



† <u>Sunday, December 3 ~</u>	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 am	Advent Festival & Potluck NO Sunday School
† <u>Monday, December 4 ~</u>	6:30 pm	Synod Welcoming Team Meeting at Faith. All are welcome to attend.
† <u>Wednesday, December 6 ~</u>	5:30 pm	Faith in Action
	6:30 pm	Confirmation
	7:30 pm	Youth Group
† <u>Friday, December 8 ~</u>	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl
† <u>Sunday, December 10 ~</u>	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 am	Sunday School
† <u>Monday, December 11 ~</u>	6:30 pm	WOW at Sue Lyback's
† <u>Tuesday, December 12 ~</u>	10:00 am	Prayer Team Meeting
	5:00 pm	Worship Ministry Meeting
	6:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
† <u>Wednesday, December 13 ~</u>	10:00 am	Connect Team Meeting
	5:30 pm	Faith in Action
	6:30 pm	Confirmation
	7:30 pm	Youth Group
† <u>Friday, December 15 ~</u>		Newsletter Articles Due
† <u>Sunday, December 17 ~</u>	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 am	Sunday School
† <u>Wednesday, December 20 ~</u>	5:30 pm	Lasagna Dinner for Youth Fundraiser
	6:45 pm	Children's Christmas Program
† <u>Friday, December 22 ~</u>	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl
† <u>Sunday, December 24 ~</u>	9:30 am	Worship (regular Liturgy for Christmas Eve) NO Coffee Fellowship NO Sunday School
	5:00 pm	Candlelight Service (traditional with readings/songs) MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED THIS WEEK UNTIL JANUARY 2, 2024
† <u>Monday, December 25 ~</u>		
† <u>Sunday, December 31 ~</u>	9:30 am	Worship w/ Lessons & Carols
	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship NO Sunday School

Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes *(Unapproved)*
November 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by council vice president Derek Karels.

Council members present were Rose Marie Nutt, Aliasha Holbert, Kortney Sawatzky, Dennis "Doc" Moss, Sue Temte, Craig Lemieux, Nancy Hendry, Derek Karels, Pastor Josh Blair and Diane Gibas. Members absent were Karen Gabriel, Brianna Heise and Tim McArdle.

Devotions were given by Sue Temte.

Doc made the motion, seconded by Rose Marie to approve the agenda.

The secretary's report from the Oct 17 mtg was approved after a motion by Doc, seconded by Rose Marie.

The council treasurer, Aliasha Holbert gave the treasurer's report. She has some questions she is still seeking answers for and will report back next month. Doc made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as given, seconded by Nancy. The report was accepted.

In his report, Pastor Josh said Advent and Christmas services are planned. On Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m., the synod has requested use of the Faith Church building for a meeting for the welcome/reconciliation series they are holding. The church does not need to provide anything but the building. He officiated over two funerals and one baptism. The youth day of service was a success. He met with worship teams. Attended a conference meeting. Had a meeting with the bishop and staff for candidacy meeting. Met with Pastor Ben from Yagam ministry regarding a mission team for Faith to help sponsor. Met with Faith in Action, youth groups and Bible study. Attended the confirmation dinner. Met with mentor pastor. Attended volleyball and football games in support of youth. Visited homebound members. Sent cards to visitors who filled out connect cards. His trip to the Holy land has been changed to Greece and Italy. The dates will be the same. The focus will be following the footsteps of Paul. He asked the council's permission to still attend the tour. Council agreed. Pastor will also take his last vacation days of this year December 25 through Jan. 1. He also shared what he has been reading as ongoing education.

Old Business:

The door in the north wing got fixed. There is a problem with a breaker. Waiting for an electrician to come and check it out.

Forms were available for Faith accounts at First National Bank of Milaca to change names.

- The general account #xxx655 will no longer have Craig Lemieux, Sue Temte, and Doug Halvorson on it. The names to be added on the general account will be Karen Gabriel, Derek Karels, and Aliasha Holbert. Craig Magnan will remain on the general account.
- The Good Samaritan account #xxx546 will no longer have Craig Lemieux on it. Karen Gabriel will be added to the Good Samaritan account. Joshua Blair, Craig Magnan, and Kristi Pedersen will remain on the Good Samaritan account.
- The Middle East Vets account will remain the same, as will the safe deposit box.

Craig made the motion, seconded by Sue, to approve the new signature card for the bank. The motion passed.

Kortney gave an update on the confirmation interview. She gave a positive report and was impressed with the comments from Hunter He said he was happy with the experience when Pastor Josh took over.

