



# Faith Lutheran Church

Receiving and Sharing the Love of Christ  
December 2021 Newsletter

*From the Pastor ...*

## A CHRISTMAS INVITATION

***"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"***

Luke 2:10-14 ESV

The first Christmas began with a mandate from the government. Caesar ordered a census that placed an unwanted burden on a population already overwhelmed with the challenges of daily life. As December begins, we identify with the circumstances twenty centuries later. Daily life is normally difficult in a world darkened and broken by sin and unbelief in the true God. Government mandates in response to the global pandemic have impacted every aspect of our life. In Stephenville, we are thankful to resume a measure of normal life in the public square. We are able to extend and receive invitations for family gatherings this Christmas. Yet, much of the rest of the world does not share our freedom. The loss of life as a result of COVID-19 and other causes has taken a toll. Many families will miss the presence of loved ones as Christmas draws near.

An angel messenger extends a Christmas invitation. God invites us once more to spend Christmas in worship and praise to Him for His great mercy. He sent the prophet Isaiah who promised "... *the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*" (Isaiah 7:14) The apostle Matthew confirmed the birth of Jesus Christ. "*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet ... Immanuel ... means God with us!*" (Matthew 1:18-23) The apostle Paul has declared the gift of new life in Christ through Holy Baptism. (Romans 6:1-4) His words offer comfort in the midst of lingering sorrow. We "... *do not grieve as others do who have no hope ... through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.*" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14) In the birth, life, passion, death, and glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, God has overcome sin and death. Now receive His Christmas invitation ... join the angel chorus ...

**"Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;**

**Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King." (LSB 368)**

Christmas peace and joy to all!

*Pastor Ed Auger*

## DECEMBER SERMONS

December 5 – Advent Action: PREPARE Luke 3:1-14

December 12 – Advent Action: TELL Luke 7:18-28

December 19 – Advent Action: BEHOLD Luke 1:39-45

December 26 – "Our Christmas Story" Luke 2:22-40

## Contact Us At:

3000 NW Loop, Stephenville, Texas 76401  
254-968-2710

**Website:** [faithlutheranstephenville.com](http://faithlutheranstephenville.com)  
**Email:** [church.office@faithlutheranstephenville.com](mailto:church.office@faithlutheranstephenville.com)

Fill your heart with joy while awaiting the Savior's birth! Come to



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 9:30 A.M. IN FAITH FAMILY CENTER**

Children and youth of Faith will tell about Jesus' birth with joyful hearts, songs, and readings.

Mark this event on your calendar. Brunch will be served in Faith Family Center before the Children's Christmas program. Invite friends and family to discover how the Christmas tree points to Jesus through **SYMBOLS OF SALVATION**.

The Board for Christian Education strives to nurture, strengthen, and sustain the family of Faith through the study of the Word of God.

**Please consider sharing a Christmas Poinsettia with the church for Christmas Eve service through worship on December 26.**

**You may purchase a Poinsettia wherever you shop.**

**Bring the plant to the church by 5:30pm on Thursday, December 23.**

**We will decorate the chancel and sanctuary with them.**

**Thank you.**



## From the Faith School Director

WOW! This year has flown by! It has been a great semester with lots of learning, fun and many activities! The kids and teachers have been busy collecting non-perishable items for Project Hope. The class that brings the most items gets to throw a pie in my face. We will be sure to take plenty of pictures, as the kids have been talking about it for weeks!

The month of December will feature four weekly themes: "Community Helpers", "All About Winter", "All About the Nativity", "All About Christmas".

Faith School will have our Christmas Music Program Sunday, December 12, at 4PM. The kids will sing two Christmas songs! This is a very short and sweet program that the kids work hard on for weeks. We would love to invite all to enjoy the great show that the kids put on!



Dec. 12  
at 4pm

Blessings,  
Lauren Johnson  
Interim Director, Faith School

*Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old,  
he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*



Deck  
the  
Halls



*Fa La La La La*



## Mission of the Month:



Help spread the joy of Christmas to children in our community.

**STOP** by the Angel Tree and select a tag. This year, we are asking that you sign out the tag(s) you select to help with tracking.

**SHOP** for the gift on the tag.

**RETURN** your wrapped gift (with tag attached) to the Angel Tree by December 15. Call the office if you have any issues.

