



Faith Lutheran Church

Receiving and Sharing the Love of Christ
January 2021 Newsletter

From the Pastor ...

The Contrast Of Grace

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)

It didn't last very long, but it was spectacular! Over several hours on New Year's Eve, our neighborhood was transformed into a winter wonderland. I don't believe in coincidences. I believe in God, the Father almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth. The natural world around us bears witness to the creative power of God every day. We cannot begin to comprehend God's power in stark contrast to our weakness. He is holy and we are sinful. The Law of God convicts us of our sin. God's words to Adam set the stage for the experience of all humankind. *“... you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”* (Genesis 2:17) The consequences of original sin endure in the world to this moment. Death stands in stark contrast to life.

In His infinite mercy, God rescued Adam and Eve. He called them from the darkness of guilt and despair into the light of His forgiveness. Across the history of mankind, God has been consistent in the contrast between the judgment of the Law and the grace of the Gospel. Our heavenly Father called Isaiah to the work of proclaiming the call to repentance and the offer of saving grace. The spiritual condition of God's people as a result of their rebellion was on full display. *“Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness ...”* (Isaiah 1:5-6) God forgives. God heals. In Christ Jesus, our Savior, sins like scarlet are made white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18)

We have celebrated the fulfillment of God's promise. Emmanuel has come. The Prince of Peace dwells among His people. The Epiphany light of Christ shines in our darkness. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-6) In faith our eyes behold the One who was sent by the Father to save us. He is full of grace and truth. (John 1:5-14) I am grateful for God's natural object lesson in the closing hours of 2020. We watched it unfold. We were moved to dress appropriately and take a walk in a snowstorm. We enjoyed a full contact experience with a reminder of God's mercy. Our Savior is present in Word and Sacrament. The Lord is determined to keep us aware of the contrast of His grace. I pray God's perfect peace upon you and your families as we begin the new year together.

Regards in the Savior's service,
Pastor Ed Auger

January Sermons

January 10 – “Our Fitting Baptism” Matthew 3:13-17
January 17 – “Called To Follow” John 1:43-51
January 24 – “Gone Fishing” Mark 1:14-20
January 31 – “In Pursuit Of Sanity” Mark 1:21-28

Contact Us At:

3000 NW Loop, Stephenville, Texas 76401
254-968-2710
Website: faithlutheranstephenville.com
Email: church.office@faithlutheranstephenville.com



The Sunday School teachers prepared the youth and children for the telling of *Jesse Tree, Jesus' Family Tree*. The youth read the Biblical narrative woven in with songs sung and poems recited by the children, and lots of participation from those who attended.

The finale was the lively Nativity, including a couple of runaway angels. However, it all began with Adam and Eve.

O Jesse Tree - Christ's fam'ly tree -
 point us the way to Jesus.
 God's promise shows His love for all,
 and with His Son, He frees us!
*When Eve and Adam took that bite,
 God promised to make all things right.*



The world was sinful, mean, and bad.
 The people made God very sad.
 The waters made the world anew -
 Like Noah's fam'ly, me and you!

*God promised Abraham a son;
 His line would bring the Chosen One.
 Through Abr'am's line came sacrifice;
 But it was God who paid the price!*



This David, shepherd, lowly boy,
Was blessed by God to sing with joy!
He ruled, he conquered-he still sinned-
But God still loved him to the end.

King Solomon had wisdom, fame,
A giant kingdom, wealth to claim.
So people traveled far to see
The gifts God gave abundantly!

Now Jacob always liked to scheme!
But far from home, he had a dream.
Though Jacob had to hide and flee,
He'd have a mighty fam'ly tree!

At first, Ruth didn't know the Word.
But through her marriage, she had heard
About the Lord, the one true God.
And in His ways, through life, she trod.



*Though dear Elizabeth was old,
Her boy - a prophet - was foretold.*

John the Baptist by the river
Told of Jesus, true life-giver.
What a story! What a blessing!
What a joy to be confessing!



