin and death, hope that brings unending joy.

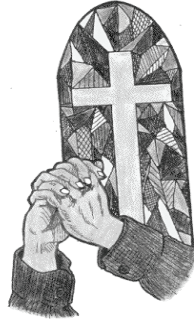
That is why we celebrate this special birth each year. We celebrate the hope that comes in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the birth of this child, we celebrate the joy that comes from the freedom Christ brings to us by forgiving our sins and blessing us with eternal life. We celebrate the faith that God has given us through Jesus, faith to believe that God loves us so much that God would send his son, born of a virgin, born in humility, so that we might know God better and come to believe in the promises God made to Israel and through Christ to the whole world.

Come celebrate with us on Saturday, December 24 at 10PM and again on Sunday, December 25 at 10:30AM as we welcome once again the Christ child into our hearts and into our world.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Scott

PRAYER REQUESTS

We ask God's special care for:



If you are in need of prayer, please contact Pastor Meier at 812-282-6993 or on his cell phone (260-273-1250) or one of the prayer chain leaders: Virginia Klemens (288-8809), Vivian Smith (288-8531) or Nancy Vogt (282-2014)

Illness

- *Owen Clive, treatment for leukemia
*Bill Arbuckle, treatment for brain tumor
*Tricia Zummach
*Patti Smith, recovering from cervical spine surgery
*Mike Smith, recovering from radiation therapy for skin cancer
*Kevin Hall, recovering at home
*Mary Winn, Ovarian Cancer
*Megan Holman
*Ken Steward, VA hospital
*Darcy Butler, surgical complications
*Gordon McCall, recovering from a stroke

Shut-in:

- *Dorothy Clerici, Lincoln Hills Health Center
*Norma Boehme, Westminster Village
*Bertha Blanchard, at home
*Edwina Andregg, Autumn Woods

Service agencies/programs/special needs:

- *CLM
*Eric Hall Foundation
*Service men and women stationed at home and abroad
*Members of Faith who have lost jobs and are seeking employment
*Lapsed members and visitors seeking a church home.
*American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

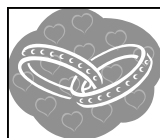
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

We celebrate with these couples having anniversaries in November

- Becky & Kevin Hall 12/3
Monica & Ken Hawkins 12/8
Mike & Donna Baugh 12/21
Nancy & Travis Arbuckle 12/27

God's blessings to these November birthdays

- Nicodemus Durham 12/4
Kate Scott 12/10
Trisha Perry 12/13
Edwina Andregg 12/14
Amy Jo Holaday 12/17
Dana Glaab 12/18
Sylvia Scott 12/18
Don Smith 12/21
Tami Czerwonka 12/22
Jake Zimmerman 12/23
Fred Czerwonka 12/25
Becky Hall 12/25
Carol Taylor 12/25
Lauren Rayborn 12/28
Charles Scott 12/28





NEWS & NOTES




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Kyle Czerwonka
Will Czerwonka (812) 284-5121

BULLETIN-BULLETIN-BULLETIN

WHAT: Mid-week fellowship/ worship opportunity

Where: Faith Lutheran Church

Time: 7:00 pm Worship Service - With Pastors' Scott & Laura Meier

Reminder: If you know of someone you would like Pastor to visit, please write their name on the White Board in Pastor's Office!!

Men's Club

The newly formed Men's Club would like to volunteer to help any of our members who might have "light" outside or inside spring cleanup activities needing to be done!! Contact Fred Czerwonka, Scott Rife or Lyle Gernand.

*******INVITATION*********Faith Lutheran Church Women & "Little Women" Brunch & Cookie Exchange****Saturday, December 3, 2011****9:30-11:30 am****Casual Dress**

Please bring a covered dish for Brunch and two dozen cookies to sample and share with our shut-ins.

Make cookie baking together a cherished Christmas memory, enjoy stories and share recipes. Ladies please feel free to bring your daughters, granddaughters, nieces, cousins, or sisters!

