

the voice



# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Naples, Florida

**“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.”**

**1 John 4:9**

**December  
2020**

*The Voice of Faith is a monthly publication of Faith Lutheran Church of Naples, Florida. Please address comments and articles to: [publish@flcnaples.com](mailto:publish@flcnaples.com). The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.*

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## The Shepherd's Voice

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas through the services of Advent, we will hear of the grace, mercy, and peace to you in the powerful forgiving grace of Jesus Christ, a gift that keeps on giving.

When I was younger, I had an elementary music teacher who loved to get us to sing Christmas carols along with Hanukkah songs (Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel comes to mind) but our all out favorite was "The Twelve Days of Christmas." You may not know that the lyrics originally were written in 1780 and that the song recaps the tradition of giving gift after gift from the time of Christmas day through January 5 – just before Epiphany.

I can still remember a partridge in a pear tree, two turtledoves, three French hens, four calling birds, and, of course, five golden rings. After that things get cloudy with drummers, pipers, lords, ladies, maids, swans, and geese. I also couldn't keep straight who was leaping, dancing, a-milking, a-swimming, and a-laying.

These gifts aren't really important to me this year. The Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany gift that I seek is one that God gives. Jesus speaks of this most important gift of all, when He teaches us to pray, "Father, forgive us our trespasses, our sins, our debts, as we forgive those who sin against us."

That's a gift that you can never receive too much, and it's a gift that keeps on giving in a world that seems overwhelmed with guilt, grief, and shame. It is God's gift for relationships that are broken.

Forgiveness, God's gift in Christ to you and me is a wonderful Christmas gift this year. Because, it is the gift that keeps on giving when our giving gives out. That helps us deal with 2020 and puts us in a great position to face 2021. It is the power of the Lord's Prayer unleashed in your life and mine in the relationships that we hold dear.

We can sing a lot of Christmas carols this year, but one of my favorites is an Advent Hymn, and that's "Savior of the Nations, Come." The sixth verse sums up so much:

For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the victory won.  
By Your mighty power make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

God Bless you this Advent & Christmas,

Pastor Don Treglown

## The Blessing of Serving

In Mark 10:45, it states "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." As I reflect on that verse, I am reminded that as I serve, I am following in the footsteps of Jesus. I am sure that many of you, who have served in various roles within our church, would feel the same. Serving is about blessing others, but the one who serves receives the biggest fulfillment by doing God's work. This January, we will be soliciting nominations for church family members to occupy various positions within the church congregation. Perhaps now is the time for you to serve in a more active way? Do you feel that nudge in your heart? Is the Lord moving you in the direction of service? Please prayerfully consider how you can take a more active role in the church. When you see the announcement in January, consider what you feel called to do. Come talk with me if you are unsure. Everyone has a talent that they have been blessed with by the Lord. It's time to take those talents and use them toward His work. I promise, it will be worth it.

Rowe Hudson  
Congregation Vice-President

## The Gift of Love

The two greatest longings of humanity are these: to be known and to be loved. I'm thoroughly convinced of it. So much of what we build our lives and status around is our attempt "to be known by others and loved by others". I want others to know who I am with the hope that in knowing me, they will love me. It's just one of the reasons why I also believe why love for our neighbor has taken such a sinful hit because of being isolated from one another be it due to the pandemic, but mostly if I'm honest, and social media. How can we love one another if we don't know one another? How can we know each other if we don't spend time together? These are questions we ask that lead us to believe the answer is in seeking them out.

So in attempt to keep it short and clear, The Advent / Christmas season provides the answer: you don't need to seek these out. God knows you. God loves you. That's the very gift of His love that He brings in His Son Christ Jesus. He sought after you.

God knows you're a sinner; it didn't stop Him from making the first move. He sent His Son to clear you of your guilt and shame, and confirm you as His child saved through incarnation, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ (John 3:16-17). God knows your needs, and He seeks and gives out the very ways to provide for you as He knows best (Matthew 6:25-34). God knows you by name. He's in fact called it out the very moment He washed you in the saving waters of your Baptism. God knows you, and in light of this, He also loves you.

