



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
 120 Faith Drive Columbus WI 53925
 Evangelical Lutheran Church
 in America – ELCA



Message from Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Faith,

Jesus was born in hard times.

The nation of Israel was under the thumb of a brutal foreign empire. Jesus' own family was poor. (When Mary and Joseph go to the temple to make the required sacrifice of redemption for the birth of a first born son, all they can offer is two pigeons; the "second class" offering allowed in the book of Leviticus for parents who can't afford a lamb.) [Lk 2:22-24]

Jesus lives his life of vibrant trust in God in the midst of challenges and trials. Never did he achieve "financial stability". In Luke 9:58 Jesus says he has "nowhere to lay his head." Never did the political climate in his country resolve its contentiousness. Never was their tranquility during Jesus' life time. All of the bitter political wrangling was part of the story of his death.

Those who knew Jesus during his earthly life could see that in this man was hope for hard times; a light for dark times; serenity for times of alarm.

We live in hard times.

For some of us, hard times are all we've ever know. For some of us the hard times came rather suddenly; it wasn't long ago that things were better. In some ways that makes it harder. Among other troubles, we also know something about those old plights, economic uncertainty and political wrangling, that troubled Jesus and his contemporaries.

Hope in hard times is exactly what Jesus came to offer all humanity. We call Jesus the "Messiah" because we mean that he carries all of God's promises with him.

Candles are symbols of these seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come and light the Advent wreath candles week by week and hear about hope for us and all the world. Come and hold the Christmas candles in your hands as we pray and sing about our joy that, in Jesus, there is relief and hope.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!
 In Christ,
 "Pr. Bob" Moberg

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Bev O'Brien	484-3473
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FROM BISHOP BRUCE BURNSIDE

(from The South–Central Synod's November Newsletter)

Even though the story of Jesus' episode with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's ancient well is told only once among the four Gospels it has an honored place in the cannon of "Jesus stories." This well-known encounter between Jesus and the woman—the "Samaritan, married-five-times plus one more woman" at the well: well known, well worn, all's not well, well story.

Well, well, well! How many sermons have been a blame, shame, hell's flame, bad name, sleazy dame of immoral fame harangue?

Well-that doesn't preach! That's not Gospel. Get over it. Jesus did. Gospel is not a morals test and for all the times we've gotten this story wrong, loving to lose the point by thinking ourselves morally superior and her inferior, there is grace enough to get it right-its about I Am, not who She is.

That's Gospel language: "I Am" And there, at the well, it's I Am, living-water language.

Jesus is thirsty, mid day, hot sun in Samaria and he asks for water. She's not about giving him water, she's about why he would even dare to ask—he's dehydrated and she's rambling on about all the ethnic and sexuality, gender and religious hang-ups and taboos that divide them. So Jesus goes spiritual on her, he strikes with metaphor: "living water." Next she want to know how he's going to get water without a bucket—"it's a deep well, Mr." He doesn't give up—"I'm about living water that will quench dry spirits and withered lives and brittle hearts." She flips attention again: "Oh pour it on, I'll take it with me and THEN I can quit all these daily trips to this old water hole."

Finally, Jesus breaks through and he does it like this..."Go call your husband..." Without judging and condemning and condescending eyebrow-raising Jesus makes himself known. A moment of grace begins to take its shape...Gospel is happening in all its mysterious, unordinary, illogical ways. "Could he be...Prophet? Yes, Who is this man who knows all of me?"

Her question at that place, that moment, that hiccup of her life is prologue—it is overture to all our own moments of pause through the corridors of our times—the opening floodgates for grace to flow comes with this: "Who are you?"
Messiah?

Bread of life I Am. Where the hunger is deep, sweet rising, yeast power, daily, enough, for the journey, for the running and the feeding, for the children and the old ones too, thousands of them, on the hillside and in the streets and the African Continent and the banquet table. Broken body of bread of life, I Am.

Who?

Light of the world I Am in the shadows of your secrets buried in fear, dark guilt, blind stumbling, danger places, the lonely I can see no brother, no sister places, in the dark paralyzing places, power lost places, lost in space, dark hole places. Light of the world I Am.

Who?

