



Pathways of Faith

Faith Lutheran Church

December 2024

The Pastor's Space

Grace, Peace and Love:

With the Liturgical Season of Pentecost 2024 behind us, the new Liturgical Season of Advent enters into our conscious spiritual presence and awareness. Advent means "THE COMING." Advent reminds us of Jesus' promise to someday return in what scripture portrays as: "The end of the age for humanity". It will be a time of closure and new beginnings, a time of finality that ushers in a new heaven and a new earth. A time that separates wheat from chaff as the parable exclaims. It is a time that consummates the separation of believers and non-believers by faith. Jesus is coming to complete the ministry he first came to establish in the hearts of true believers, those who accept and acknowledge His Triune Nature and Divinity.

Here at Faith Lutheran Church, Advent prepares the believer for the change that Jesus, the Prophets and scripture foretold to be a time of fear for non-believers. It will be that time when believers will realize the protecting shield that comes with faith's acceptance. Protection from the devastating effects of the new birth to come, the new heaven and new earth. It is the time when this earth passes away for the new kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

Here at Faith Lutheran Church, in the months of November/December, we will be re-introduced to the story of salvation for life in a world created by God, a life that no words can describe, a life that Jesus came to convey to those accepting Him. It is the time and story of Jesus, God's Son, come to re-acquaint fallen humanity with the God of everything, even life. The festive activities of these two months consume the spirit, the atmosphere, and the thought of a savior come to redeem a broken humanity.

Let the stories/lessons of Advent and Christmas broaden your "Spirit" with the knowledge that enables you to see and know God in the many different manifestations of His spiritual presence among us in these changing times. Let the months of November/December bring the faithful a clearer spiritual understanding of the things to come and prepare the faithful for the blessings of "Salvation Complete".



Message from the President

We now move into our season of Advent, the time of preparation. How will Faith Lutheran PREPARE for the future? How will we, as members of Faith, shine our light into our community?

Christmas Angel Project will be starting on Sunday, 12/1/24. Again, this year we will be providing Christmas gifts to families who have been successfully reunified through the local foster care system. Many parents often struggle to provide Christmas for their children and Faith will be there to help! Look for our Christmas Angel Tree in the Narthex. Members of Faith Lutheran Church will pick an angel off the tree, purchase items from children's wish lists, wrap them up and bring them back to church (with the angels attached to the packages) and these gifts will be distributed to parents who have successfully turned their lives around and been reunified with their children. Last day to drop off completed Angels will be Sunday, 12/15/24.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped with the Volusia County Basket Brigade. Faith Lutheran really does make a difference in our community!

Are you interested in becoming a member of Faith Lutheran's Church Council. Do you want to help keep our awesome church running smoothly? Perhaps by being a Ministry Leader? Please reach out to a member of Council if you would like more information or to throw your hat in the ring.

Prayerfully,

Laura Olson

386-846-1976

Vice President's Report

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas. I hope everyone is enjoying the season and awaiting the birth of our Savior, Jesus. It is hard in all the commercialization to remember what we are truly celebrating but I hope you take some time to reflect and remember the reason for the season. We are very blessed as a church family and a nation. One small way we can help others and to spread the joy of Christmas is to take an angel from our tree. This is a very special project and these children are not supported by any other agencies. Help make this a very special Christmas for these children.

Merry Christmas,
Wendy Eames
Vice President



Treasurer's Report

As of the end of October, net income (income less expenses) was \$41,220. Year-to-date income was \$129,575 and year-to-date expenses were \$102,116. We are currently soliciting quotes from roofers to replace the church and breezeway roofs. Most likely this expense will roll over into next year and the budget will reflect that accordingly.

Thank you to those who turned in their Time and Talents and pledge cards for 2025. This information is essential for planning for 2025.




If you have any questions regarding our financials, please feel free to contact me at 561-251-3594.



God's Blessings,
Karen Otis, Treasurer



Social Ministry

What did a small church like 'Faith Lutheran' do for our community in 2024?

<p>1) Delivered 100 Mylar blankets to the Salvation Army to help the homeless in the cold temperatures.</p>	
<p>2) 'Souper Bowl' donations to the Salvation Army pantry. Much appreciated!</p>	
<p>3) Our 'Plarning' group provides mats for the homeless. The mats are 'Blessed' in a church service before sharing with the community. What a blessing to the homeless during the chilly weather.</p> <p>Members of the Plarning group: Barbara Neunfeldt Marge Sykes, Elisa Amaro (mother of Nancy Sykes) Marge Cullen, Ceil Masterson, Bat Masterson (again in 2024 - Bat makes the best Plarn balls for the team!)</p>	 <p>I would also like to thank those who help out anonymously.</p>

<p>4) Brookdale Senior Living</p> <p>Faith Lutheran donated flower/vegetable plants and potting soil to Brookdale Senior Living, giving our own Lois and Ken Ackerman the opportunity to maintain their own flower bed outside their living room window. Faith Lutheran also provided an Ice Cream social for the residents of Brookdale Senior Living. A joy to see the smiles on the faces of the residents enjoying the ice cream and cookies!</p>	
<p>5) Food donations to the Salvation Army pantry</p>	<p>Thank you all for the food donations to the Grocery basket, to date 724 lbs. of food to the Salvation Army pantry.</p>
<p>6) Donations of 'Gently used' clothes and blankets for the Homeless</p>	<p>The 'clothes' are used for job interviews.</p>
<p>7) Backpacks to include school supplies for the Foster Children in our area!</p>	