Sign-up on the Bulletin Board. For questions call Donna Baugh at 256-2528

**ARLYS JOHNSON**

Greetings from the two circles of our WELCA. We are all looking forward to Saturday, December 3rd, from 9:30 till 11:30 for fellowship, brunch and cookies. This once a year event gives us the opportunity to reach out to our shut ins with a box of Christmas cookies. Come join us for this fun time. Pastor Laura will join us and we are looking forward to spending time with her.

The Lenten dinners will be discussed during our December meeting. If we decide to host the Lenten dinners there will be a sign up sheet for people to prepare the meals. The day circle will be meet on the 14th of December. The evening circle's next meeting date will be March 6th, 2012.

Blessings,

Arllys Johnson

MEET & EAT REPORTS

TEAMS LIASONS

Thank you to everybody that took part in November’s “Meet and Eat. It is great to get input from so many people concerning the day-to-day operation and the future plans for Faith Lutheran. Just a reminder that the next “Meet and Eat” will be **December 11** and everyone is asked to bring a soup or sandwiches to share. Thanks again!

CLM

SUE NEATHAMER

Center for Lay Ministries

It is a busy time of year at the food pantry with the Christmas Basket project in full swing. We had 10 days for clients to sign up for a basket this year in November. Many local churches provide for families that applied for a basket. Some churches take one of our low income senior residential complexes (Clark Arms or Farrington for example) and deliver food to the clients there. The clients that were not assigned to a church or the Salvation Army will receive a food basket and clothing for their children up to age sixteen at the Center on December 16th.

Faith asked for seven families this year with twenty-one children for the angel tree. Once again this year we are asking for members to pick an angel or food item from the tree. Monetary gifts are also needed as we will need to buy many items for the food baskets.

Food Basket

Ham Potatoes Macaroni & Cheese

Green Bean and Corn

Milk Eggs Butter

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Fresh Fruit Dinner Rolls

Christmas Cookies

A date will be set for these families to pick up their food and gifts here at the church. Thanks you for your generous support of this project

Bliss House

Please Save the Date!

Valentine Bliss

Bliss House will be having their annual fundraiser on February 11, 2012.

It will include an evening of dinner, dance, and silent auction.

It will be held at First Christian Church (Grace Center).

The Center for Lay Ministries would like to thank the members of Faith Lutheran Church for their continuous support of all their ministries.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**CAROL TAYLOR****Christian Education Articles December 2011****Weekday Church School**

The Weekday classes are involved in learning about the birth of baby Jesus. All of the children are busy learning to tell the story of His birth to enable them to tell it to their parents at the program on December 15th @10:00 am. This will be our annual Christmas program and Birthday party for Baby Jesus complete with a birthday cake and a candle. All classes have been practicing their Christmas songs to sing for their parents and friends. The Pre-K class will play Away in a Manger on the bells in a bell choir.

All parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join the classes as we celebrate Jesus birth with a program, and refreshments. The children would also like to invite any Faith members who are free at 10:00 am on the 15th to join us in this celebration.

The children have been busy making ornaments and gifts for their mothers and fathers. It is fun to watch their excitement as they wrap these gifts for their families. They have learned that they give and get gifts because God gave the very first Christmas gift. That gift was a tiny baby named Baby Jesus. Because Christmas is Jesus birthday, we give gifts to others and other people give gifts to us on His special day. This puts a whole different spin on the "I want holiday".

Weekday will be closed on Dec. 20, 22, 27 and 29. Classes will resume on Jan 3, 2012.

Christian Education

Christmas Opportunities

At the Christian Education Committee meeting on November 13th the following Christian educational opportunities were discussed and planned.

Sunday November 27th is the Advent Family Pitch-in dinner and craft night. We will work on our Jessie Trees. Dinner will be at @ 6:00 followed at 7:00 pm by a short worship program around the tables and then by crafts to make more things to hang on your tree.

