

# The Mustard Seed

December 2018  
Vol 43, Issue 12

OUR VISION – To be an inspired body of Christ. † OUR MISSION – Love God. Love Others. Serve.

Jesus said, "If you have the faith of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20, 21

## MISSIONS & MINISTRIES, 2019

**A**s we plan for the upcoming year, our congregation approved a 2019 operating budget of \$591,492 at the November Congregational Meeting. This month, we are asking for your pledge of support for 2019 annual giving/offerings.

**F**aith Lutheran Church has an ambitious ministry plan for the New Year, including three new part-time staff positions, expanded benevolent giving and long-promised raises to staff. During worship services on December 16, Faith Lutheran Church members will have the opportunity to present their pledges at the altar as an act of worship in support of our congregation and our ambitious 2019 budget.

The three part-time staff positions will encourage growth within the congregation. They include a Youth Minister, a Director of Communications and a Director of Membership. The communications position will allow us to effectively tell the community about our great church. We seek to be visible on all social ministry platforms, more effectively communicate within the congregation and establish branding of our church.

**T**he membership position will assist with follow-up of worship visitors, including a process for becoming members and getting involved in the church. This person will also track inactive members and maintain a volunteer pool.

The youth position will develop ministry to all youth and their families, including middle school and high school youth groups, family activities and outings, educational opportunities and Sunday School support.

We have expanded our outreach financial support. In 2019, we have added Human Trafficking Ministry the Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance and RAISE Jamaica as ministries we support financially. We are increasing our financial support to the Southeastern Synod, as well as our Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry, Knox Area Rescue Ministry, Local Tangible Aid, the Disaster Ministry, Salvation Army Homeless Ministry, and our missionaries in Mexico City, Alicia and David Brondos.

**P**astor Bob Stelter said about the ambitious 2019 budget: *"We understand that no one actually gives to a church budget. What we give to are experiences of healing and hope, of examples when our lives are changed and where the Good News of Jesus Christ is proclaimed. Certainly by increasing our congregation's outreach, by expanding our giving to benevolent ministries, by bringing on new staff to help our church grow, we are excited about the New Year. Faith Lutheran Church has long been a leader in our synod in giving. We are a generous church. With the demands of owning two*

*properties eliminated, we look forward to more effectively advancing our mission to love God, love others and serve through our giving. We are excited about our missions and ministries in 2019."*

**S**tewardship/generosity/giving/pledging will be stressed during worship services this month as we prepare for 2019:

### DECEMBER 2

**Temple Talk** from Pastor Stelter about the expanded budget and how supporting our church is something we all can do.

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 2

**E-mails and a Mailing** from council outlining our congregation's financial needs.

### DECEMBER 9

**Temple Talk** from Deb Miller, council member.

### DECEMBER 16

**Commitment Sunday** In this season of gift giving, we intentionally consider our giving to the church. Pledges will be received at the altar during worship. Pledge cards will be distributed during worship. *(If you are unable to attend worship on this Sunday, you will receive a pledge card in the mail.)*

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

## COME AND BEHOLD!

There are two great worship seasons within the church. The most important is the Easter/Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Pentecost Sunday. The other is the Christmas/Advent season.

We are now in the Christmas/Advent season where the core is the joy of Christmas morning. Because the joy of Christmas cannot be contained within the bounds of a single day, the Christmas season extends for 12 days, concluding on January 6, the Day of Epiphany.

Like Easter with the great preparatory season of Lent, Christmas has a preparatory season, Advent. The four weeks of Advent do not focus on the Incarnation of Jesus in a Bethlehem stable, however. They anticipate in hope the return of our Savior.

This is why the first Sunday in Advent always includes readings that look forward to the Day of the Lord rather than backward to the birth of Jesus. The second and third Sundays continue to explore the preparatory nature of the season by providing readings about John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness to prepare us for the advent of the Messiah. The fourth Sunday always turns our attention to the Holy Family.

Our goal at Faith Lutheran Church each Advent is to reclaim this holy season. We intentionally teach about the patient love of our giving, sacrificial God. It is tempting to skip over the waiting period of Advent and rush to all the wonder of Christmas. Advent is a good challenge to adopt meaningful spiritual ways of living.