*The virgin Mary, servant blessed,
Would raise a Son unlike the rest.*

*Joseph the carpenter was true;
He cared for Jesus - Mary, too!*

*The promise of the Jesse Tree:
Our Savior came for you and me!*



Mission of the Month: Choices Clinic & Life Resource Center

Mission Statement: *Choices Life Resource Center is a Christian ministry dedicated to preserving the value of human life by providing abortion alternatives, practical assistance and education to the Cross Timbers area.*

As Faith prepares to celebrate Sanctity of Life Sunday, we are once again partnering with Choices Clinic & Life Resource Center in January to provide prayer support and financial assistance. The Change for Life baby bottle campaign will begin on January 17 and continue through February 28. Please remember to pick up your baby bottle and help support Choices' ongoing ministry efforts in our community.

DID YOU KNOW? Choices offers a wide range of free services including pregnancy tests, information on options, limited ultrasound, pregnancy support classes and material assistance. The support classes cover topics like parenting, life skills, relationships and the Bible. Clients attending classes are rewarded each week with "Boutique Bucks" to spend in Choices' Baby Boutique. Clients may purchase diapers, clothes, blankets, bedding, formula, and other infant items.

DID YOU KNOW? Choices offers a free crib program. Pregnant ladies and/or ladies with a baby have the opportunity to obtain a brand-new free crib and mattress by attending 29 classes with 3 or fewer absences and paying 35 Boutique Bucks.

DID YOU KNOW? Choices offers group support study and individual support sessions to men and women suffering from abortion trauma, women impacted by abuse, and to those seeking a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

- **Abortion Grief Recovery** is an 8-week Bible Study offered during the Spring and Fall every year.
- **Mending the Soul** support groups offers women impacted by abuse a safe place for support, truth and encouragement within an informed and nurturing community.
- **The Connection** individual sessions focus on walking through life and developing a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Additional information is available on the Mission of the Month bulletin board in the church hallway by the kitchen.



O' Come Let Us Adore Him

CELEBRATION OF FIRST COMMUNION



Kaci Hatfield, Molly Hatton, Willow Osterloh, Charidee Spellmeier, Eli Espinoza

Church Mailboxes:

Please remember to check your church mailbox regularly. Remember, your mailbox slot is located directly below your name tag.

Meals on Wheels

Delivery of hot meals is beginning again. If you would like to volunteer to help with the church's Friday route, please contact Lisa Stroebel in the office or Cindy Stafford at 254-592-6630.

Thank You!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous love offering at Christmas. The cards and gifts that we received during the Advent season were a source of encouragement to us. We are grateful for the opportunity to share the ministry of the Gospel with you in the new year.

**Sincere regards in the Savior,
Pastor Ed and Deaconess Cherie Auger**

Dear Faith Family,

Thank you all so much for the gracious Christmas gift. You all have been so good to me and I am so thankful for your support and continued care. May the Lord bless you all in the new year and make 2021 the best year yet! May the Lord bless our Faith Family.

Serving Him,
Magan Estill



Stephen Ministry

OUR HAPPY NEW YEARS PRAYER – PLEASE JOIN US

Gracious God, we lift up our Stephen Ministry in prayer today. Grant wisdom and discernment to our **Stephen Leaders** as they guide others in this ministry. Grant patience and compassion to our **Stephen Ministers** as they faithfully meet with their care receivers each week. Grant healing and peace to the **care receivers** as they courageously confront the turmoil in their lives. Grant open hearts to **all others** who are facing struggles so that they have the courage to seek and accept the help they need. Open the eyes and ears of **all of us** so that we might recognize those who are hurting in our midst and reach out to them in love. Help us to make **Faith Lutheran Church** the caring and loving community you have called us to be. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Myths and Misconceptions about Referrals

Myth: “Once we finish our training class and commission our new Stephen Ministers, people will come forward on their own to ask for a Stephen Minister.”