<p>8) God’s Work Our Hands</p>	<p>Giving to our Military personnel. This year was for “Gods Work Our Hands” recipient, Lynelle Zelnar. She was excited about our donations to the project for Military personal.</p>
<p>9) Stewardship “Growing in ‘Faith’ Together”</p>  <p>The logo consists of a stylized tree with a brown trunk and green leaves. Below the tree, the letters "G.I.F.T." are written in a large, serif font. Underneath "G.I.F.T.", the phrase "Growing in Faith Together" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font.</p>	<p>Stewardship is a practice of generosity that involves using all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents, and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes.</p>
<p>10) Basket Brigade</p>	<p>This year we filled 77 boxes of food plus 5 from Boy Scouts to provide Thanksgiving meals for families in Volusia County.</p>

<p>11) Angel Tree</p>	<p>We look forward to Faith Lutheran providing Christmas presents to Foster children of families, Community Partnership for Children in Volusia, Flager and Putnam Counties.</p>
<p>12) As winter is upon us, can we provide another set of Mylar blankets to the Salvation Army to help the Homeless in the cold temperatures?</p>	

Council Meeting

The date for the December council meeting is Monday, December 9th, at 6:30. All members are welcome to attend.



Planning

The Planning group will not meet in November and December due to the holiday season. We will resume in January, 2025.

Fellowship Report

November certainly answered our wishes for a break from heat. I can't believe how fast it has passed though. As Pastor reminded us all, we are ushering out one liturgical year and starting a new one on December 1st with the arrival of Advent.

Your Fellowship Committee seems to continually be planning one special holiday or occasion, and when doing so, always

hopes to receive new ideas from all of you. So, please put on your thinking caps and bring us some fresh ideas.

We only had two November birthdays, and sadly both persons were bedridden. We did get to sing to Gisela on her actual birthday.

Thanksgiving Feast- what a wonderful time for fellowship and scrumptious foods. SPECIAL shout-outs go to three couples - Eames, Neuhardt and Wise's - for purchasing and cooking great turkeys. We THANK everyone that brought all the super sides and desserts also. It took all of us to put on this Feast.

It is now time to think about our Christmas Brunch on December 15th-sign up to come and bring something.

God's Blessings to all for a meaningful Advent and Holiday Season!

Lynne Meinhold and Cathy Neuhardt



Game Night

There will be no game night for the months of November and December. The fun will return in January, 2025!

Bridge of Hope

The next Bridge of Hope opportunity to feed the homeless will be Monday, December 23rd at 8:30 AM.

Location: Hope Place
 1340 Wright Street
 Daytona Beach, FL 32117

Come join us for a very rewarding experience!

Please contact Kathy Mikulski with any questions.
(410) 507-2826



Property

We are planning to power wash the sidewalks and breezeway areas of the Church and Fellowship Hall. This will take place on Thursday, December 5th, starting at 9 a.m. We have 3 members who have gas-powered power washers, so we hope the cleanup will not take too long. Anyone who wishes to help is encouraged to contact Bob, Rich, or Jerry.

Gratitude

A special thank you to the Mastersons for the generous donation that has enabled us to purchase a new lawn mower. An additional thank you to the Mikulskis for their generous donation to make up the difference in the cost of the new mower.

Chrismons and the Season of Advent

As our Advent season is at hand, I am very pleased to share that our 2024 CHRISMON project has moved forward in a positive direction! As of today, 85 Chrismons (may be more) have been completed. Thank you, Patty Hamilton, for your time, talent and patience. Thank you, also, to Chet Rossiter for his “bead collection” and support.

As you look at and admire the Chrismons during Advent, ponder the themes of the Advent season: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Please pray for someone who you feel may benefit from receiving a Chrismon for Christmas.

We are looking forward to the 2025 CHRISMON project and are planning for Christmas 2025 to be even more successful with additional helpers. Remember: many hands make light the load!

If you are interested in learning more about Chrismons, please let Bat Masterson know, as he shared his expertise with Patty and the rest is history. Many thanks, Bat, for all your help, guidance and support.

Thank you to everyone for helping to make our Advent season a blessing, as we remember and experience the SUCCESS of Faith Lutheran Church through our UNITY as church family embedded in the word of God. Please join me in prayer for our Advent season:

“God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Peace,

John Meehl – Council Member at Large



Looking Forward

Dec. 01 - 1st Sunday in Advent

Dec. 08 - December Birthdays

Dec. 15 - Holiday Brunch

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 5:00

Jan. 19 – Annual Congregational Meeting



Altar Flowers

01 - Lynne Meinhold – In Loving Memory of my Husband
Bob for our 58th Anniversary

08 -----

15 Marge Cullen – To the Glory of God

22 Karen Otis – To the Glory of God

29 - Bob & Marylou Aldrich – To the Glory of God

Bulletins

01 - Lynne Meinhold – In Loving Memory of my Husband
Bob for our 58th Anniversary

08 -----

15 Bob Neuhardt – In Celebration of Cathy's Birthday

22 Charlie & Julie Hoyle – In Celebration of our Anniversary

29 -----

Candles

Bob Neuhardt – In Celebration of Cathy's Birthday



December 01	Ken Huntley
December 09	Ava Graham
December 14	Marge Cullen
December 20	Cathy Neuhardt
December 30	Laura Olson (60)



December 01	Jim & Marge Sykes (62 yrs)
December 18	Charlie & Julie Hoyle