Thursday, Dec. 15th, Weekday Church School program (see above)

Sunday December 18th @ 6:00pm will be our annual Christmas pitch in dinner. At 7:00pm will be the program that will be presented by the adults with the help of some teens and younger children. The play has been chosen, the scripts are ready, and parts will be given out on Sunday Dec.4th during Sunday school. We have not written this play, but when the Chris. Ed committee read it we were that sure you will find it meaningful in your Advent journey. We hope you will come the evening of the 18th to enjoy singing some Carols, watching the actors, and a great dinner of food provided by all the people of Faith.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONT'D

Saturday, December 24 @ 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service,

Sunday, December 25th 9:15 No Sunday School

Yes, there is Church @ 10:30

Sunday School Class News

The 9:15 children's classes continue to vary in attendance with the children's parental visitation requirements. Many of these children are affected by this to the extent that one week Pastor can have one or two children in class and the next week 5 or 6 will be present. This is also true for Cindy Holley with her 3year- 1st graders. What is amazing is that all of the children seem to be present at the same time and with their other parents at the same time, so this has let us have big classes every other week. We hit an all time high on Sunday November 13 when one child had a sleep-over on Sat. night and brought the whole party to Church the next Sunday. It was really great to have children stretched the full width of the chancel for the children's sermon and the Sunday classes during the sermon.

This month the adult "Greatest Story" study of the Bible class has made its way through the Israelites problems in Egypt and their great escape. Now we are following them around Canaan as God readies them to occupy the Promised Land. We have learned that they, like us, continue to sometimes follow God's will for them and things go well, but then they turn away from Him, complain, grumble and then things do not go so well. All this happens over and over during this 40 year trek. It is amazing to see the similarities between how they lived their lives in relationship with God and how we continue this same pattern of on-again off-again worship. God gave them the Ten Commandments- rules to help them live the way he wanted his people to live, but they, like us, succeed over and over again to break the rules. The commandments showed them where they did not measure up to God's standards for his people. The pattern is becoming clear already, God's Chosen People cannot follow the path God would have them follow. Instead, they choose the path they want to follow. They want what they want when they want it. It is becoming very clear that his people need something or someone to intercede for them with God, to free them from living just for themselves. God is going to have to be the one to "fix" this dilemma. During discussions we are learning that the Israelites many years ago are not much different from us and our desire to live our life our own way. This Christmas we celebrate that "Fix", and His name was and is Jesus.

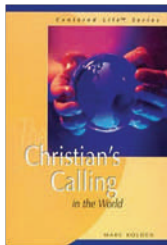
Kate Scott's class, living a Christian life in a secular world has just ordered new books to use for discussions. The topics will be similar, but using material sold by our Lutheran Augsburg Publication house. This class provides opportunities for discussion about how that baby in a manger can be the answer for how we live our lives, how we can live out Jesus commandment to love God and our neighbors as we love ourselves.

The Teen class is small but the discussions are informative. The Bible is read and then examined to see how it can affect the decisions and temptations that constantly face a teen age person.

CHRISTAIN ED—CONT'D**Daily Walk with Faith
Adult Sunday School Class**

My adult Sunday school class is starting a new book titled the *Christian's Calling in the World* by author Marc Kolden. Below is Augsburg Fortress's description of the book with the table of contents. In addition to the book, we will continue to view Rob Bell videos for his unique perspective on our *daily walk!* All are welcome to join us for fellowship and Christian discussion every Sunday starting at 9:15!

See you soon!
Kate Scott



A Christian's Calling in the World is a great little book that opens up the world of vocational history and molds it with creation to form a wonderful look at Christian calling and vocation in everyday life. The book is broken into five sections and has reflection material and questions at the end of each for individual, small group, and/or any group with common vocations or activities.

An Understanding of the Idea of Vocation

Luther's Teaching on Vocation
God's Law
Vocation and Sanctification
Conclusion
Selected Bibliography

The Christian's Calling in the World

God's Work in Creation
God's Work through Us
Our Work with God
Faith and Our Callings
God's Work on Us
Afterword

PROPERTY**DAN DIEKHOFF****YOUR PROPERTY**

Mike Baugh tells me that the property meeting was held in the kitchen again, but the beds seemed to be the theme and focus of the meeting. Several discussions have led to the conclusion that the old copier needs to be repaired or put to bed. Tony Blough and Rick Barr will research the costs.

