

# FAITH ALIVE

December 2022  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR  
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC



## Transition: A Time for Renewal

At my farewell of my longest interim, an elder spoke at the end of the service. He said, "We were very anxious that we could quickly find the right pastor for our church. What happened instead was that we calmly took the time we needed to become the right church for our next pastor."

Some churches look to Intentional Interim Ministry to navigate a season of renewal during a pastoral vacancy. Intentional Interim Pastors lead congregations through developmental tasks that prepare them for new ministry with a new pastor. What types of churches would benefit?

### The Transitioning Church

- A congregation that has experienced a long-term pastorate and needs to create space between the old and new.
- A congregation that is facing challenges and changes as it looks to future ministry.

### The Teams Church

- A congregation with staff and/or multiple ministries that require an evaluation and strategy for receiving and working with a new pastor.

### The Troubled Church

- A congregation that has experienced a split, a controversial resignation of the pastor, a tragedy, or some other stressor.

### The Tranquil Church

- A congregation that is plateaued or declining due to neglect with regard to their mission, vision, and values.

### The Terminal Church

- A congregation that may be nearing the end of its life cycle and needs to transition through a hospice or closure time and/or adapt to a different form of ministry.

A congregation might be like one of these described above, or a combination of two or more. Working with a development team of church staff and members, a trained Intentional Interim Pastor is prepared to adapt to the specific needs of a congregation and walk them through key developmental tasks.

### Know and Understand Heritage & History

Churches in transition have a story of how they came to this point. Those stories, facts, and events happened in a context, whether good or bad, and have made an impact on emotions, attitudes, reputation, hopes, and dreams. We will embrace this season to find peace with our past, to grieve, reconcile, and understand, and resolve to move forward, not paralyzed by either a painful or positive past.

### Affirming Present Identity and Discovering Newness

A transition time between pastors provides the congregation an important opportunity to identify its real self and get a fresh look at its context for ministry. Before a new pastor arrives, discovering newness in the flock will prepare it for the shepherd, best fit to lead it.

We answer these questions... Who are we? What do we dream of doing together?

### Leadership Optimization

Transition happens with natural shifts and changes in leadership. We recognize this and celebrate a heightened opportunity to renew and engage God's people in leadership and involvement that is optimized and utilized.

### Connection to the Church-At-Large

The interim between settled pastors offers some their first chance to understand and embrace their identity with LCMC. A healthy transition makes the congregation able to claim, in newly articulated ways, what their relationship with other Christians is and why it is important, and also see with fresh insight, how the congregation is important to the good health of their association with other Christians, locally and globally.

### Call Commitment

A healthy transition makes the congregation ready for new direction in ministry and leadership. The congregation embraces God's ministry call for itself, as individuals and as a body, and commits itself to the calling of a new pastor.

Intentional Interim Pastors take good care of the "task gap" by being a good pastor to the congregation in transition. They help as a non-anxious servant during times that are often anxious to the congregation. They carry on the Word and Sacrament ministry of the church and help the congregation embrace their own ministry too.



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**KARLENE SCHRANER**

**MUSIC & PRAISE TEAM DIRECTOR**

Welcome, December! And welcome all the busy, beautiful, happenings from now until Christmas. There are things to get done, people to see, and plans in the making. I hope some of your plans include a little quiet time and giving thanks for all the gifts God has given you. I give thanks for the gift of music and am so excited to share in that with you.

As Martin Luther said, **"Next to the word of God, music deserves the highest praise."** If you are feeling a call to serve with your gift of music for the Glory of God, jump in and join us. Praise Him with song and with the gift he has given you!

It's exciting to have our bell choir and vocal choir rehearsing and sharing in the joy that music gives us. Again, in the words of Luther, **"The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to mankind to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music."**

We are praising God with our traditional hymns and the new contemporary songs we are singing on Sundays. I would love to hear your thoughts on our music; what inspires you, moves you, and gives you peace and joy.

In Christ,  
Karlene Schraner  
Choir Director

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LOVE DAY QUILTERS- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 9AM-11AM

Winter has certainly made itself known- I wonder how long it will last. That won't matter because we will be busy covering our church pews with this years production of beautiful quilts to be blessed on December 4th. Our high school seniors will each choose one as a gift from us and the rest will be distributed to local charities that serve those in need. We'll have time to tie and pin a few quilts to begin next year's stash and to enjoy a treat. Thanks to Karlene for the apple and cherry turnovers, and the lemon coffee cake last month. Come join the fun!