Instead of speeding through this season to get to Christmas morning, relax and enjoy it. Spend time in preparation, prayer and observation of all the ways Christ comes. The longing we feel during these days of waiting will sustain us and create a patience so divine that no obstacle can ever wear us down. It is a holy waiting. Come and behold.

I invite you to the Sunday morning worship services during the Advent season and to a special time apart on Wednesday nights with Bible study and prayer with me in The Library.

**LISTEN TO OUR  
SERMONS ON THE WEB**  
Go to our church website at  
[www.faithloves.org](http://www.faithloves.org) to  
hear the Sunday morning

Hopeful Advent blessings to you,

Rev. Dr. Robert Stelter,  
Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church

## CONFIRMATION

This unique opportunity is for 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Class is offered during the school year on Sunday mornings in the library between the worship services, 10:15 to 11am.

12/2 King David & King Solomon  
12/9 The Psalms  
12/16 The Christmas Story  
12/23 School Break  
12/30 School Break

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

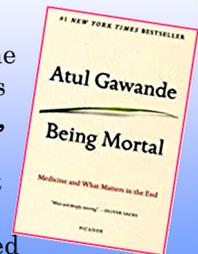
After the New Testament:

**The Writings of the Apostolic Fathers**  
led by John Woods, 10:15am, *The Cup*.

12/2 A Church Manual—  
The Didache of the Apostles  
12/9 Ritual in the Early Church  
12/16 Barnabas & Opposition to Jesus  
12/23 Rise of Christian Anti-Semitism  
12/30 Papias—An Early Christian  
Interpreter

## 2019 SPIRITUALITY BOOK GROUP

Join us as we resume our book discussions **Tuesday, January 8, 7pm** in the library with New York Best Seller **Being Mortal** by Atul Gawande, led by Donna Deichert.



## ADVENT EVENTS

- The joyful expectant season of **Advent** begins **Sunday, December 2**. Both contemporary and traditional worship services will include liturgical changes to signify the beginning of a new church year. In traditional worship, look forward to singing Setting One from the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal during Advent.

- **Christmas Eve** worship services: **5pm**, contemporary; **7pm** and **11pm**, traditional.

- **Midweek Prayer & Bible Study** during Advent, **7-8pm**. Come away for a time of intentional prayer and Bible study with Pastor Bob Stelter. (Bring your Bible.) **December 5, 12** and **19** in the library.

- Faith Lutheran Church serves lunch at **Knox Area Rescue Ministry** on **Saturday, December 22**. Since this is the Saturday just before Christmas, would you be interested in caroling while we serve food?

Contact Pastor Bob Stelter if you'd like to visit KARM, serve up lunch and Christmas carols. What a way to share food and faith!

We'll visit the **Salvation Army Men's Homeless Shelter Tuesday, December 18**. This is a great time to visit the gentlemen and bring our Christmas cheer and love. Leave FLC parking lot at **5:30pm**. (Adults only)

## FROM THE HEART

*By Nancy Reed*

**"Society is a mess"** . . .this statement is said sometimes with a shake of the head and for some folks it's a cause for real concern. To others it's simply a reason to be cynical about life in general. However, it is not enough to shake our head in despair and distance ourselves from society. Christians have a great opportunity to influence this world (society) by passing on the good news (Gospel), not just with words but also by example. C.S Lewis put it this way "we must show our Christian colors if we are to be true to Yeshua the Christ". Our lifestyles the things we say our attitudes all produce either positive or negative results. (Many assume one can adopt a neutral stance). Some feel they can be non-committal, trying to remain detached and uninvolved. (Yeshua pointed out this was impossible.) "You cannot serve two masters at once". Either you hate one and love the other or vice-versa. We are either powerful people making a positive impact on our generation or we are lacking any potency except that of a negative influence.

