



Weekend Update

Glory to God in the highest!

Christmas 2011

A weekly publication of Faith Lutheran Church

Affiliated with The Lutheran Church--
Missouri Synod

1716 SW Gage Blvd
Topeka KS 66604

Church office:

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9-9:30, 10:30-11 a.m.

E-mail: flctop@swbell.net

Phone: 785.272.4214

Fax: 785.272.1046

Early Learning Center

Mon-Fri: 7:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Phone: 785.272.1070

E-mail: FaihtEarlyLearningCenter@hotmail.com

For more information, visit us on the Web:

www.FaithLutheranTopeka.org

Publications for print from our Web site:

- Weekend Updates
- Monthly Messengers

Welcome visitors

Please stop by the "Welcome Center" in the room off the lobby for information brochures.

Sunday worship

- 8 and 11 a.m. - traditional
- 9:30 a.m. - contemporary
- 6:00 p.m. - cont. liturgical

Education for all ages

- 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.
- Look for posters listing options

Welcome to Worship

*C*hristmas is a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? His story is one of truth, love and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Christ came to earth, born in that stable. He lived, died, and rose from the dead. And He is still with us today.

We invite you to come back to Faith Lutheran Church and come back often. May the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ be born in you today.

In Worship this Weekend

Baptism In the Christmas Day worship, we welcome into the Lord's family through baptism, Matthew David Anschutz-Marstall, son of Sara Anschutz-Marstall & David Marstall. Matthew's sponsors are Melissé & Marcus Gioe. May God bless the Marstall family as Matthew grows in his faith.

Banner *Celebrate His Birth, His Love, His Grace* shows that Christmas is just a part of the message. This message is to each of us every day. Thanks to Lillian Rexford and Sherrie Dick of the Visual Arts Ministry for the ideas and construction.

Nursery Faith offers a nursery for young children during worship on Sunday mornings (9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) A pager system is used to keep you informed about your child while in the nursery. ***The nursery is also available during Christmas Eve services at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.***

Special Worship Services

- **Christmas Day - Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.** (no regular worship or Sunday School)
- **New Year's Day - Jan. 1** (worship at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.) No Sunday School or 6 p.m. worship. No New Year's Eve worship.

CALENDAR: This week at Faith

12/24	4:00 pm	Birthday Party for Jesus
	5:30	Christmas Eve Worship
	8:30	Candlelight Worship
	10:30	Candlelight Worship
12/25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Worship
Mon	Church Office Closed	
Tue	Church Office Closed	
Sat	9:00 am	Praise Team Rehearsal

The Church Office will be closed Dec. 26-27 for the Christmas holiday.

Pastor Jim and family will be gone Dec. 26-29. Vicar Hugh will be out through Dec. 28. In the event of an *emergency*, Audrey will be the staff person on call. She can be reached by cell phone, 845-5571.

Lead Staff:

- Jim Bender, *senior pastor*
pastorjim@swbell.net or 806-7590 (c)
- Marilyn Shults, *director of children's ministry*
marilyn4kids44@swbell.net
- Audrey Duensing-Werner, *director of Christian education*
audreydce@swbell.net
- Hugh Cranford, *vicar*
hugh.cranford@gmail.com
- Stephanie Erickson, *Early Learning Center director*
faithearlylearningcenter@hotmail.com or 272-1070

Support Staff:

- Don Bartling, *office administrator*, donbartling@swbell.net
- Carolyn Watson, nylorac45@aol.com
- Sharon Lowe, sharonsecretary@hotmail.com
- Linda Meyer, lindamsecretary@swbell.net

Lay Deacons & Parish Assistant:

- Martin Albrecht, mkalbrecht77@gmail.com
- Paul Klotz, pmklotzmr@att.net
- Jeff Lane, wjpolane@sbcglobal.net
- Mary Shaw, mjshaw831@cox.net



During this upcoming season of Epiphany, we will be having a 5-week sermon series called "Light Castings," about the Light shown by God through our lives. Also during each of these weeks, groups will focus on the discipleship skills of faith-talk, prayer, God's word, and service.

Come to a "progressive" dinner on Sunday, Jan. 15 at noon to hear more about this challenge to grow in your faith. RSVP to the church office by Jan. 8.

A mailing was sent to member households with more details.

We ask that you would join others in *living out* the church's vision.