Reality: Experience has shown that only a small percentage of care receivers actually come forward on their own and ask for a Stephen Minister. Congregations that are successful in the area of referrals are proactive – regularly seeking out people in need of care and assertively recommending Stephen Ministry to them.

We ask that you pray also for discernment about your gifts, your passions, and how God is asking you to grow in ministry. Questions or thoughts? Contact: Pastor Ed, Everett Seider or Sherre West

Music News

2021 is here! It's a good time to start a new study about our faith! "The Word in Song" provides a study based on each of the Hymns of the Day. For each Sunday of the Church Year, LCMS recommends a Hymn of the Day. This provides a plan for singing the core hymns of the Lutheran tradition as well as other great hymns of the faith. Through this plan, Hymns of the Day teach the foundations of the Christian faith.

On a weekly basis, you will receive the study for the upcoming Hymn of the Day. You can then, at your own pace, work through that study - which includes the lyrics of the hymn, related scripture readings, thoughtful insights and questions that get you thinking about what you have read.

To sign up for this study, contact Arnold Ramming via email at arnold.ramming@faithlutheranstephenville.com.



The best news for this change to a new year is the passage from Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." It is likely that we expect some changes for the better: a vaccine against COVID-19, full opening of stores, a more normal work and class day and many other hopes. But there's no guarantee of those changes; just the comfort of the Alpha and the Omega in our midst, so bless your 2021 and enjoy that God is with us each day.

Our January activities include some usual meetings: MITE Box in both services on January 10 and our Business Meeting on January 12. In January, an exciting change to anticipate is making a difference to our local Choices Clinic by hosting a "Shower for Baby Jesus." From the first of the month, we will have a manger set up in the Narthex to hold items to give to Choices Clinic.

On January 17, Sanctity of Life Sunday, we would like to invite everybody to gather after 2nd service to enjoy a box lunch from Jimmy John's followed by a devotion and informational update about CHOICES and Lutherans For Life. In order to have lunches ready, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. You may pay Lynann Simpson or Rachel Moravec for the lunch (\$10.00). Beginning the first week in January, the manger in the Narthex will be available to hold your baby shower gifts. If you are unsure about a gift, please note the following hint from Choices: Diapers are always needed (particularly sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes. Every Thursday, Choices hosts a diaper and wipes give away, and they give away a lot! Join us to make a CHANGE in the lives of mothers and babies in our community!



**Christmas
Eve Meals
on Wheels**



**S.A.I.L.
(Seniors Alive In the Lord)**

The year 2020 is behind us, and we look forward to what 2021 has in store for us as we rely on God's Word to guide us.

We had 24 people attend our celebration of Christ's Birth. Thank you, Cherie and Pastor Ed, for the wonderful meal you provided. It was so great that your friends from Ft. Worth were willing and able to help you serve, and the deserts were truly a fantastic selection. How could anyone eat only one piece? It was wonderful to fellowship with everyone.

Our next Bible study with Pastor will be the second Sunday in January (January 10) following second service or at about 12:45pm. We will meet in the Faith Family Center. Bring your own lunch or snack from home.

We will catch up with fellowship and enjoy Pastor's Bible study.

Look forward to seeing everyone there.

On January 24, we will meet in the family center at 12:45pm to watch the DVD video of the "Star of Bethlehem". Frederick Larson tells about his journey of backtracking through astrological history to find the "Star of Bethlehem".

The stars were lined up on December 21, 2020, much the same way they were at the time of Christ's birth. Even if you have seen it before, this video is very interesting and there is always something new to learn each time you watch it.

Hope you can join us for the viewing of this video.