Augie Records

## FISH- CHRISTIAN FOOD PROGRAM

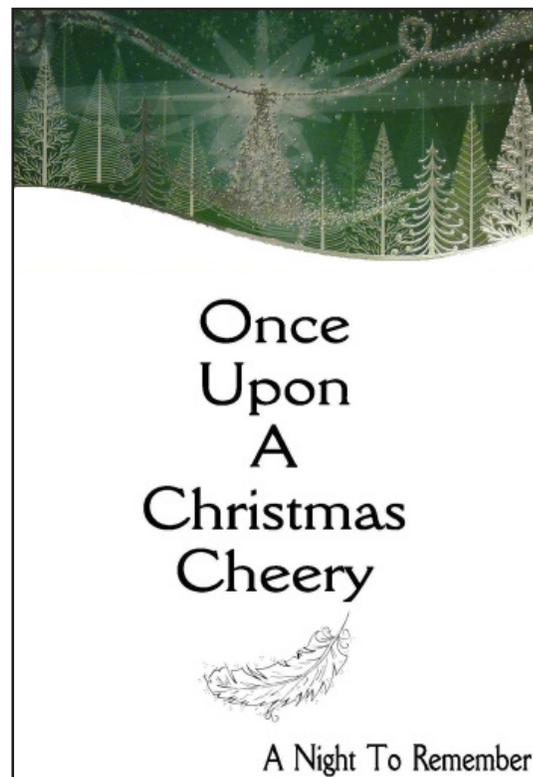
FISH is a nonprofit organization that is wholly dependent on volunteers and financial contributions. This community food program benefits the needy residents of Great Falls by providing groceries, food stuffs, and paper products. No one is denied on the bases of race, sex, age or religion. There are 11 local churches that volunteer on a rotating schedule to stock shelves and bag and dispense food. This gives each member of Faith Lutheran Church an opportunity to be a volunteer. Every 3 months Faith Lutheran Church is scheduled to work FISH, where we work 1 week for 2 hours each day. If you are interested in volunteering for FISH your can contact Fred Shauer or Sandy Clapshaw.

**FISH's Family Statistics for October 2022**

	Oct 21	2021 YTD	Oct 22	2022 YTD
Families (non-singles)	51	379	54	481
Singles	38	338	58	455
Adults	124	1,087	150	1,303
Children	66	424	70	600
Meals	2,850	22,665	3,300	28,545
Lbs of Food	6,145	48,306	7,084	58,275

**FLC is scheduled to work Fish, December 26-30, 9:00-11:00am. We will be needing volunteers. Please call Fred Shauer or Sandy Clapshaw if you would be available to work.  
Thank you.**

It is December and that always brings us to the time of the Children's Christmas program. This year's program, "Once upon a Christmas Cheery", will be December 18th during the service. Our young people will be sharing the story that happened on a Bethlehem night so long ago when the Baby who changed the world was born, plus sharing their individual musical talent during prelude. We invite all the youth, age 3 thru high school, to participate in sharing the Christmas story with the congregation.

**Scheduled Practices:****Sat, Dec. 10th, 10am – 12pm (lunch provided)****Sun, Dec. 11th, during children's church****Sat, Dec. 17th, 10am – 12pm dress rehearsal**

If there are any questions about the program or you would like to help and/or participate, please contact Annette Hocker at (406) 590-1061 or call the church office.

**Youth Group News**

The youth group is planning to go Christmas caroling around the neighborhood surrounding Faith the evening of December 21st. They would like to invite the congregation members to join them in caroling. Please consider joining the youth in sharing the melodies of the Christmas holiday with Faith's neighborhood.

**DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS**

A digital version of this newsletter is available to view, download, and print on our website. The digital version of the newsletter costs the church nothing to produce, whereas the paper version costs each month in paper, printing, and postage fees. If you would like help us reduce our office costs by receiving a link to the digital newsletter via email each month please reach out to the church office at (406) 454-1309.



Tuesday Evenings- 6pm Mountain

# ESSENTIAL CHAPTERS

bible study  
with Mark Neumann

A live, online, interactive Bible study with people all over the country!