God loves you so much He seeks you out. Jesus left His mighty throne in heaven to sit and dwell with you as you struggle, question, sin, and hold on to Him through such trying times as these. Take heart, the gift of God's love doesn't go away or every become worn. Jesus doesn't go away. His love is always not just the greatest present you've been given; God's love is always present in your life.

Dear child of God, you are known and loved by Jesus. That's the eternal gift we're warmly reminded of every Christmas. It's the gift God gives to you everyday.

*"Born unto us this day a Savior  
Gifted from heaven to a manger  
The hope of the world  
A light for all mankind  
All of the earth rejoice  
It's Christmas time."*

Born Is the King (It's Christmas) lyrics © Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

Known and loved by your pastor,  
Pastor Sam

### Sunday School starting January, 3, 2021

Thank you Faith family for your prayers! We are excited to announce that we will be starting Sunday School again for ages 3 – 12 with our blessed Sunday School teachers Andrea Peterson, Michele Peterson, and Amanda Sherwood. Ages 4 – 6 will be with Amanda, 7-12 with Andrea and our 3 year olds with Michele. In our loving attempts to remain safe and healthy, we will be gathering outside in the courtyard each Sunday from 10:20 – 10:40 AM.

We thank the Lord Jesus for His strength, the joy He gives us, and His loving work in each of you!



Saturday, December 5, 2020

9am to 12pm

Golden Gate Community Park

To register please visit [flcnaples.com](http://flcnaples.com)



Kathleen Lewis	1	Fred Geitner	10		
John Ross	1	Art Johnson Jr.	10		
Adam Schmitt	1	James Miller	10		
Andy Kasurow	2	Ray Schepperly	12		
Dan McDermott	2	Howard Field	13	Chae-Sun Hoogland	25
Monique Mielke	2	John Fish	13	Sandra Cagann	27
Andy Ward	2	Bill James	13	Keri Cheffy	27
Steve Mielke	3	Barbara Ettinger	14	Alyssa Buonpane	28
Celeste Becker	4	Richard Gayle	16	Winston Dickerson	28
John Heintzman	4	Christian Andrea	17	Grace Ferguson	28
Kae Ferber	5	George Ferguson	18	Brad Hildebrandt	28
Paul Geffert	5	Kurt Johnson	19	Sara Abraham	29
Bud Ahlbrand	6	Cindy Lukas	21	Brett Ackerman	29
Bill Katterfield	8	Andrew Minke	21	Kaitlyn Fish	29
Ed McCaffrey	8	Bob Cagann	22	Steven Gehrke	29
Henry Wassmann	8	Rachel Fish	22	Rick Paganes	29
Ramona Mitchell	9	Dick Robinson	22	Carol Farnam	30
Linda Austin	10	Taub Ingenthron	23	Marischen Nordmeyer-Brundage	31

Carl & Ruth Koenemann	16
Randy & Susan Taylor	18
Val & Gail Peterson	19
Joann & Kurt Johnson	27
Ken & Sharon Badke	29
Jim & Grace Shelton	30



## Give thanks to the Lord for He is good and his love endures forever

We often go to our Lord in prayer with things that we need, but how often do we give thanks to him? For me the most important gift, is our gift of faith, for it anchors who we are in Christ. We also give thanks for our congregation and all who worship with us. We are so blessed, even when we are going through times where we have to alter how we get together as a congregation. As your Administrative Pastor I would like to bring you up to date on activities that impact the workings of our congregation.

It is truly a blessing that we have accomplished so much even while we have to work around the impacts of Covid-19. In the last year, we completed the project to connect to the county sewer systems. We hopefully have finally repaired the roof over the Fellowship Hall. We incurred a serious problem with termites and were able to undertake a project to repair and eliminate the problem. Lastly, we completed the work in the Memorial Garden and installed the new Gazebo. Fortunately, we were able to fund these projects with specific contributions, as well as using some of our reserve funds.