Gate for the sheep I Am...gathered, safe, community, known, loved here, be near, away from the wolves now, home now, waiting here for you—come from far country pig sty—here this way, narrow but I will show you, lead you, call and call and call you by name—with me always. Gate for the sheep, I Am.

Who?

Good Shepherd I Am. Watching, risking, day and night, weak but strong, last and least, king and beggar, laying down my life for you, I will die for you. I am shepherd who will be a lamb for you! Good Shepherd, I Am.

Who?

Resurrection and Life I Am...after the storm, at the crash, in the end beginning, in the collapse, after the humiliation, with you in shame, leading at the grave, bending into the tomb, suffering with the cancer, dying with the AIDS, new breath when lungs are emptied, new rhythm when heart is stilled, rest in peace, grace for a new day...always a new day of grace. Resurrection and Life, I Am.

Who?

The way I Am....the way of compassion, the way of mercy, the way of love, the way of justice, the way of peace, the way of healing, the way of servant, the way of the humbled, the way of least and last, the way of hope. The way, I Am.

Who?

Truth I Am... What? Truth? What is truth—your crumbling empire Pilate? In a world of lies, in the mirage, before, behind the illusions and deceptions, where promises that are not, among secrets and schemes, dark agendas, glittering hype, empty, empty words. Truth, I Am.

Who?

The vine I Am. Grounded, source and vessel, the beating in your heart, true vine among weeds and thistles with fruit—spirit's fruit—from me you draw the juice of life, branches you:—The vine, I Am.

That Samaritan woman...you know what she does? She takes it to the streets, old water jug left behind, we see before our very eyes what Jesus saw long before...the shocking, rich, wonder-full grace-made possibility that there CAN be faith among heretical, "go nowhere near them" Samaritans.

That will preach!

Living water will preach-in the desert and the swamps in the floods of destruction and the stagnant places of stench...living water, gushing into a thirsting world of parched spirits, that will reach!

I love the Antonio Machado's poem:

Last night as I was sleeping, I dreamt-marvelous error!-That spring was breaking out of my heart.

I said: Along which secret aqueduct, oh water, are you coming to me, water of a new life that I have never drunk?

Last night as I was sleeping, I dreamt-marvelous error!-That I had a bee hive here inside my heart.

And the golden bees were making white combs and sweet honey from my old failures.

Last night as I was sleeping, I dreamt-marvelous error!-That a fiery sun was giving light inside my heart.

It was fiery because I felt warmth as from a hearth, and sun because it gave light and brought tears to eyes.

Last night as I slept, I dreamt-marvelous error!-That it was God I had here inside my heart.

That sweet water will preach.

For Christ's Sake,

† **Bruce**

Your Bishop

COUNCIL HI-LIGHTS

November 8, 2011

Pictures of current Pastors are being planned for the foyer.

Two member led Girl Scout troops will hold periodic meetings in the fellowship hall.

Committee reports for the Annual Report are due to Ruth by December 30, 2011. Ruth requests that the reports be submitted on a Word document via email.

The Congregational meeting on November 6 for the review of our financial situation was well attended.

Pastor Lisa is planning a new milestone event for 4 and 5 year olds.



MEMBERSHIP COVENANT SIGNING
 Our annual signing of our Membership Covenant was Sunday, November 20. Faith's constitution requires the annual signing of the covenant in order for you to maintain your membership at Faith Lutheran Church. If you were not able to be present on November 20, the 2012 Covenant will be out in the narthex of the church until the end of December. For those having young adults away from home who wish to retain their membership at Faith, Thanksgiving and Christmas are good times for them to sign.

OCTOBER TREASURE'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND

Beginning balance \$ 3,354.17

INCOME

Receipts 19,759.83

Transfers 2,497.71

EXPENSES

Disbursements 20,013.03

CHECKBOOK BALANCE \$ 5,598.68

UNPAID BILLS-NONE



Announcing our annual *Christmas Memory Making Event!* Join us on Friday, December 2nd at 6pm for chili, hot dogs, cookies and lots of Christmas crafts. Bring the kids, bring the grandkids, invite your friends, make some memories! See Pastor Lisa for details.



Faith Lutheran Church is planning a Community Sing called COOKIES AND CAROLS. It will be a time for the community to come to FLC for holiday cookies, hot chocolate and hot cider and a lot of carol singing and good fellowship. It will be held December 16th at 7pm.