Fall cleanup was scheduled for November 19. Thanks to any and all who volunteered for this effort when it would have been easier to stay in bed on a Saturday morning. No final decisions have been made about landscaping for the church. Flowers are a high maintenance issue for those who are caring for the appearance of our facilities. Perhaps we need a special person who could with those who would like to see more flowers and other arrangements. Do we have any volunteers? This person would be responsible for the flower beds and leave the rest of the lawn and shrubs maintenance to the property committee.

The decision was made to put the BBQ project to sleep.

For those who might be sleeping in the church the issues of the lock on the back doors is not automatic. Be aware of the special engaged pins if you use the exit by the choir room. Chuck Landis will investigate corrective measures and seek solutions to the loose locks.

Additional precautions are being arranged for the security of our other AC units that might be attacked while we are all sleeping. Don Smith will try to locate a more secure tempered chain. The question of electronic reading of the meter is being considered to reduce the need for access to that area. Next meeting we will try to uncover any other problems that resemble bed bugs.

Dan Diekhoff

OWLS**Holiday Hoot at the Klemens**

All birds of a feather invited!

Bring an appetizer please.

December 17, 2011

3:00 pm

3256 Autumn Green Way

RSVP 288-8809 BY December 16, 2011

LIBRARY NEWS

TRISH PERRY

What do you think?

Well by the time you read this my semester of school should be over, another Veterans Day Flags4vets event at [Cave Hill](#) will have gone off again (this year without me), the Thanksgiving dinner and Veterans Day event at church will be a wonderful memory, Thanksgiving will be over, and Advent will be upon us. I am not sure where October went but it seems November is flying by just as fast. I think I am OK with that as long as I get to slow down and enjoy December.

I had a interim pastor in [San Diego](#) for a couple of years that wrote his Christmas eve sermons as a two person dialog, and it always told the Christmas story through the eyes of the different people, animals and such in the story. So now, I like to just pick someone or something and try to picture the story through their eyes. This might be something you can do with the children, but I warn you, you might get a very insightful answer you did not expect. Here are some I have thought of:

How about those poor shepherd who where minding their own business out in the field protecting their sheep when the angel appeared! I mean seriously, we all know how scary angels must be or why would their first words be "do not be afraid". They just popped out of nowhere, what would you think if you where a poor lowly shepherd? I know what I would have thought, "Well this is it, I am a goner". Things like that just didn't happen to shepherds, Rabbis maybe, but a shepherd, no way. There was even a bunch of shepherds that saw the angel so they could not even chalk it up to sleep deprivation.

How do you think those animals in the stable felt when Mary put Baby Jesus in their food dish (manger)? Well there went a perfectly good supper. Then all these strange people started showing up? They seem to be calm, so I think Gods calming grace had to touch them. What do you think the animals thought when they saw those hard core shepherds bowing and crying at the sight of the Baby Jesus in their manger? Shepherds don't cry they are tough as nails out there in the elements all the time protecting the sheep. Did the animals know who this wondrous boy was?

What if the first people Mary and Joseph meet in [Bethlehem](#) were children? How do you see this playing out in your head? Mary, tired and ready to pop. Joseph, also very tired, but frantic trying to find a place for them to spend the night as his wife is going to have the baby at anytime, but everywhere is full. The children know of a warm stable they can use that they personally have cleaned and laid fresh straw. The children quickly take the couple to the stable, and soon as they get there Mary goes into labor. The children seeing what is happening, run home to gather some blankets and swaddling clothes for the baby. The children are oohing and aahing over their new friends baby and ask Joseph will his name be Joseph like yours? Joseph says no, an angel told them to name them to name the baby, Jesus. The children are impressed that Mary and Joseph have seen real a real angel and asked if they were scared. Joseph says no, angels will not come to frighten you but to bring you words of peace and joy. The children leave thinking this is some special baby.