We are also thankful to all of you for your support with your prayers, your time, and your gifts. We budget income based on anticipated offerings, and this year we are running somewhat behind our budget for offerings, even though staff and boards have been reducing expenses. In spite of this we are able to continue to give back resources to our community, including helping specific people in need, various missions, the military, first responders and the medical community. We are thankful for all you are doing in supporting Faith and all those we touch with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Brad Hildebrandt

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY YYY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Please note, all dates are subject to change due to the Covid-19 virus. Please call the church office at 239-434-5811 to confirm an event.</p>		<p><b>1</b> 10:00 a.m.- Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Team (S)</p>	<p><b>2</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (FH) 11:00 - 2:00 Itchin' to Stitch (FH) <b>Advent Midweek 1 – 6:30 p.m. – Service (S)</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 9:45 a.m. – LOF Chapel (FH) 1:30 p.m. – Band Practice (FH) 7:00 p.m. – Young Adult Bible Study (FH)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:30 a.m. – LOF Chapel (FH) 10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study (FH)</p>	<p><b>5</b> 11:30 a.m. – WOF Christmas Party (FH) 5:00 p.m.- Saturday Service/Comm. (S)</p>
<p><b>6 Advent 2</b> 8:00 a.m. –Worship/Comm. (S) 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship (CY) 9:15 a.m. - Praise Worship/Comm.(S) 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (FH) 11:00 a.m. – Worship/Comm. (S) 5:45 p.m. – Confirmation (FH) 6:30 p.m. – Organ Concert (S)</p>	<p><b>7</b> 9:30-2:00 p.m. - Cravin' to Craft</p>	<p><b>8</b> 10:00 a.m.- Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Team (S)</p>	<p><b>9</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (FH) <b>Advent Midweek 2 – 6:30 p.m. – Service (S)</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:45 a.m. – LOF Chapel (FH) 1:30 p.m. – Band Practice (FH)</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:30 a.m. – LOF Chapel (FH) 10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study (FH)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 8:00 – 12:30 p.m. – Young Marines 5:00 p.m.- Saturday Service / Comm. (S)</p>
<p><b>13 Advent 3</b> 8:00 a.m. -Worship (S) 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship (CY) 9:15 a.m. - Praise Worship (S) 10:00 a.m. – Bible Study (FH) 11:00 a.m. – Worship (S) 4:45 p.m. – High School (FH) 5:45 p.m. – Confirmation (FH)</p>	<p><b>14</b> 9:30-2:00 p.m. - Cravin' to Craft 10:00 a.m. – Board of Properties (WR)</p>	<p><b>15</b> 10:00 a.m.- Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Team (S) <b>Voice Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (FH) <b>9:30 a.m. – LOF Program(S)</b> 11:00 - 2:00 Itchin' to Stitch (FH) <b>Advent Midweek 3 – 6:30 p.m. – Service (S)</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 1:30 p.m. – Band Practice (FH) 7:00 p.m. – Young Adult Bible Study (FH) LOF Closed</p>	<p><b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study (FH) LOF Closed</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9:30 a.m. – OSL (FH) 5:00 p.m. Saturday Service (S)</p>
<p><b>20 Advent 4</b> 8:00 a.m. –Worship/Comm. (S) 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship (CY) 9:15 a.m. - Praise Worship/Comm.(S) 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (FH) 11:00 a.m. – Worship/Comm. (S)</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:30-2:00 p.m. - Cravin' to Craft LOF &amp; Church Office 8:30 – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b> 10:00 a.m.- Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Team (S) LOF &amp; Church Office 8:30 – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>23</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (FH) LOF &amp; Church Office 8:30 – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 3:00 p.m. – Service (S) 5:00 p.m. Service/Comm. (S) 7:00 p.m. Service/Comm. (S) 9:00 p.m. Service/Comm. (S) Church Office &amp; LOF Closed</p>	<p><b>25 Christmas Day</b> 9:30 a.m. – Service (S) Church Office &amp; LOF Closed</p>	<p><b>26</b> No Service Today!</p>
<p><b>27 One Service Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. – Service (S)</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9:30-2:00 p.m. - Cravin' to Craft LOF Closed Hours 8:30 – 12:00</p>	<p><b>29</b> 10:00 a.m.- Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Team (S) LOF Closed Hours 8:30 – 12:00</p>	<p><b>30</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (FH) 11:00 - 2:00 Itchin' to Stitch (FH) LOF Closed Hours 8:30 – 12:00</p>	<p><b>31</b> 5:30 p.m. - New Year's Eve Service with Communion (S) LOF &amp; Office Closed</p>	 <p><b>Remember:</b> No Meetings in December</p>	