A REMINDER THAT ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE 2012 ANNUAL REPORT ARE DUE TO RUTH BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR REPORT TO

faith@faithcolumbuswi.org

RUTH



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND



Children's Program

Sunday, December 18

10:30am Sunday School
Christmas Program



Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Services/HC
3:30pm, 5:30pm, 11pm

Christ Is Born!

Sunday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30am Service of Carols
and Lessons

Do you know someone who needs or would like a pastoral visit? If so, please be the eyes and ears of Faith's ministry and let the office know about that need.



Would you like to provide a POINSETTIA PLANT or plants to enhance the chancel area during the Christmas season? This year we are offering three colors of plants; red, white and peppermint. The cost is as follows: 4 1/2" pot—\$7; 6 1/2" pot—\$15.00; 7 1/2" pot—\$22.00; 8" pot—\$32.00. You will find sign up sheets (according to color) on the table in the narthex. **Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 11.** Please make your check payable to Faith Lutheran Church and mark in the memo "poinsettia".



BE SURE TO LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW ABOUT HOSPITALIZATIONS!

Recently the Columbus Hospital adopted a new computer software system. With this new system the printed book that used to be available for pastors to check on members in the hospital is no longer available. That makes it even harder for the pastors to find church members in the hospital unless you have let us know you are there. Also, when you are admitted to the hospital they should ask you if you would like a pastor visit. If you do not specifically say "yes" the hospital can't even tell us you are there. We want to visit Faith members when they are in the hospital. Please help us do that by having someone inform the church office of your hospitalization and authorizing pastoral visits in your admission interview.

Thanks. . .

We just want to thank EVERYONE for all the help we received with the Spaghetti Supper this year. It would not have been the success it was had it not been for all the dedicated volunteers and donations of food items. Thank you cookie/bar makers, Dwane & Debbie Talg for the ground beef, Paul Bergum for the exquisite centerpieces, and Sue Frish for delivering posters and all her help. Also, thank each and every person that helped with waiting on tables, working in the kitchen, cutting bread, working in the cookie room, set-up and clean-up. Special thanks to those that came in early and stayed the whole evening to help, especially Daryl Severson, Todd Morris, Scott Mathwich, Maggie Ealy, Dennis Langfeldt, Steve Rowe, and Sue Faulhaber! Also, big thanks to Noah and Lisa for your help in the morning setting up tables, etc. And once again, what can I say about Ruth Nordal that we don't already know – your additional help is so very much appreciated while this is still so new for us to be in charge. Thank you FLCW for taking over the bake sale. Thanks Michelle Hoffmann for doing such a wonderful job taking care of the Pumpkin Patch, which was another great success. The Pumpkin Patch made \$398 and the spaghetti supper profit is approximately \$3420. We took in \$5071+ and had a total of just under 550 meals served (including carry-outs). None of this could have been done as well as it was without everyone's help and wonderful enthusiasm. A very special thank you to our Pastor's Bob, Lisa, and Joan - our congregation is so fortunate to have your abundant dedication. We look forward to working with all of you again next year and for many years to come. Again, thanks to each and every one for working and for eating!

God Bless You All, Bruce & Jeanne Miller

Thanks to . . .

-Dianne Patrick, Sue Mathwich, Melody and Rett Tadych, Sue Frish, Cheryl Hoffman, Maizie Anthon and Marcia McMullen for helping assemble the November NEWSLETTER.

-Paul Bergum for decoration the chancel area for Thanksgiving.

-Dick and Bev Hartl for the donation of the two outside Christmas wreaths.



For many, many, many years Faith Lutheran Church has provided you with an opportunity to share God's gifts with others through the GIVING TREE. Once again, the Giving Tree will be in the narthex decorated with colored paper ornaments with names and gift suggestions/ideas for clients who receive assistance from Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Please take an ornament or two and purchase a gift (s)(\$20 limit) for your special person. *We ask that you PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER by the number on the sign-up sheet that corresponds with the number on the ornament* . We also ask that you wrap your gift(s), attach the ornament to the gift(s) and place under the tree by Sunday, December 11, thus giving time to deliver the gifts to LSS in Beaver Dam.