Jeanette Quade



Christmas Eve Meals on Wheels

January, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule: Reverend Ed Auger, Pastor 8:00am First Service w/Holy Communion 9:15am Brunch 9:45am Sunday School for All Ages 10:45am Second Service w/ Holy Communion					1 New Year's Day Church & School Offices Closed	2 *James Synatzske
3	4 6:00pm Board of Ed. Mtng~ Library	5 4:00pm 7 th Grade Confirmation~Lbry 6:00pm Board of Stewardship~Rm 6 6:00pm FFC Rental~ Linne/Smith	6 Epiphany *Adelaide Ashley	7 *Erika Barlow 6:00pm FFC Rental~ Linne/Smith 7:00pm AoR Report to Congregation~ Sanctuary	8	9 *Darleene Hufstutler 9:00am Church Workday: Take down Christmas decorations
10 LWML Mite Box Sunday 12:00pm Board of Trustee's Mtng~Sanctuary 12:45pm S.A.I.L. Bible Study~FFC 2:30pm Gladys Sundbeck Birthday Party~FFC 5:30pm Stephen Ministry Supervision~Narthex	11 *Kason Seider 6:30pm Board of Elders~ Library	12 4:00pm 7 th Grade Confirmation~Lbry 5:15pm Faith School Board Mtng ~Library 6:00pm LWML Business Mtng~ Rm 6 6:00pm FFC Rental~ Linne/Smith	13	14 6:00pm FFC Rental~ Linne/Smith 6:00pm Board of Evangelism Mtng~Lbry	15	16
17 Sanctity of Life Sunday Change of Life Baby Bottles Available 12:00pm LWML Lunch & Guest Speaker~FFC	18 *Sarah Franz *Gladys Sundbeck 6:00pm Church Council Mtng ~Sanct.	19 *Cheryl Hatton 4:00pm 7 th Grade Confirmation~Lbry 6:00pm FFC Rental~ Linne/Smith	20 *Cary Strohmeier 6:30pm LWML Bible Study~Rm 6	21 *Mark Cogburn 6:00pm FFC Rental~ Linne/Smith	22 *John Quade	23 *Eli Espinoza *Matt Hallgarth *Sloan Weber
24 12:45pm S.A.I.L. Bible Study~FFC 4:30pm Stephen Ministry Facilitator Meeting~Narthex 5:30pm Stephen Ministry Supervision~Narthex	25 *Nora Espinoza *Jason Young	26 4:00pm 7 th Grade Confirmation~Lbry 6:00pm FFC Rental~ Linne/Smith	27	28 *Chuck Hamaker 6:00pm FFC Rental~ Linne/Smith	29 *Lindsay Laurent *Ricky Osterloh	30 *Lynn Simpson
31 *Elliott Nehring *Ethan Nehring						



January Anniversaries

01/01 Matt & Leslie Hallgarth

01/15 Mark & Tammy Cogburn

January Brunch Schedule:

	<u>Snack</u>	<u>Snack</u>	<u>Snack</u>
3rd	No Brunch		
10th	Simpson	Strohmeyer	Moravec
17th	West	Espinoza	Quade
24th	Knoll	Keilers	Seider
31st	StroebeL	Stafford	Revere



Altar Flowers

- 01/03 Open
- 01/10 Sundbeck Family
- 01/17 Open
- 01/24 Open
- 01/31 Simpson Family

Serving as Elders:

Everett Seider, Head
 Barry Harpole Will Lansmon
 Jeff StroebeL Ronnie Tate



Marilyn Pack

Thank You

Thank you, Faith Family, so very much for the Love Offering gift you gave us this Christmas! Your blessings of my ministry here with you is greatly appreciated.

Arnold Ramming

Dear Faith Family,

Thank you for the lovely cards, sweet gifts and generous Christmas Love Offering that you gave to me and my family. I feel incredibly blessed to serve along with you in the various ministries of Faith Lutheran Church. Jeff and I truly appreciate your continued encouragement and support.

Lisa StroebeL

You're Invited

*Please come help us celebrate
Gladys Sundbeck's 100th birthday*

January 10, 2021

2:30 - 4:00pm, come and go

Faith Lutheran Family Center

Please no gifts.