The job description for the second office position was discussed. Doc made the motion, seconded by Kortney, to post the position. The motion passed.

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(Continued from page 2)

New Business:

Doc made the motion, seconded by Nancy to authorize pastor to approve whatever is needed to accomplish an organization day in January. The motion passed.

The ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held at Faith Lutheran in November. A pie social will follow the service.

The Advent festival will be held on Dec. 3 this year. A potluck meal will be held as well as crafts and pictures with Santa. The children's message in church that morning will be about St. Nicholas.

Ministry Team reports:

Nancy reported the worship and music team has planned services through the Christmas season. The prayer team talked about sending cards, shut-in ministry, and Sunday morning prayer stations. For Spice up Your Prayer Life activity in November they have a large frame for the church and ribbons cut for people to write their prayers on and weave them in the frame. There are also small frames available for people to take home and make their own personal prayer weaving. Bereavement follow up was discussed. The next meeting will be Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.

The children, youth, family, and education committee will hold a lasagna dinner before the Christmas program on Wed. Dec. 20. This will be a youth fundraiser.

The building, property and cemetery committee has gotten building issues taken care of except the electrical problem with the breaker, but that is in the works.

The new technology committee has met and is looking for people who are willing to help with the sound booth.

The next meeting will be held on the second Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.

Doc will give devotions.

Craig made the motion, seconded by Sue to adjourn the meeting.

Merry Christmas



We Pray for:

Advent Festival & Potluck, December 3

Christmas Program, December 20

Christmas Eve, December 24,

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship

5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

WOW Tea and Bible Study at Sue Lyback,

Monday, December 11, 6:30 pm

FIA - Wednesday @ 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation - Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.

Youth Group - Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

60 for 60 - 60 Gifts

9:30 Worship

Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Sunday School

Church Council

Building & Property

Youth, Family, Children, & Education Ministry

Connect Ministry Team

Faith in Action

Finance/Human Resources

Local & Global Missions

Praise Team

Prayer Ministry Team

Prayer Shawl

Quilting

Stewardship Ministry Team

WELCA

Worship & Music Ministry Team

Youth Group

“Common Prayer Time”

Every Wednesday - pray from home or at Church

“Pray with your directory”

Lift up individuals/families in the church directory each time you pray.

“Personal Prayer”

Need of personal prayer: Seek prayer during communion on Sunday's or contact any prayer team member who will pray with you.



Spice up your Prayer Life...

Advent - a month of guided prayer

Advent is a time to quiet our hearts and to set aside time to worship Jesus, especially during the busy and hectic holiday season. Today, we have both an Advent calendar and the Advent wreath to help us focus our days while we wait the coming of the Christ Child. There is no right or wrong way to observe Advent as long as it is spent communicating to God with a sincere and open heart.

German Lutherans would mark the days leading up to Christmas by making chalk marks on walls or doors, lighting candles or placing straws in a Nativity crib. Then in the 19th century, the Advent calendar was created to do the same by adding some sort of activity, with a prayer, quote or scripture verse each day.

The Advent wreath with its twinkling lights and candles came into being hundreds of years ago in Lutheran Germany to represent Jesus as the light that came to overcome the darkness of this world. The wreaths are usually circular, to represent God's infinite love, and are made of evergreen bows, which represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus. There are 4 candles around the wreath that are either colored or white, to represent the 4 weeks of Advent and symbolizes the Christian concepts of hope, peace, joy and love. The candles are lit successively each week, usually on Sundays during the Advent season. Inside the wreath is a larger white candle which symbolizes the arrival of Christmas and is known as the "Christ Candle". This candle is lit on Christmas Eve and again each day throughout the 12 days of Christmas. Along with the lighting of each candle, there are readings and prayers. The beauty of this tradition is that you can do what works best for you and your family. The lighting of the candles, the readings and prayers, all help remind us that the Christmas season is first and foremost about Jesus.

At the Advent Festival on December 3, there will be Advent calendars as well as supplies to make your own Advent wreath. Also available will be Advent scripture readings and prayers.

May your lives this Christmas be filled with hope, peace, joy and love as you await the arrival of the Christ child.

Children's Prayer Time

Dear God,

Thank you for the amazing nativity story that tells us about the birth of Jesus. Help us share the gift of your son, Jesus with our family and friends.