DECEMBER

- 2 Cathy Haseman
- 3 Andrew Bradish
Caitlin Bradish
- 4 Anna Rupp
Ben Destree
Deanna Herrick
Eric Nickell
- 5 Asher Allen-Suchomel
Ed Burke
Gavin Price
- 6 Ryan Huebner
Heather Schultz
- 7 Jayce Pavloski
Kaylee Price
- 10 Jessica Cashmore
Abby Seibt
Cora Seibt
Andy O'Brion
- 11 Nina Gordillo
- 12 Judy Kaland
- 13 Natalie Cass
- 14 Linda Hanson
- 15 Elizabeth Morris
Rowdy Seibt
Eric Mathwich
Wendy Watrud
- 19 Glenn Andler
Maizie Anthon
- 21 Jenny Gaska
Ben Kohl
- 24 Mark Adam
MaKayla Mitchell
- 26 John Faulhaber
- 27 Tim Mathwich
- 29 Joseph Morris
Luanne Miller
- 31 Eric Frey

Vance Bomkamp, Michael Hansen, Roger Hasz, Zachary Rohrbeck, Travis Schultz, Gloria Spaete



THE RED TENTERS' BOOKCLUB

We will not meet in December but for our January 2012 selection we are reading *Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger and will meet on Thursday, January 26, 7pm at the home of Emma Jones. New members are always welcome to join us.



Mark Adam, Lydia Agnew, Roxanne Ayer, Barb Bergum, Doreen Blome, Drake Bromkamp, Nickolas Cass, Yvonne Cass, Bill Chase. Michele Dauman, Trish Day, Ben Destree, Cliff Destree, Colin Emler, Toni Fox, Jenny Gaska, Nina Gordillo, Ryan Hasey, Brenda Hochstatter, Cary Hochstatter, Andrew Hoffmann, Corbin Hynes, Bob Jansen, Taylor Hansen, Loir Kikkert, Joyce Lienke, Karen Mickelson, Anna Miller, Bruce Miller, Terry Nordal, Chris Penzotti, Andrew Peterson, Jackie Price, Jamie Price, Jeannie Ritchie, Jack Roelke, Corbin Scheeler Severson, Deborah Severson, Corin Stoll, Pat Sullivan, Melody Tadych, Aarika Tjugum, Ana Tjugum. Yvonne Tjugum, Lisa Weisensel, Logan Wescott, Betsy Woodward, Alex Zahn, Jan Zahn.

Enjoy your special day. Do something fun!



Barb and Paul Bergum, Patsy Braker, Karen and Dennis DeNure, Susie Krakow, Retta and John Kurth, Bridget and Todd Morris, April Peterson, Toni Peterson, Betty and Rod Schubert, Glenn and Karin Westlake.

Enjoy your special day!

Televised Service Times

Digital channel 980

Cable channel 98

Faith's worship services are aired on the following days and times:

Monday @ 10:30am

Tuesday @ 9:00am

Wednesday @ 7:00pm

Thursday @ 1:30pm



Trunk R Treat Event @ Faith October 30, 2011

address change

Tim and Amanda Hole

Zachary

123 Parkview Circle #4

Columbus WI 535925

920-763-2322

Nicole Farr

Elizabeth Pinkston

3241 W Main Street

#203

Sun Prairie WI 53590-4567



Building the flower cross are David Kikkert, Rod Schubert, Fritz Price and Scott Mathwich



Roller skating Party

The Junior League (students in grades 6-8)

is planning a "roller skating party" for Friday, December 9, 6:15-10pm in Watertown. Cost is \$6.00. Pam Larson, JL leader, is looking for chaperons for this event. *Students may bring a friend!* Questions? Contact Pam Larson at 623-9920.



The Flower Chart for 2012 is on the kiosk bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers to enhance a Sunday morning worship service we ask that you sign up soon so you are able to secure the date you desire. Flowers may be given to celebrate, memorialized, or honor some person or occasion.

Bulletin Sponsorship—The Bulletin Sponsor Chart for 2012 is on the table in the narthex. If you would like to celebrate, memorialized or honor some person or an occasion, you might like to sponsor worship bulletins. The cost for 2012 is \$30.00.