Thank You for supporting this ministry!

## Christmas Season Worship

**Midweek Advent Services at 6:45 p.m.**  
**Supper served at 6:00pm in the**  
**narthex.**

December 1 – “Old Testament Christmas”  
Exodus 3:1-14

December 8 – “The Lord Sets Up His Tent  
Among Us” Genesis 22:1-18

December 15 – “You Shall Defeat Them As  
One Man” Judges 6:11-24

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at**  
**6:00 p.m.**

“The Living Nativity” Luke 2:1-20

**Christmas Day Service at 10:15 a.m.**  
“His Name is Forgiveness” Matt. 1:18-25



*'Tis the  
Season*







# Stephen Ministry

---

## Listening, Caring and Sharing

Your Stephen Ministers continue to express thanks for the many resources that are available in our community. In our Continuing Education Session, November 14, 2021, we learned of a new Erath County resource. Silvia Zimora, Navigation Specialist, with Erath County Community Bridges shared information about what she and her team do to implement those services. These are some of the services offered: Counseling; help with Food Insecurities; Financial Literacy Classes; iPhone classes and Friendly Visitors (to help with loneliness). More information about the other services are on the bulletin board near Lisa's office.

Here's what Ronnie Tate says about being a Stephen Minister: "Listening is one of the great things I have learned since the training of the Stephen Ministry program. You learn to listen more closely and pay attention to what they are really trying to tell you. It helps with your everyday life as well as the Care Receiver that God has blessed you to work and pray with. Praying becomes a much bigger part of your life when you realize God does all the work for you. You are just the vessel that God uses to help other people and shows us how blessed we are to have such a good, good God."

Your Stephen Ministry Team prays that each of you have a safe, healthy and blessed Christmas season as we await Christ's return.

Sherre West, Everett Seider, Arnold Ramming, Cindy Ramming, Lynann Simpson, Rachel Moravec, Ronnie Tate, Larry Angerhofer, Ann Soltau, Marlene Peiser and Burl Peiser



## Christmas Eve Meals on Wheels

Faith Lutheran Church will again have the blessing of preparing and delivering a holiday meal to the clients of Erath County Meals on Wheels. The meals will be assembled at Faith Lutheran Church and Faith Family Center on Friday, December 24, beginning at 9am.

A poster will be placed in the narthex of our church for members to sign up for a variety of ways to help with this activity. If you have questions or would like to help in organizing this event, please call Cindy Stafford at 254-592-6630.



*Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.*  
Isaiah 7:14

What a glorious beginning to the month when we can hear the ancient prophecy, know it happened, and know the "rest of the story" is our salvation!!! Merry Christmas to all from LWML.

Please join us on December 5 at the Faith Family Center for our Advent By Candlelight worship service (Angels: The Messengers and the Message) at 5:30pm. Come early at 5:00 to view the manger scenes from Rosanne Keilers and the decorated tables by our table hostesses (There's always room for YOU). If you can help provide quiche or dessert, please sign up in the Narthex.

Other activities we will be busy doing this month include providing sacks of goodies for our children in the Faith Sunday School Christmas program. We also will send Christmas monetary gifts to: LAMP, Wycliffe Bible Translators-Gebauer missionaries, St. Louis Seminary students, Disciples of the Way.

The second part of our **CHOSEN** Bible study on Esther met in November (see the photo below) and will meet again on January 22 for the study on Chapter 3.

Remember: Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

**We are:**      **Held by God's Word!**  
                    **Inspired to share HIS Gospel!**  
                    **Surrounded by HIS Grace!**



Stephenville Arts & Crafts Show  
Jo Ann Schulze, Rachel Moravec,  
Rosanne Keilers

Chosen Bible Study Group





# The Bulletin Board

## December Bulletin Folders

12/05 Paula Hymer      12/19 Sue Angerhofer  
12/12 Trudy Carlson      11/26 Lynann Simpson



Serving in December:  
Rosanne Keilers

## December Anniversaries

12/01 Dustin & Kristen Riola  
12/13 David & Reta Beyer  
12/30 Moises & Bethany

**Elders are collecting freewill love offerings for Faith's staff now through Sunday, December 12. Gifts will be given during the Sunday School Christmas Program which is Sunday, December 19, at 9:30 a.m.**

Copies of the Church Constitution, Church Council Reports and Financial Reports are available in the church office.