There scenarios I have given here are in no way to be taken literally but just a way that I think other background people and animals of the time and place might have seen the events of the Christmas story unfold. So why not ask your children how they think the animal might have felt about sharing their house with the Baby Jesus. Or what they think it would have been like if they were the first to meet Mary and Joseph that night. But first and foremost keep this story at the fore front during this busy season and try to slow down, I know I will.

Faith Lutheran Website

www.flcjeff.org

Do you know who your council members are? Do you know how to get in contact with them? Do you know what committees they represent? Go to www.flc.org and click on the *council link*.

.....

Need something published on our website? Email rn barr@sbcglobal.net or call 812.246-4056 and we'll get it uploaded ASAP.

KIDS CLUB:

Want to participate in FLC monthly meet and eat but have a child or children in 5th grade or younger? Don't know what to do with your youngsters so you can meet and eat? WELL....Kids club is the place to be!

Each month we will have crafts or other activities such as a game or stories. We may even take a hike, weather permitting. Activities are age appropriate and supervised with the purpose of having FUN.

I am happy to report that during Novembers Meet and Eat we had 3children in Kids Club and we had lots of fun making turkeys for Thanksgiving and foam crosses to remind us of what we are thankful for. So go ahead grown-ups meet away, we "Kids" have portant business to do too. im-



Yours in Christ

Sylvia Scott



Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias will grace the altar again this year Christmas Eve. Should you care to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please complete this form indicating how many and to whom you wish to honor or remember, and return it by December 11 along with your payment. Poinsettias are \$15 each.

_____ poinsettias at \$15 each = \$ _____ enclosed total

Name _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

COUNCIL MINUTES**SANDY NEATHAMER**

There was not a quorum for the November council meeting so there was not an official meeting held with minutes. Several items were discussed and will be brought up again at the December meeting.

YOUTH INFO**CAROL TAYLOR****Youth Financial Information**

Noisy Offering

9-1-11	Balance forward		\$422.00
9-14-11	Sept offering	\$11.93	433.99
9-29-11	# 1022 Check help for youth		
	with deposit for New Orleans deposit	\$300	133.99
11-16-11	Nov Noisy offering	\$27.82	\$161.81

Youth Account

9-1-11	Balance forward		\$6242.25
10-11-11	Deposit money collected from South Central Conf		
	registrations for Nat'l convention in New Orleans	\$3750.25	10192.50
10-14-11	# 288 National LYO for SCC deposit for convention	\$3750.25	6242.50
10-22-11	Void checks #'289 and 290		
10-22-11	# 291 Lisa Peter refund her deposit payment to LYO	\$150.00	\$6092.50
10-25-11	Deposit from Thrivent for angel tree gifts	250.00	\$6342.50
11-1-11	Balance forward		\$6342.50

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

Our annual Budget meeting will be Sunday, December 11 immediately following
worship.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important budget meeting to approve
Faith's budget for the year 2012.

FINANCAIL SECRETARY

BETH IANDIS

Were did 2011 go? We are forty-six weeks into 2011. Total giving to date is \$149,591.50 or an average of \$3,251.99 per week. To meet our budget expenses we need to average \$3,588.20 per week. This finds us \$37,000.31 short of our 2011 budget with only six weeks left! Our current balance on our mortgage is \$152,721.71 with a payment of \$1,500.00 per month. The following is a summary of contributions for September and October 2011:

September– October giving 2011

9-4	\$4,126.00	10-2	\$2,561.00
9-11	2,039.00	10-9	2,924.00
9-18	3,601.00	10-16	2,189.70
9-25	4,470.00	10-23	2,922.00
		10-30	3,567.37

Respectively submitted by Beth Landis, Financial Secretary

OUTREACH/EVANGELISM

VIRGINIA KLEMENS

The Outreach/Evangelism team is working to create a brochure/visitors packet to present to visitors to Faith. Members of committees and council have been asked for feedback regarding narrative descriptions of the many groups/functions/ministries of the church. Photos will be included as part of the brochure. A special gift has been offered to help defer the cost of publishing this brochure. Dan Diekhoff and Rick Barr are collaborating on the project.

