



Weekend Update

Glory to God in the Highest!

Christmas 2009

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: fictop@swbell.net

Phone: 785.272.4214

Fax: 785.272.1046

Early Learning Center

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

Phone: 785.272.1070

E-mail: faithecc@swbell.net

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" located in 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

There are lots of reasons people come to church at Christmas. Some worship regularly, some come to be with family, some come because of the beauty of the music, some come out of curiosity, some come because they are lonely or in pain and seeking some comfort and reassurance of God's love.

What are your expectations? We at Faith seek to break through the sea of activities to something that actually makes a difference, not only for a day or two, but for a lifetime. That something is Jesus, the Christ. Christmas is not about a pretty fable but a historical event that changed the world forever. There is a Someone who cares about us. He came to earth, born in that stable. He lived, died, and rose from the dead. He has never left. This congregation and many like it are physical evidence of His presence.

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

**Dec. 27: NO Sunday morning education classes.
NO rolls or coffee will be served during fellowship time.**

Special Worship Services

• New Year's Eve - Thursday, Dec. 31

7:00 p.m. A reflective worship with Holy Communion.

• Epiphany - Sunday, Jan. 3

6:00 p.m. Make the transition from Christmas to Epiphany, when we focus on the message of the Christ Child's impact being carried throughout the world. *At 5:00 the Adult Choir will be hosting a soup supper.* All soup and bread will be furnished. Then following a brief service in the sanctuary, we will go outside to burn Christmas tree branches and sing carols led by the Adult Choir.

Invitation to Communion

You are welcome to Communion. Prior to communing, we should examine our hearts as directed in 1 Cor. 11:28, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." Do you acknowledge your kinship with your brothers and sisters in Christ at this communion rail and do you set aside any refusal to forgive? Do you desire to live a God pleasing life? Are you aware of your sin and your need of God's forgiveness? If so, and you believe that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine through his body and blood, you are welcome to commune in this fellowship of believers in Christ. Children are invited forward for a blessing. If sensitive to wine, clear grape juice is available in the center of the tray. Welcome to this foretaste of the feast to come.

Calendar: This week at Faith

Today	8:00 am	Traditional worship
	9:30	Contemporary worship
	11:00	Traditional worship
	6:00	Blended worship
Mon	Church Office CLOSED	
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:30	Men's Basketball (TLS)
Tue	7:00	Praise Team Rehearsal
Wed	1:30 pm	Parish Nurse Walk-in
Thur	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Worship
Fri	Church office CLOSED	
Sat	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study I
	10:30	Topeka Assn of Deaf

Lead Staff:

- Jim Bender, *senior pastor*
pastorjim@swbell.net
- Marilyn Shults, *director of children's ministry*
marilyn4kids44@swbell.net
- Audrey Duensing-Werner, *director of Christian education*
audreydce@swbell.net
- Young Hee Chung, *director of worship ministry*
youngmusic@gmail.com

Support Staff:

- Don Bartling, *office administrator*
donbartling@swbell.net
- Margaret Anschutz, *parish nurse*
margaretanschutz@sbcglobal.net
- Carolyn Watson, nylorac45@aol.com
- Sharon Lowe, sharonlowe@swbell.net
- Linda Meyer, lindamsecretary@swbell.net

During the holidays, in the event of a death situation, you may contact Pastor Jim at 806-7590. In case of a hospital emergency, Mary Shaw, 272-9322, will be coordinating visits. If you need to leave a general message, call the church answering machine, 272-4214.

Editor's Note - If you have something to be published in the Weekend Update, please send to Linda Meyer via e-mail or drop off during office hours, by Thursday noon the week of publication.

Visioning, Part 2 coming soon

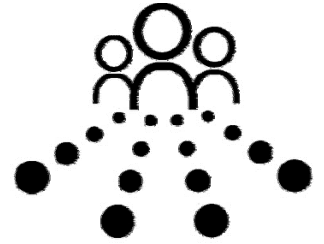
The congregation is strongly encouraged to attend...

Saturday3, Jan. 9

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (doors open at 8:45)

Faith Fellowship Hall

- On Jan. 9 the vision for Faith Lutheran Church will be unveiled. Guest speaker, Rev. Scott Rische of First Lutheran Church, El Cajon, Calif., will help us envision a future in which our congregation is Spirit-driven and missional. He will share how three key relationships--in God, with each other and in the community--can transform our lives. Being relational in learning, worship and service is the "how" Faith Lutheran Church will continue to grow in faith and share Christ's love. This is important for ALL members. A \$5 catered lunch and free childcare will be available.



Special Bible Study

- **How to Relate to Those Suffering** "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart" Bible study offers examples and suggestions about what to say or do, what not to say or do and offers a guide in bring Christ's loving care to hurting people when they need it most. The study will be led by Jan Hoover and Mary Shaw on Sundays in two identical six-week studies:
Session 1: begins Jan. 3 at the 9:30 a.m. education hour
Session 2: begins Feb. 14 at the 10:45 a.m. education hour
If you have questions or plan on attending, call Jan (357-7063), Mary (271-9322), or the church office (272-4212). Information will follow as to the cost of the book.