Upcoming Events

First Bible Parent Class The First Bible classes for parents of 2nd graders are Jan. 22 & 29 from 12:15–1:45 p.m. at Faith. A light meal will be provided. Parents and children will eat together. At 12:45 the children will gather while the parents meet for an hour. RSVP (church office or Marilyn) for the meal count and determining the child leader count.

First Bible Fun Time Feb. 5, 4-6:30 p.m. is for the kids receiving their first Bible. This parent and child fun time will introduce the children to God's Word and how new readers can use the Bible. A light meal will be provided during this time. If child care is needed for other children, let the office or Marilyn know.

Lace Knitting Class Jan Hoover will be offering a lace knitting class beginning Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. We will meet for 6 weeks in the Prayer Room. Prior knitting experience is required. The pattern is yet to be determined. Cost is \$20. If interested, contact Jan at 357-7063 or janhoho@sbcglobal.net

Children's Ministry

For children through grade 4. For more information, talk to Marilyn Shults, director of Children's Ministry

Word On Wednesday WOW resumes Jan. 4 with the meal at 5:30 p.m. and ending with closing worship in the worship area from 7:45–8:00 p.m. Are your Wednesday nights free? Start attending WOW. This education, fellowship and worship opportunity is for children through adults.

Sunday School NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. 9:30 and 10:45 classes start on Sunday, Jan. 8 for children, youth and adults.

Youth Ministry

For youth grades 5-12. For more information, talk to Audrey Duensing-Werner, director of Christian education

JUNIOR YOUTH Ministries for grades 5-8

- **5th/6th grade** *Friday Frenzy* is the 2nd Friday of the month. Bring \$5 for food. Next date: Jan. 13-14 with a Lock-In at the Southwest YMCA, 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- **7th/ 8th grade** *Powerhouse* is the 2nd Saturday of the month from 6-10 p.m. Bring \$5 for food. Next date: Jan. 14.

SENIOR YOUTH Ministries for grades 9-12

- **Sunday Blitz** is the 2nd Sunday of the month from 4-6 p.m. Next date: Jan. 8
- **Intense Bible Study** Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. at Audrey's, 5908 SW 31st Terr. (Resumes Jan. 5)
- **Girls of Faith Bible Study** Mondays, 6-8 p.m. at Audrey's. (Resumes Jan. 9)
- **JAG (Just a Guy Bible Study)** Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. at the Herrick's home, 7533 SW Bingham Rd. (Resumes Jan. 10)

Music Opportunities

For more information, contact Linda Laird, masl6@cox.net

- **Adult Choir** - Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (resumes Jan. 5)
- **Alleluia Ringers** - Thursdays at 6 p.m. (resumes Jan. 5)
- **Praise Team for 9:30 Worship** - rehearse Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
- **Treble Makers & Cherub Choir** - for kids K-2 and grades 3-6; Wednesdays during WOW

F.Y.I.

2012 Flower Chart If you would like to donate altar flowers on a given Sunday next year, sign up on the chart in the lobby. A set of two arrangements begins at \$60. Give flowers in honor of a birthday, an anniversary, in memory of someone, or just because you want to donate flowers. You may also indicate you want to leave the arrangements after a wedding. Cynthia Barrett will contact you prior to your Sunday with details.

Ushers for 2012 Are you interested in serving as an usher at the 8:00 or 11:00 a.m. service? We serve on teams responsible for two months of the year. Call the church office or visit with an usher. All are welcome.

Dinner for Eight Sign up this month to participate in this fellowship opportunity running January through June. See the sheet posted on the Information Center in the lobby or contact Gina Brewer at 478-9842 or ginadbrewer@sbcglobal.net by Jan. 1.

Men's Basketball Pick-up games of basketball continue Mondays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Topeka Lutheran School (701 Roosevelt). Contact Chris Meyer, 273-7352 or meyer@ksdot.org.

2012 Envelopes If you regularly used offering envelopes this past year, pick up your new box in the Gathering Nook room. If you didn't get assigned a box but would like one, contact Sharon in the church office.