AMEN





Dear Heavenly Father, this year has been a difficult one for all of us. I wonder if this is how your people felt many years ago as they waited for the arrival of your son, Jesus. For today, there is so much heartache and sadness due to power struggles, wars, loss of homes and lives; disparity between the rich and the poor; and all in this world who are living in fear from day to day with no place to live or go where it is safe. Help us remember it was your love that came to us in the gift of Jesus, to save this world and to give each of us a better life. Despite the circumstances that surround us, bring us the hope we need to get through each day.

- Make our Advent Festival on December 3, a day of fellowship and fun as we begin and look forward to the Advent season.
- Be with our children on December 20th as they bring their message of Jesus' birth.
- With your healing touch, soothe the pain of those dealing with illness, grief, hopelessness, and confusion. Help us to find ways to provide comfort and words of hope to those we know who are experiencing a difficult time this Christmas season. We lift in prayer all who are on our prayer network.
- We pray for all members of this church. Help us to be a living witness of your love to all people. Open our arms and our hearts to welcome Christ into our homes this Christmas. In December we especially pray for:
 - Week of December 3 – Jeremy, Teagen, Hunter, and Tucker Haggberg; Mark, Dhondra, and Emma Haggberg.
 - Week of Dec 10 – Mike and Michele Haggberg; Glenn Hall and Diane Knutson; Doug and Judy Halvorson; Kathy Harrison.
 - Week of Dec 17 – Bryan, Laura, Brianna, Aidan, Rylan, Dylan, and Tristan Heis; Larry and Nancy Hendry; Linda Hetland.
 - Week of December 24 – Konnar, Kaleb (Ellies), Silas, Ciara Hill, and Steven Sweeney; Gene, Kristi, and Anthony Hill.
 - Week of December 31 – Aliesha Holbert; Brandon, Chelsea, Averie, and Macie Hunziker; Russell and Janette Jackson.
- This Be with those families who can not be together this Christmas. Ease the loneliness of being apart and bring joy to their sadness. Let this be a time when grudges from the past be reconciled and together all may share what it means to be family. For those who are traveling, we ask you to travel with them, keeping them safe and well.
- Give our college students the confidence and reassurance they need as they prepare for their finals. Grant them travel mercies as they return home to be with their families over the holidays.
- Bless Alayah Green who has become a newly baptized member of our church family. Be with her parents and sponsors and help us support them as they bring her up in the Christian faith.
- At this time of the year, we are asked by so many organizations to support their good work and we don't always have the means to do so. Help us to not be frustrated when we can not support them as we would like, but rather encourage us to take time to pray for the good they are doing.
- We continue to ask for peace in this world especially in the Holy Land and in Ukraine. Give our leaders a vision of your world that is filled with people who care for one another, who are supportive of those who are in need and who want to live in peace with one another. Give us a voice that can be heard so together we can work for the good of all people.

Help us simplify our activities and traditions this year, so our focus can be on the true meaning of Christmas. We thank you for the simple but life-changing message of your love given to us through your Son, Jesus. AMEN

May God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ. –Wilda English



**Blessings: Ellory Christianson, Diane Gibas, Nancy Hendry,
Dave Morneau, Doc Moss, Carolyn Nutt, Pam Peterson, Mary Sears**

NOTE: Prayer shawls are available in the Chapel.
Please take and give away to anyone whom you feel is in need of prayer.
We ask that you record in the Shawl book, the date and to whom the shawl is given.
(This helps to not deliver multiple shawls to the same individual.)

Dear Faith Church Family,

As you know, on September 10, we celebrated our 60th anniversary. To celebrate our blessings, the Local and Global Missions team has put together a list of items to collect throughout the year - 60 items per month to represent our 60 years.

Thank you for being generous with your time! During the month of November we volunteered and recorded **242 hours to date**. We also know there are many that volunteer and serve that did not record their volunteer time. Thank you!

During December, we will be giving gifts to those in need. We are encouraging you to give gifts to our neighbors in our local and broader community. Isle Schools has a gift giving program for the students and families that live in the Isle School district. We will have gift tags with gift requests as soon as they are available. You can give to ELCA Good Gifts. Check out the display in the fellowship hall. The Toys for Tots collection boxes in the area are sponsored by Bethany Lutheran in Onamia. All of those gifts stay in the Mille Lacs Lake area. SPIRE is also having a toy drive. Some of you may give monetary donations to charities during the month of December. Those gifts count as well.

Please record your gift /donation on the card in the narthex and put the card in the box. The gift will be counted and a gift tag will go on the door. Our goal is at least 60 gifts/donations.

For those of you who like to look for sales or for the snowbirds who want to buy ahead, here is the list for the year. We will provide details as we introduce the new item each month.