A special invitation to “Church Ambassadors” will be made after the next meeting of the committee. “Ambassadors” will be trained to meet and mentor visitors. A training dinner will be held in January for volunteers who agree to serve monthly in this role.

The committee is aware of families who have participated in Faith’s Weekday pre-school or VBS who have no church affiliation. It is our intention to reach out to these families and invite them to Faith.

The next meeting of the committee will be on December 1 at **2:30** p.m. at church.

Please contact Virginia Klemens (288-8809) vklem@insightbb.com with questions or ideas for outreach in our Faith community.

GIRL SCOUTS

KATE SCOTT



Merry Christmas from girl scout troop 1243!

Our troop was very busy last November selling Fall Product (nuts, candy and magazines) in addition to earning Daisy petals, try-it badges and fun patches too. We enjoyed being a part of the youth groups veterans day celebration by presenting the American flag just a week after our second annual trip to the Diehloff Castle! Thank you Dan and Judy once again for opening up your lovely home to us and teaching us a little about the magic of imagination and limitless possibilities! You are both such a great inspiration to us! Prior to the field trip we learned about fire safety and the Brownies and Juniors learned how to build a campfire with help from our Senior scout!

This month as frost covers the windows and Christmas music fills the stores our troop is working on their "my promise, my faith pin" in addition to making Christmas crafts and a field trip to see Clara's Dream ballet performed by the Louisville school for the performing arts.

In true girl scout form we remind our fellow scouts old and young (and all scout supporters) to "Be Prepared" this Christmas season. Be prepared to welcome the wonders of the holidays, spend time with family and friends, and celebrate the reason for this wonderful season! The birth of our savior and lord Jesus! May you all have a very merry Christmas from your girl scout troop here at Faith.

Your faithful leader,
Kate

Thank you for your continued support!

Your Faithful Leader- Kate



“DID YOU KNOW”

Jane Lakes is a Hair Stylist-



**The Palms Salon
Jane Lakes
604 Providence Way
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812-945-7266**

**Jane Lake’s husband owns
A body shop**

**Phil Lakes Body Shop
245 High Street
Charlestown, IN
812-280-1966**

**Elles Salon
Kari Smith
Full Time Stylist**

2736 Charlestown Rd
New Albany, IN
47150

502-296-0329
812-944-3030
Walk-Ins welcome



Kari Smith, Patti Smith’s daughter is a Hairstylist. She is offering 10% discount to anyone who mentions seeing the “Did You Know” ad in the newsletter. She has the very popular ‘feather extensions’ available in the salon for sale and placement. Kari offers full hair services as well as manicures and pedicures. May call for appointment and walk-ins are always welcome

If you want to participate in this information page, please fill out the form below: (duplicate as needed) or e-mail this information to Patti Smith at pss56@yahoo.com

Name _____ Phone _____

Service that I am wanting to advertise _____

THE REST OF THE WORLD IS WRONG- - ONLY GRANDPA GOT IT RIGHT

THE BIG QUESTION

With Christmas just around the corner I asked my granddaughters what are the big questions people ask around Christmas time. Several answers intrigued me, and I am sure the answers you would get from children young and old would be different. One answer surprised me, “Are you ready to go back to school?” My two princesses agreed, however, that the big question has got to be, “what do you want, or what did you get for Christmas?”

Of course, Grandpa has to disagree! I don’t disagree with the accuracy of their observations. This is the big question the would like to keep at the top of the list. Again, the world has got it all wrong, and Grandpa would challenge the world’s thinking and priorities.