TLS Chili Supper/Auction If you are interested in donating item(s) for the silent auction or a monetary donation for the Chili Supper Jan. 27, contact Denise Elliott, 256-6627.

in our prayers

[italics] = new prayer this week

OUR MEMBERS

Oren Sharp, diagnosed with lung cancer
Karen Figge, hospitalized with health issues
Pastor Norb Wodtke, recovering from back surgery
Joe Pinter, recovering from knee surgery
Yvonne Hamilton, recovering from surgery

Wanda Barrett, recovering from surgery
Curt Loupe, recovering from surgery
Jeni Moss, health concerns
Joy Umscheid, extended hospitalization
Nicole Giancana, extended hospitalization

Gladys Johnson, back injury from fall
Merrilee Kuhn, recovering from surgery
Freddie Stamm, health issues
Bob Eggold, health concerns
Janet Kaiser, health issues

If you or an immediate family member are entering the hospital, call the church office at 272-4214 so a staff member may visit/pray with you.

FAMILY FRIENDS

Gordon Meyer, father of Chris, under hospice care
Jan Ashmore, sister of Judy Thompson, health issues
Mother of Kathy Summers, recovering from stroke

Jane, friend of Wayne & Karen Peterson, needing a liver transplant
Mildred Schmanke, mother of Shirley Pryor and Mary Schroeder, under hospice care

Bill & Dorothy Fosler, parents of Joni Cattoor, on-going health issues
Jerry, uncle of Betsy Hawkins, recovering from knee replacement

When a name is submitted in this "Family and Friends" section, it will be printed for three weeks. If you would like to continue the name on the prayer list, please contact the church office through phone, e-mail or prayer card.

CANCER or Long-term ILLNESS

FAITH MEMBERS:

Frances Braun
Jeff Kuhn
Bill Sparks

Kay Kemp
Barb McComas
Norm Sawyer

FAMILY & FRIENDS of MEMBERS:

Waymond Alumbaugh, father of Wayne
Bob Hogrefe, father of Kim Hernandez
Pat Miller, mother of Ann Shelton
Betty, mother-in-law of Betsy Hawkins
Nancy, step-mother of Vici Hummell
Sarah Ybarra, daughter of Karen Elsen
Dan Richardson, son of Ed
Randy Flanagan, son of Marty
Richard Wilms, son of Norm & Clarene

David Wehmeier, brother of Darrell
Lyle Figge, brother of Myron
Mike, brother of Dee Bowman
Barb Miller, sister of Kathy Thomason
Betty, sister of Chuck Urban
Carol Wilde, sister of Barb McComas
Cecile Penney, sister of Goodings
Bill Adkins, brother-in-law of Charlotte Campbell
Mike, brother-in-law of Zimas
Shaun, uncle of Vici Hummell
Joseph McGee, nephew of Gwen Lehman
Marc Teske, nephew of Jan Williams and Dolores & Verle Kufahl
John, cousin of Jane Nelson

Kelsey Kataret, cousin of Sandra Raney
Cindy Hammond, relative of Hullons
Adam, friend of Jessica Atchison
Bill, friend of Laurie Charay
Bryan, friend of Kelly Burke
Jenny, friend of Connie Widdell
Jeanne & Laura, friends of Sandy Sweet
Laura, friend of Diana Beitz
Liese, friend of Mardi Long
Jim, friend of Zimas
Nancy & Judy, friends of Shirley Martin
Sabrina, friend of Amy Dunton
Tanya, friends of Jennifer Harris
Kayla, child-friend of Kate Culbertson

actively DEPLOYED

Matt Campbell, fiancé of Starla Theimer
Joshua Schultz, son of Gene & Peg
Brian Jordan, son of Larry

Chuck Taylor, brother of Dave
Joel Gaston, brother of Juli Mazachek
Kyle Long, grandson of Oren & Karolyn Sharp

Dane Sorensen, nephew of Nancy Rhone
Tom Palenske, brother-in-law of Juli Mazachek
Josh Gibbs, friend of Harris family

in SERVICE & MISSION

Spiritual Life Leaders
Stephen Ministers
Lay Deacons
Topeka Lutheran School & CYC
Faith Early Learning Center

Children's Christian Concern Society
Heiney and Carlos families (missionaries to Guinea)
Kory & Cara Fay and family, LBT
LINC Ministry Dallas, TX

Outreach/Ministry to Washburn University
Those preparing for church work: Christina Seva, Amie Zillinger, David Hale
Those in college and preparing for life's work

If you are submitting a prayer request for someone other than yourself for this publication, please be sure to get their permission. If you submit a card for prayer in a worship service, please indicate that you want it in this publication. If you would like your prayer included on the Prayer Chain, call Bobbie Nixon (272-7845) or Eva Brunkow (272-2102).