Faithful Ringers Halloween Fun



Confirmation Extravaganza



This n' That

The 5th annual "Fur, Fin & Feathers at Faith" community fellowship event was held on October 27. The event was well attended. We would like to thank the volunteers and participants that were involved. This event supports the mission of the three churches directly involved and benefits are received by the food pantry and FLC Endowment Fund.

The Labyrinth & Prayer Garden committee announces the completion of the first phase of the "Living Cross" planter and feature. Melody brought an idea to the committee and we discussed, refined and prototyped the idea which resulted in it's construction on October 18 by Rod, Fritz, David, Scott and Eugene contributing. (Welcome to the committee Melody!) Funds for this planter were covered the many smaller Labyrinth & Prayer Garden contributions that have accumulated in Faith Projects and from memorials by the Lueck and Rieck families. In the Spring annual flowers will be planted as well as Redbud trees and other additions in an island arrangement around the planter.

The Church in Society committee is reforming. The committee hopes to start two new ministries at Faith. One effort is to organize regular work groups for the Second Harvest Food Bank and possibly food pantries. The second effort is an expanded Campus Ministry effort to help stay in contact with our 18-24 year olds that are moving out into the world at college, tech, the military or the work force. If you would like to help plan either of these efforts please contact Scott Mathwich, Thank you.



Please continue to save your coupon flyers from the newspaper! U.S. soldiers can use a coupon up to six months after its expiration date. Our confirmation students will collect the coupon flyers, sort them and mail them to a military base. A box for the coupons can be found by the dividing wall.

*By the way...*The 15 youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2012 thank those who have made donations toward this gathering. If you would like to make a donation please make your check payable to "Faith Lutheran Youth League" NOT to the church. *Thank you!*

On the Lighter Side. .

Norwegian Computer Terms

Log On: Makin' da wood stove hotter!

Log Off: Don't add no more wood.

Monitor: Keepin' an eye on the wood!

Download: Gettin' da wood off da truck!

Mega Hertz: Ven yer not careful gettin' da firewood.

Floppy Disc: Vat yew get from trying tew carry tew much wood.

Ram: Dat thing dat splits da wood.

Hard Drive: Gettin' home in da winter time in da snow.

Prompt: Vat da mail ain't in da vinter time.

Windows: Vat yew shut ven it's cold outside.

Screen: Vat yew shut vens it's black fly season.

Byte: Vat dem dang black flies do.

Chip: Munchies fer da TV.

Microchip: Vat's in da bottom of da munchies bag.

Modem: Vat yew did tew da hay fields.

Dot Matrix: Old Dan Matrix's wife.

Laptop: Where da kitty sleeps.

Keyboard: Where yew hang da keys.

Software: Dem dang plastic forks and knives.

Mouse: Vat eats da grain in da barn.

Mainframe: Holds up da barn roof.

Port: Fancy wine.

Random Access Memory: Ven yew can't remember vat yew paid fer da rifle, ven yer vife asks.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Faith Lutheran Church
120 Faith Drive
Columbus WI 53925-1602

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Return Service Requested

THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Faith...Serving God...Serving People

*Now faith is the assurance of
things hoped for, the conviction of
things not seen.*

Hebrews 11:1



MISSION STATEMENT

Joyfully recognizing God's commitment and faithfulness to us, FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH exists to serve God through serving God's people. We eagerly work towards the realization of God's Kingdom by:

- Offering praise-filled worship to God.
- Nurturing individual spiritual growth.
- Fostering an environment of caring and acceptance.
- Reaching out to serve the needs of our community.

God's love stirs us to touch others with the same love we have received—and invites them to share our life of praise and service.

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) Columbus, Wisconsin

AS MEMBERS OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WE PROMISE:

- To attend services regularly.
- To support the congregation financially.
- To live responsibly as a Christian witness.
- To become as involved as possible in the total life and work of the congregation.

And this we promise to do by the help of God.

FAITH'S TOP PRIORITY VISIONING GOALS:

- Equip all our members for lifelong spiritual growth and ministry.
- Continue and build upon our tradition of being an accepting congregation that welcomes and serves all.

Adopted March 2010

We're on the web:

faith@faithcolumbuswi.org