Worship Ministry Opportunities

Get involved in music:

- **Adult Choir** - Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (resumes Jan. 7)
- **Bell Choir** - Thursdays at 6 p.m. (resumes Jan. 7)
- **Praise Team for 9:30 Worship** - rehearse Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
- **6 p.m. Worship Musicians** - rehearse at 5 p.m. Sundays

Get involved in Worship:

- **Banner Ministry** Helps create the banners that are hung in front of the sanctuary. Contact Susan Thowe, 379-0435.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** If you like to knit or crochet (or would like to learn), come to Room S-14 on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at either 1:30 or 7 p.m. to make prayer shawls. Contact Jan Hoover, 357-7063 for more information

F.Y.I

Talent Show Acts On Friday, Jan. 22 (please note the corrected date change) at 7 p.m., the Contemporary Praise Team will be hosting a Talent Show to help defray costs to attend a praise workshop this summer. WE NEED ACTS! If you have some talent you want to show to others, here is your chance to shine. Contact Linda Meyer in the church office (272-4214 or lindamsecretary@swbell.net).

Dinner for Eight January thru June, 2010 Sign up to participate in this fun fellowship opportunity. The sign-up sheet is posted in the lobby (on door leading to the basement) throughout December or contact Gina Brewer at ginadbrewer@sbcglobal.net or 272-2258 or by Jan. 1. Groups of eight adults are randomly assigned a group which gathers once a month to eat and fellowship.

2010 Flower Chart If you would like to donate altar flowers on a given Sunday next year, sign up on the chart near the nursery door. 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 more details.

Men's Basketball Pick-up games are Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the TLS gym, 701 SW Roosevelt. Call Chris Meyer, 273-7352.

Church Office Closed The office will be closed all day Dec. 25 and Monday, Dec. 28. It will also be closed Friday, Jan. 1.

Children's Ministry

- **Are your children restless during worship?** Bring them to the staffed nursery open from 9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. each Sunday. A staffed nursery is available Christmas Eve at the 6 p.m. worship only.
- **Faith's Early Learning Center** is a Christian care program for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten age providing a Christ centered environment. Contact Stephanie Erickson at 272-1070 or faithecc@swbell.net for information.
- **W.O.W.** On Wednesday evenings at 5:30 WOW begins with a meal and fellowship time before participants rotate between Bible study and worship skills. WOW! is an effective mid-week ministry designed to influence people (preschool through adults) to live out their Christian faith throughout the week.
- **Topeka Lutheran School** TLS is open to all families desiring a Christian education for their children. Our elementary school (at 701 SW Roosevelt) offers a rich and varied curriculum accredited by the National Lutheran Schools and the State of Kansas. For more information call TLS at 357-0382 or see their Web site at www.topekalutheran.org.
- **Epiphany Party** On Jan. 3, grades 1-4 will have Epiphany parties during Sunday education times. Leaders will bring gifts of food. Partiers will offer their voices as we sing Christmas songs and play games in celebration of our Savior's birth.
- **Baptism Class** For any adults and sponsors who desire to know about Lutheran baptism, come to a class Sunday, Jan. 10 at 10:45 in Room 104.

Youth Ministry

Junior Youth Ministries *for grades 5-8*

- **5th/6th grade** Sunday Jan. 17 come to 'Destination Unknown Lock Out' from 6 p.m.-midnight. \$10 per person. It's a mystery... you won't know anything until you get there.
- **7th/ 8th grade** Sunday, Jan. 17 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. is Advanced Lazer Tag in Kansas city. \$100 per person includes pizza buffet and three hours of lazer tag.

Senior Youth Ministries *for grades 9-12*

- **Ignite Youth** Sundays at Faith, 6-8 p.m. Bible study and feast (except the third Sunday of the month where they'll meet at Christ Lutheran's gym for dodgeball tournaments). Pizza is always provided Bring a few bucks to offset costs.
- **Lock-in at PowerPlay in KC** Friday, Jan. 22-23 (9:45 p.m.- 8 a.m.) The cost is \$35-40 for unlimited everything including pizza buffet (except arcade games).

our MEMBERS

Chuck Urban, at the death of his sister-in-law, LaDonna
Patricia Voss, recovering from ankle surgery
Hank Meinking, recovering from surgery
Ed Richardson, broken elbow from a fall
Audra Durkes, as she seeks employment
Herb Eisler, recovering at home
Susan Thowe, recovering from knee surgery
Reva Hossfeld, recovering at home

Luke Savage, recovering from surgery
Fred Crowder, recovering from surgery
Kristin Putney, recovering from ankle surgery
Shirley Martin, recovering from surgery
Allyson Harris, difficult medical issues
Terry Carlson, health concerns
Jeff Kuhn, needing a kidney transplant
Susan Borghardt, cancer, undergoing chemo