September Snacks for school **549 items**
October Cash or food for Isle Food Shelf **\$790 and 161 items**
November Community volunteer service **242 hours to date**
December Gifts - Isle school program, ELCA, Toys for Tots, charitable donations, etc
January Socks and gloves
February Blankets
March Winter jackets (find sale items for next year)
April Baby needs/items (diapers, formula)
May 60 hours of community volunteer service
June Hygiene items and laundry soap
July School supplies
August Water bottles for school kids

Thanking God for our blessings and thanking you for your generosity,
Local and Global Missions Team

Bev Severson
Diane Gibas
Karen Gabriel
Nancy Hendry



Thank
you

Dear Faith Lutheran ^{11/21/23}
Church,
Our Sincere Thanks!
You are much appreciated
The Isle Area Food Shelf
thanks you for your support!
especially !! this time of the
year, when money is short.
Thank you!
Isle Area Food Shelf



Located on Lake Shakopee, Camp Onomia provides a year-round experience where all people are welcome to encounter Christ through Creation and Community

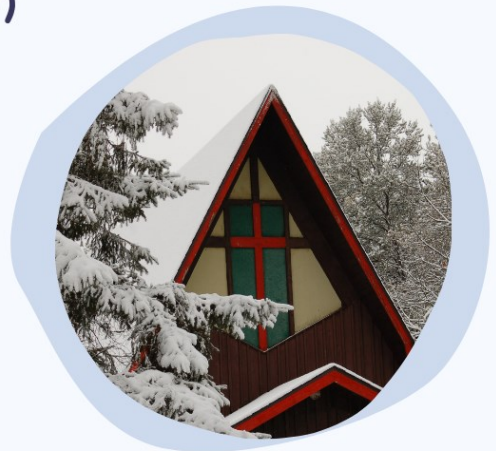


PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
YEAR-ROUND EVENTS



- **NOVEMBER 3RD-5TH: WOMEN'S REFRESH (A WEEKEND AWAY JUST FOR THE LADIES)**
- **DECEMBER 9TH-10TH: PLUNGE (HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT)**

- **JANUARY 12TH-14TH: MEN'S RETREAT (A WEEKEND AWAY JUST FOR THE GUYS)**
- **JANUARY 26TH-28TH: ELEMENTARY CHILL (GRADES 3-6 RETREAT)**



- **FEBRUARY 23RD-25TH: MIDDLE SCHOOL BLAST! (GRADES 6-9 RETREAT)**
- **MARCH TBD: BIBLE & BREW (BREWS AND BIBLE TALKS WITH THE BISHOP)**
- **APRIL 8TH-9TH: CHURCH OFFICE WORKERS RETREAT**



www.CampOnomia.org
CampOnomia@gmail.com
320-532-3767





We would like to say a big Thank You to all of those who volunteer in our Church and in our Community. We especially want to thank

Joan Lundquist who gives many hours of her time at

ONE MORE TIME in Isle. Each month Faith Lutheran Church receives a donation that goes into the Good Samaritan Fund.

This donation helps Faith Lutheran Church give to those in need.



Save your receipts from Teals and bring them to church.

Teals donates 1% back to our Youth Group. On average, we receive an annual check of approximately \$1,000.00.

Thank you, Teals!



November 5	\$2,885.00
November 12	\$3,852.00
November 19	\$1,641.00
November 26	\$1,305.00



Ruby's Pantry

The 1st Monday of each month at
Onamia Lion's Community Center,
806 West Kathio St, Onamia.
10:30—Noon ... call 532-3366 for questions.
For a \$25.00 cash donation, you will receive
an abundance of grocery items.



Food Shelves

Isle - Old Fire Hall, across from Post Office
Must be resident of Isle School District
1st Tuesday of the month 4 pm - 6 pm
4th Tuesday of the month 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

12/01	Ella Peterson	12/25	JESUS
12/02	Ross Christensen	12/27	Nancy Erickson
12/03	Harley Exsted	12/28	Rylan Heise
12/03	Isaac Robertson	12/28	Aidan Heise
12/07	Brianna Heise	12/28	Dylan Heise
12/11	Arleen Nagel	12/28	Keith Chilstrom
12/12	Blake Larson	12/29	Kent Fjerstad
12/18	Noah Johnson	12/29	Kris Thompson
12/18	Averie Hunziker	12/30	Mark Haggberg
12/22	Kieth Severson	12/30	Donna Moore
12/24	Michele Haggberg		



Anniversaries

12/09	Brandon & Jennifer Larson
12/13	Anthony & Abigail Haglund
12/16	Tom & Diane Gibas
12/29	Rocky & Jo DeFeyer



Please let the office know if we have missed or incorrectly listed your birthday or anniversary.