## Mission of the Month - Project HELP

**Mission Statement:** Project HELP works with dignity and compassion to ease the pain of those affected by rape, violence, crime or loss of a loved one.



In 1986, Beth Knake ran the Crisis hotline at the David Lawrence Center. The helpline was available at that time from 9am to 5pm on Monday through Friday. Beth saw the need to have a helpline available 24/7 and made arrangements with David Lawrence Center to take the helpline on as its own community non-profit and thus beginning Project HELP’s great journey. Beth, a pioneer in the 80’s & 90’s, worked diligently with the Violence Against Women’s Act and movement as well as with the Victims of Crime Act. Beth worked on the State and Statewide Committees of Action and was one of the founders in creation and development of the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence. The Florida Council Against Sexual Violence is now the State Certifying Agency for all Rape Crisis Centers in the State of Florida. Project HELP became one of the first Rape Crisis Centers certified in the state in August 1995. The helpline grew to include the Rape Crisis Center as well and began offering crisis intervention/counseling and court advocacy to all victims of crime through the Victims of Crime Act.

In late 2006 Beth retired from the agency. Collier County continued to grow in population and the agency saw a greater need for their vital services. In 2010, Project HELP, with the assistance of a local church, successfully brought a forensic rape exam facility in-house to give our survivors of sexual violence a safe and confidential environment that helps revictimization.

Project HELP also expanded its services offering traumatic grief therapy due to a sudden tragic death and our outreach program to bring awareness to our community through different community-based collaborations. Project HELP is often seen participating in community events to distribute information, education and awareness to as many community members as we find it crucial for everyone to be aware of our services.

Today Project HELP’s team consists of a medical director, 2 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, an executive director, a clinical director, 9 victim advocates (2 bi-lingual; Spanish) and up to 30 volunteers. Each employee, volunteer, who work with victims on the team must complete state certification of 30 hours of Advocacy Core Training as well as 16 hours on the job training and 6 continuing education hours each year.

Project HELP has provided:

- Counseling to 3,900 victims of violent crimes in 2019 and 3,700 to date in 2020.
- Assisted 3,320 individuals through the Criminal Justice Process in 2019 and 3,400 to date in 2020.
- Provided in our in-house forensic unit - 84 forensic exams for individuals who experienced a rape in 2019 and 38 to date in 2020.

Project HELP’s goal is always, and will always be empowering survivors to move forward and recover from what was taken away from them. To offer a judgement free atmosphere where survivors know that there is a place where they can freely talk about their past trauma. Project HELP offers crisis intervention, coping skills, safety plans, and individual goal planning. Project HELP works with victims so they can recognize, face and solve problems arising from their trauma. We want to be sure all victims know their rights, and never feel alone because HELP is here.

With Warmest Regards  
 Vaneza Gonzales  
 Community Engagement  
 HELPLine Coordinator  
 Project HELP, Inc.