The big question should be, “What did you give for Christmas?” The challenge is, “How do we escape the world’s thinking when even these world are often twisted with the same implications?” People have asked me what I gave Judy for Christmas previous years- - as if the gift would serve as a test of my efforts to preserve our relationship. When I suggested that for practical purposes I bought her a new non-stick frying pan and a new sharp potato peeler. I was quickly advised that such a gift would not answer the big question for Judy. I must disagree again because she will not give me an answer to such a big question in any sense of the word.

The world has got it wrong because it would love for all of us to focus on getting for Christmas. Grandpa asks, “What did you give for Christmas? What did you *give* that someone was not counting on to *get*? What surprises are there in your giving? What compliments have you given to those who have blessed you? What giving have you done that taxes your emotions? What role has compassion played in any of your big gifts?”

If giving happens with little emotion, it is not a big gift. If a gift does not represent what you are, it is an obscure meaningless blessing to the recipient. Every person is a gift of God to the world. He gave that gift because He wanted to bless the world with Himself. He has done that so often in history right up until today. Most specifically He gave Himself in the person of Jesus on Christmas.

The big gift is obviously Jesus Christ and a gift that will be with us to end of time. But if we understand that we are created to be a gift, then each of us is challenged to give as He did.

The world would have us give because of expectation, quality, and size as we search for the “perfect gift.” God gave because He first loved us. The world would have us put on a façade. We create impressive wrappings for ourselves to emphasize what we are giving instead of showing our true selves. But all people that Jesus lifted up were those who have Him what they were. He lifted up the sinners, tax collectors, and even predicted that harlots would enter the kingdom quicker than the self-righteous.

THE BIG GIFT IS WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE- - AND THAT’S JUST GREAT.

The world has got giving all wrong, and Grandpa is the only one that’s got it right.

REMINDER**ADVENT CRAFT NIGHT & POT LUCK DINNER****NOVEMBER 27—6:00pm**

There will be a Dinner followed by a craft night to make more Jesse tree ornaments for your tree. If you came last year, now you can add to your collection of items for your tree. If this is your first year, we will have the materials to make last year's craft plus the new ones for this year. There is no charge for any material. Bring a dish to share, come enjoy the food and fellowship as we get ready to await the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011****FOLLOWING WORSHIP****TO APPROVE FAITH'S****2012 BUDGET****MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LYLE GERNAND

Greetings People of Faith,

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but is it really possible that we are in the month of December already. I always welcome this month with mixed feelings. The excitement of celebrating the birth of Jesus and all that means to Christians world-wide stands in stark contrast to the commercialism that has come to mean Christmas to so many people. Let us make an "Old Year's Resolution" to remember the true meaning of the event that brings us together in celebration this month. Let us also resolve to spread this joyous news to any who may not have heard it.

As for the month itself, we have some important things going on. Our annual budget meeting will be on December 11 right after the worship service. Then we will have "meet and eat" (soup and sandwich again) and a council meeting after that. The budget meetings are always an important part of our church life and your Council will be present to answer any questions you may have concerning the proposed budget. Please plan to attend.

Of course, this month also brings all of the wonderful activities that go along with celebrating Christmas. We will be having programs and meals and angel trees and Jessie trees and putting up and decorating trees and caroling and a woman's brunch and cookie exchange and, well you get the idea. Check the calendar in this newsletter for dates and times of everything that is going on.

I would like to close this article with my wishes for everybody to have a very joyous Christmas remembering the true meaning of why we celebrate this time of year. May that baby born so long ago in Bethlehem be in our hearts and minds throughout the year but especially during this month.

God's Blessings to All
Lyle

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

2011



SERVING AT FAITH FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

USHERS: BRENT & BEV HAIRE

ALTAR GUILD: BEV HAIRE AUDIO: LYLE GERNAND

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: NANCY ARBUCKLE

WEEKLY ASSISTANTS:

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>ASSISTANT</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>CRUCIFER</u>	<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
Dec 4	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Barr Family	Barr Family
Dec. 11	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Meet & Eat	Ilene Bush
Dec 18	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Sylvia Scott	Volunteer
Dec. 24	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer		
Dec 25	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Coffee	Volunteer