If you find that you are unable to fulfill the task on your given Sunday, please find someone to take your place and let the office know as soon as possible!!

SERVERS for Worship December 2023

Scripture Readers:

December 3 - Craig Magnan
 December 10 - Sue Temte
 December 17 - Sue Temte
 December 24 - 9:30 am VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
 December 31 - Lessons & Carols

Ushers:

December 3 - Tim McArdle,
Conrad Thomsen
 December 10 - Tim McArdle,
Conrad Thomsen
 December 17 - David Miller
Daniel Miller
 December 24 - 9:30 am VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
9:30 am VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
 December 31 - Mike & Sue Temte

Greeters:

December 3 - Kathy Harrison
Jean Retka
 December 10 - Philip & Janine Thielen
 December 17 - Kathy Harrison
Nancy Rizer-Schmidt
 December 24 - 9:30 am VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
9:30 am
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
 December 31 - Cheryl TenBruin
Diane Gibas

Prayer Station:

December 3 - _____
 December 10 - _____
 December 17 - _____
 December 24 - 9:30 am VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
 December 31 - _____

Acolytes:

December 3 - Aidan Heise, Ryah Kuhlman
 December 10 - Dylan Heise, Karsen Holscher
 December 17 - Rylan Heise, Brealyn McLean
 December 24 - 9:30 am Ethan Borg, Noah Borg
5:00 pm Parker Gesell, Maverick Kuhlman
 December 31 - Blake Karels, Rita Robertson

Communion Prep Team:

December 3 - _____
 December 10 - _____
 December 17 - _____
 December 24 - 9:30 am VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
 December 31 - _____

Communion Assistants:

December 3 - Curt & Di Miller
 December 10 - Philip & Janine Thielen
 December 17 - Cheryl TenBruin
Diane Gibas
 December 24 - 9:30 am VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
9:30 am VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5:00 pm VOLUNTEER NEEDED
 December 31 - Craig & Barb Magnan

Coffee Servers:

December 3 - Bruce & Laurie Richards
Geoff & Shanessa Gesell
 December 10 - Craig & Jane Lemieux
 December 17 - Bev Severson,
Elaine Norman, Conrad T
 December 31 - _____

Thank You for Serving!

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee 10:30am - Sunday School	27 6:30pm - WOW	28 10:30am - Local & Global	29 10am - Gather to Pray 5:30pm - FIA @ Faith 6:30pm - Confirmation @ 7:30pm - Youth Group	30	1	2 9am - AA Big Book
3 NO Sunday School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Advent 10:30am - Coffee	4	5	6 10am - Gather to Pray 5:30pm - FIA @ Faith 6:30pm - Confirmation @ 7:30pm - Youth Group	7	8 10am - Prayer Shawl	9 9am - AA Big Book
10 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee 10:30am - Sunday School	11 1pm - Garden Club 6:30pm - WOW	12 10am - Prayer Team 5pm - Worship Team 6pm - Council Meeting	13 10am - Connect Team 10am - Gather to Pray 5:30pm - FIA @ Faith 6:30pm - Confirmation @ 7:30pm - Youth Group	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due In	16 9am - AA Big Book
17 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee 10:30am - Sunday School	18	19	20 10am - Gather to Pray 5:30pm - Lasagna Dinner 6:45pm - Christmas	21	22 10am - Prayer Shawl	23 9am - AA Big Book
24 Christmas Eve NO Sunday School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee	25 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30 9am - AA Big Book
31 NO Sunday School New Year's Eve 9:30am - Lessons & 10:30am - Coffee	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 Newsletter Sent Out	3 9am - Quilting 10am - Gather to Pray 5:30pm - FIA @ Faith 6:30pm - Confirmation @ 7:30pm - Youth Group	4	5 10am - Prayer Shawl	6 9am - AA Big Book

[Click Here for December 2023 Calendar](#)

Merry Christmas!



Please call the office at (320) 676-3161
or email yougotfaith@frontier.com with
any changes in your contact information.

Faith Lutheran now has online giving set up. It can be accessed by going to www.faithisle.org or click or scan the following QR with your smartphone.

Click this →

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00am–2:00pm
Monday & Friday - Closed
Church Office - (320) 676-3161
PO Box 71, Isle, MN 56342
Website: www.faithisle.org
E-mail: yougotfaith@frontier.com
Josh Blair, Pastor (951) 575-5027
Karen Gabriel, Council President