Thank you for your generous donations for the October Mission of the Month: Krey Tirzah in the Dominican Republic	
Donations Received:	\$2,673.88
Budget:	<u>\$300.00</u>
Total:	\$2,973.88

## Out With The Old- In With The New- Fellowship One Go!

Greetings Faith Family! Faith Lutheran has made the decision to purchase a new church software program as the current version of CDM is outdated and not able to keep up with our growing needs in technology that we face in these current times.

As of January 1, 2021, the church will begin using Fellowship One Go. This program was chosen due to its compatibility with Kindrid, our online giving program, and the ability to interface with QuickBooks for the bookkeeping end of matters.

In laying the ground work for this transition, FLC made the decision to use only Kindrid for all online giving. All contributions made through Kindrid are automatically updated to Fellowship One Go as they are processed.

If you are interested in setting up an account with Kindrid, please follow these steps: 1) go to FLC Homepage; [www.flcnaples.com](http://www.flcnaples.com) 2) scroll down towards the bottom of the page 3) click Giving. This will allow you to set up recurring or one-time contributions. Once your account is opened you will have the ability to view and print your statements. If you have any questions about Kindrid, please email Barbara James who is the administrator for the account. Her email is [barbarajamesemail@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajamesemail@gmail.com).

The 2020 Contribution Reports will be printed as usual and mailed in January 2021.

Blessings to All,  
Jan Nurenberg  
Financial Secretary

Hello Faith Family –

The season of Advent, the beginning of the new church year, marks a very special time for Christians worldwide. It is a time which has evolved into the celebration of the coming of Jesus at Bethlehem, His presence in our daily lives, and for the anticipated arrival of Jesus Christ our savior.

*2 Peter 3: 12-13 - waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

Advent is also seen as a time of austerity and penitential characterizations likened the season of Lent. While we sing and cry out for the coming of Emmanuel, it is crucial for us to remember the *Passion* for which He came to earth – the sacrifice on the cross for our salvation. The music for this month will center around these two themes: penitence and the hopeful expectation of the coming of our Lord in His glory.

The seasons of Advent and Lent are my most favorite times of the church year, because of the depth and significance of the texts in our songs. The music and its sung texts will help us further our understanding of the scriptures and lessons of Advent as we prepare our hearts for the joy and exultation of Christmas. At the same time our hearts must also be given an opportunity to seek out contrite stillness, so that we can pray for forgiveness and guidance for the events to come. For my final article of 2020, I will end with one of my favorite Advent hymns:

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descending, Comes our homage to demand  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:, Alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!

Blessings to all,  
Matthew Swingle  
Director of Music & Organist

### Lambs of Faith Monthly Update

The School is open and running smoothly with CDC guidelines in place. Each morning the children still have their temperature checked at the door. Miss Phoebe is our cleaner and she is doing a good job cleaning areas after they have been used.

Enrollment is up to about 30 from 26. We have a few parents thinking of starting their children after the New Year. It all depends on the status of COVID-19 at the time.

For thanksgiving the children performed the Stone Soup play amongst themselves, and had a great time.

There will be a Christmas program for parents, but we will NOT be having a party as we normally do.

Submitted by,  
Karen Frank



# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Naples, Florida



Faith Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We strive to be a friendly, family oriented church united under the goal of enriching our community through the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Faith Lutheran Church  
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[faith@flcnaples.com](mailto:faith@flcnaples.com)  
[www.flcnaples.com](http://www.flcnaples.com)

## Weekly Worship Opportunities:

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.                      Traditional

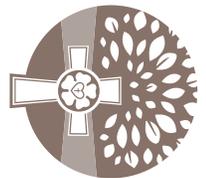
Sunday:

8:00 a.m.                      Traditional

9:15 a.m.                      Contemporary

11:00 a.m.                      Traditional

Holy Communion will be served every Saturday and the first and third Sundays of every month



FAITH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Naples, Florida

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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