Phil Gjerstad, leukemia, undergoing bone marrow transplant
Barb McComas, cancer treatment
Anne O'Gara
Ben Bahner
Roy Benaka
Belmont Evans
Wilma Gregg
Vernon Hass

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 and FRIENDS

Norma, mother of Kim Burnam, health concerns
Dhana, friend of Brenda Ruhnke, siezures

Tom, friend of Jane Nelson, recovering from a stroke
Deb, mother of Audra Durkes, health issues

Lynda, young niece of Karen Tardiff, health concerns and surgery
Gary, cousin of Susan Thowe, recovering from several strokes

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.

family. friends w/ CANCER

Dan Richardson, son of Ed, surgery
Randy Flanagan, son of Marty
William Janousek, father of Jim
Rodney Ohlde, father of Kim Savage
Bob Hogrefe, father of Kim Hernandez
JoAnna Burke, mother of Kelly
Betty, sister of Chuck Urban
Beva, sister of Bob Gabler
Amy, aunt of Janet Zima, surgery
MaryKay Lowry, aunt of Kelly Burke
Lois Nelson, great-aunt of Paige Grisell

Mikey Cummings, great-nephew of Kathy Orth
Chrystal Holub, cousin of Doug Helmke
Chip West, cousin of Kelly Burke
Jay, cousin of Darrel Savage
Kelsey Kataret, cousin of Sandra Raney
Cindy Hammond, relative of Hullons
Naomi Harkness, relative of Gwen Lehman
Adam, friend of Jessica Atchison
Dalton, friend of Jan Williams
Denise, friend of Smelter family
Ella, child friend of Hamerskys

Kris, friend of Gary Orth
Laura, friend of Diana Beitz
Laura, Sheri, Sondra, friends of Sandra Sweet
Laurie, friend of Yvonne Hamilton
Lyn, friend of Marge Carver
Maire, friend of Sweet family
Sandy, friend of Mary Shaw
Tammy & Tanya, friends of Jennifer Harris
Tina, friend of Aaron & Jennifer Hilderman
Zach, child friend of Sheila Krohe

in the MILITARY

Chase Briggs
David Conwell
Bryan Conwell
Tim Kemp
David Marstall
Rebecca (Briggs) Waterman
Matt Thomas, husband of Chelsie (Saunders)
James Brown, father of Ashley Brown
Leslie Bolz, daughter of Tim & Marian
Joshua Schultz, son of Gene & Peg
Alex Kroenke, grandson of Mel & JoAnn
Angela Rokey, granddaughter of Goodings
Joel Gaston, brother of Juli Mazachek
John O'Brien, brother of Maggie O'Brien-Domingo
Chuck Taylor, brother of David

Tom Palenske, brother-in-law of Juli Mazachek
Jim Edwards, uncle of Caitlyn Lambrecht
Dani Knudson, niece of Alex & Joy Hoover
Kristen Wilburn, niece of Landmans
Chuck Campbell, nephew of Charlotte
Lee Fox, nephew of Ed & Valeda Pinick
Brett Hahn, nephew of Ron & Ethel Kufahl
Marcus Higdon, nephew of Gayla Hoyt
Mitchell Kent, nephew of Terri Bynum
James Kroenke, nephew of Cathy Atchison
Jared McClung, nephew of Mike Maloun
Seth Ostermann, nephew of Linda Laird
Michael Phelps, nephew of Betsy Hawkins
Scott Pracht, nephew of Ron & Ethel Kufahl
Elizabeth Doss, great niece of Bob Gabler

Brian Kolterman, Bolz family member
Chris Crocker, cousin of Kahlee
Kevin Nolan, cousin of the Janouseks
Kevin Sweeney, cousin of Dean Landman
Mark Manieri, cousin of Nadine Barnhill
Damon Browning, friend of Janouseks
John Brun, friend of Jessi Saxton
Gilbert Gonzales, friend of Kristen Fay
Damon Harris, friend of the Kissling family
Chris Kieffer, friend of Kristen Fay
Glenn & Kelsey, friends of Kahlee Crocker
Justin Rapp, friend of Judy Thompson
Zack Stiffler, friend David & Jennifer Schmitt

Preparing for Church Work

Christina Shults, Pacific School of Religion (seminary), Berkeley CA
Drew & Nicole Bradshaw, awaiting DCO call
Matt Morgan, Concordia, St. Paul MN (DCO)
Amie Zillinger, Concordia, Seward NE (teacher)
Kory & Cara Fay and family, Lutheran Bible Translators training in France
Andrew Cummings, deaf ministry training

In Service & Mission Work

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

Children's Christian Concern Society
Guinea, W. Africa missions
Heiny and Carlos families (missionaries to Guinea, West Africa)

LCMS chaplains serving in Iraq and other troubled areas
LINC Ministry Dallas, TX
Ysleta Luth. Mission El Paso, TX
Outreach/Ministry to Washburn University

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).