## #1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

**amazonsmile**

Please confirm that your charity of choice is Faith Lutheran, STEPHENVILLE.

From the Office – If you are not receiving weekly updates, Scripture readings and other church-related information, please contact Lisa Stroebel at 968-2710, to be added to the church contact list.  
Thank you.

## Altar Flowers for December

12/05 Tate Family      12/19 Open  
12/12 Small Family      12/26 Poinsettias

(To donate flowers, sign up on the chart by the church kitchen)



## December Brunch Schedule

(provide a snack item, serve & clean up)

5th Revere      Knoll      Simpson  
12th Nehring      Moravec      Seider  
19th All Bring a Brunch Item to Share  
26th No Brunch; Alternate Schedule

## FREE Notary Public Service

Cindy Stafford – (254) 592-6630

## Faith Lutheran's Elders

Everett Seider, Head Elder

Barry Harpole

Will Lansmon

Jeff Stroebel

Ronnie Tate

(Elder care lists are posted on the bulletin board)

LCMS NEWS: It is possible to stay connected to the goings on within the Texas District of the LCMS. Check out the articles on the District's website at <https://www.lcms.org/news>. If you do not have internet access, you can stay connected through the *Lutheran Witness* magazine. The church office has three copies available to borrow.



Like us on facebook at  
FaithLutheranStephenville



**The Church Office will be closed on Friday, December 24, for Christmas Eve and December 27 – December 31 for Christmas Break. Normal office hours will resume on January 3, 2022.**

# DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday Schedule: Reverend Ed Auger, Pastor</b> 8:00am First Service w/ Holy Communion 9:15am Brunch 9:45am Sunday School for All Ages 10:45am Second Service w/ Holy Communion (Worship services online at <a href="http://www.faithlutheranstephenville.com">www.faithlutheranstephenville.com</a> )		*Denotes Birthday	1 4:30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Class~ Lbry 4:30pm Children's Music Class~Nrthx 6:00 Midweek Advent Meal~Nrthx 6:45pm Midweek Worship	2 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal~Sanct.	3 *Mickey Lantz *Sarah Small MOW~Simpson	4 *Robin Kimbrough Decorate for Advent by Candlelight 12:00pm Narthex Occupied~Prurow
5 5:30pm Advent by Candlelight~FFC	6 5:00pm Delta Kappa Gamma~Narthex 6:00pm Board of Evnglsm~Pastor's Office 6:00pm Board of Ed. Mtng~Library	7 6:30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation~Rm 9 6:30pm Board of Stewardship~Nrthx	8 4:30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Class~ Lbry 4:30pm Children's Music Class~Nrthx 6:00 Midweek Advent Meal~Nrthx 6:45pm Midweek Worship	9 *Ola Merck 6:45 Choir Rehearsal~ Sanct.	10 *Burl Peiser MOW~Sparkman	11
12 9:45am Voters' Assmblly 12:00pm Board of Trustee Mtng.~Narthex 4:00pm Faith School Christmas Program~FFC	13 *Tristan Hanna *Tori Maruska 5:30pm Faith School Board Meeting~Rm 9 6:00pm LWML Business Mtng~Rm 6 6:30pm Elder's Mtng~Lbry	14 6:30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation~Rm 9	15 4:30pm Children's Music Class~Nrthx 6:00 Midweek Advent Meal~Nrthx 6:45pm Midweek Worship	16 *Christopher Kirklen 6:45 Choir Rehearsal~ Sanctry	17 MOW~Small Faith School Christmas Parties	18
19 LWML Mite Box Sunday 9:30 Sunday School Christmas Program (brunch in FFC) 5:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision~Rm 6	20 *Jeff Stroebe	21 *Kris Nehring	22	23 6:45 Choir Rehearsal~ Sanctry	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> Church/School offices Closed *Marilyn Pack 9:00am Christmas Eve MOW~FFC 6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship~Sanct.	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> *Chris Lewis *Terry West 10:15am Christmas Day Worship~Sanct.
26 *Cassandra Hanna 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Worship Service~Sanct.	27 Church Office Closed – Lisa Vacation	28	29 *Kallan Kimbrough *Charli Robinson 6:30pm Christmas Carol Sing~Sanctuary	30	31 *Brit Prescottt	