Online via Zoom Meeting ID: 313 773 9779 Passcode: Word

Love Day Quilters

Thursday, Dec. 1st  
at 9am

Women's Bible Study

ABIGAIL  
CIRCLE

Thursday, November 10th at 10:00am

Soulo Brothers & Sisters

DECEMBER 13TH  
AT 11:30AM

at El Comedor

Christmas Eve  
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
12.24.2022 4PM & 6PM

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st:- Marion Gullings, Marilyn Rubino, Jeanie Thomas

2nd:- Greg Schwandt

4th:- Dexter Anderson, Shantelle Hutchinson,  
Logan Severson

5th:- Brandon Severson, Scott Smith

6th:- Sharon Cope, Marilyn Olson, Isaac Powers,  
Dustin Severson

7th:- Adam Fritz

8th:- Hailey Wagnild

9th:- Dana Wallace

10th:- Sean Hoven, Robert Tempel

11th:- John Gibney

12th:- Vickie Drown, Michael Farnsworth, Grace Stoope

13th:- Theresa Dittler

14th:- Kay Craig

16th:- John Stoope

17th:- Colton Schraner

18th:- Mark Tarum

19th:- Judy Stokes

20th:- Aubrey Sommer, Nicholas Tempel

21st:- Bill Holiday

22nd:- Diana Holliday

25th:- Cash Marquardt, Travis Powers

26th:- Scott Radford

27th:- Susan Neumann, Elizabeth Schroeder

28th:- Sally Morss, Adele Robinson, Delores Schwartz

29th:- Michael Herford, Sheldon Ivers

30th:- Jason Orthman, Riana Perkins

31st:- Hannah Scheels

Watch over Your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may Your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## ANNIVERSARIES

December 20th:- Sheldon & Marilyn Ivers

December 27th:- Jim & Bamma Taylor

December 28th:- Stew & Delores Schwartz  
Steven & Christine Sem

December 31st:- Kurt & Ronda Wiggers

# DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7am - Men's Bible Study 9am- Love Day Quilting 11am- Life Team Meeting	2 10:30am - Iris Communion	3
4 8:30am-Adult Bible Study 9:30am - Worship 11am-Adult Bible Study	5 2pm - Ivy Bible Study 5:30pm- Bell Choir 6pm- Weekly Chapters 6:30pm- Vocal Choir	6 10am - Bible Study 5:45- Confirmation Class 6pm- Men of Faith 7pm - Youth Group	7 7am - Men's Bible Study 10am - Abigail Circle 12pm- Evangelism Meeting	8 7am - Men's Bible Study 10am - Abigail Circle 12pm- Evangelism Meeting	9 10am-12pm Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program (Lunch provided)	10
11 8:30am-Adult Bible Study 9:30am - Worship 11am-Adult Bible Study	12 11:30am-Soulo @ El Comedor 2pm - Ivy Bible Study 5:30pm- Bell Choir 6pm- Weekly Chapters 6:30pm- Vocal Choir	13 10am - Bible Study 2:30pm - Highgate 4:30pm- Worship & Music Meeting 5:45- Confirmation Class 7pm - Youth Group	14 7am - Men's Bible Study 3pm - Golden Eagle Communion 6pm- Council Meeting	15 7am - Men's Bible Study 3pm - Golden Eagle Communion 6pm- Council Meeting	16 10am-12pm Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program	17
18 8:30am-Adult Bible Study 9:30am - Children's Christmas Program Worship Service 11am-Adult Bible Study	19 2pm - Ivy Bible Study 4:30pm - Personnel Team 5:30pm- Bell Choir 6pm- Weekly Chapters 6:30pm- Vocal Choir	20 10am - Bible Study 4:30pm - Property Team 5:45- Confirmation Class 7pm - Youth Group Christmas Caroling	21 7am - Men's Bible Study 10am - Bible Study 4:30pm - Property Team 5:45- Confirmation Class 7pm - Youth Group Christmas Caroling	22 *Add. to Jan. Newsletter are Due	23 7am - Men's Bible Study	24 4pm - Christmas Eve Service 6pm- Christmas Eve Service
25 9:30am - Christmas Day Worship Service	26 2pm - Ivy Bible Study 5:30pm- Bell Choir 6pm- Weekly Chapters 6:30pm- Vocal Choir	27 10am - Bible Study	28	29	30	31



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**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor:	Mark Neumann
Pastoral Assistant:	Diane Lowry
Office Mgr/Secretary:	Hannah Scheels
Treasurer:	Rod Thorne
Bookkeeper:	Orry Rittenhouse
Choir Director:	Karlene Schraner

**OFFICE HOURS:**

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
Closed from 12 - 1 PM During Lunch



THIS IS THE JOURNEY OF FAITH.



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