Our Creator has great concern and love for us and our society. In the New Testament the word used to denote society is called "the world" For example "God so loved the world"(John 3:16) Yeshua (Jesus) made it very clear his followers were not to opt out of society. It was never His intention that they should withdraw. He placed them (us) in the center of this world so we would be "His" instruments "IN" this world .The men and women in whom the presence of Christ is evident will be the individuals who will supply strength and bring healing into our society.

Yeshua (Jesus) said clearly it is we who belong to Him who are the "light of the world" He also said "you are to be the" salt of the earth." (Matthew 5:13-16)

Our Creator did not leave us in the dark as to what contribution we should be making to our world. The expression "actions speak louder than words" is true. Followers of Yeshua (Jesus) must also be known by action, attitude and our love for others whenever and wherever the need or situation may arise.

Following Yeshua's example, we should offer (agapa) love to others; not sentimental love but strong love that is selfless, sacrificial and unconditional. We can also give time, attention, care and strength to the life of another. In doing so we will be fulfilling our destiny as His people. Our minds, emotions, hearts, hands, and eyes need to be Christ's in this world. We don't have to live in a world of solitary souls. In spite of all the talk about togetherness in general we seem to be living in an ever increasing world of "apartness."

The Lord expects us to comfort, love and enliven others as He works WITH us to up-lift others. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit working through us as we live, work and honor Him and how we all can become "salt for society." *Shalom*

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 18, 6:30pm

### WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS

Parish Choir, 6:30pm • Praise Team, 7:30pm

### SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study, Tuesdays, 1:30pm

Join us as we begin our new study of Mark.

Ladies Group, Wednesdays, 9:30am

### DOUBT NIGHT

Tuesday, December 4, 6:30pm

Come to The China Pearl restaurant in Farragut on for a great dinner and lively conversation—always interesting!

### WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 12, 11:30am

*By Annette Pal*

We have reserved a room at Seasons in Turkey Creek at 11:30am, December 12. Our room holds 20 people, so please let me know you plan to come and if you will bring a guest. This event replaces our regular meeting in December.

### HOMELESS MINISTRY: SALVATION ARMY

Our next visit to deliver underwear, socks, food and lots of love is on **Tuesday, December 18**. We leave the church parking lot at 5:30pm or meet at the shelter on Broadway around 6pm. Items Needed: crew socks.

### HANDY FAITHFULS WORKDAY

Thursday, December 20, 9am

Come help with small chores around our church. Call Charlie Pfrommer, 964-0820.

### FAITH SERVES KARM

Saturday, December 22, noon.

Please sign up to cook or serve. Carolers needed.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING MINISTRY TEAM

For information about Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking activities contact Emily Norris at 770-331-9868 or Sue Niemeyer at 614-403-7705.

### YOUTH EVENTS

**Sunday, December 9, 12:15pm** our middle & high school we will bag groceries for FISH with Peace Lutheran and Messiah Lutheran churches. We will meet here at church and drive over together then have lunch.

Middle & High School students (parents, too!) interested in caroling at KARM on **Saturday, December 22**, please contact Pastor Bob.

# SHEPHERD OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY *by Jan Darnell*

## YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Your generosity has changed the lives and touched the hearts of our guests who visit our pantry. **THANK YOU** for your support of volunteer hours, donations of food and monetary gifts.

As you gather with your families during these special holidays, we hope you will continue to pray throughout the coming year for those who are less fortunate.

From all of us at the food pantry, we wish you a *Merry Christmas!*

**OPEN: Mondays, December 3, 3-5pm & December 17, 3-7pm**

### ITEMS NEEDED

Cranberry Sauce • Boxed Stuffing Mix Yams • Coffee, Instant Tea or Tea Bags

[shephopecantry@gmail.com](mailto:shephopecantry@gmail.com)



## DECEMBER FLOWERS

Dates are available for the remainder of the year for you to celebrate special events and remember loved ones. Sign up on the flower chart posted near the library.

**12/2 Maret & Leo Hebert**

**12/9 — Available —**

**12/16 Poinsettias**

**12/23 Poinsettias**

**12/30 — Available —**

## CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

Call the church office at 966-9626 to leave your contact information and one of our Disaster Ministry members will come review the fire safety of your home.

*May you have the gift of Faith,  
the blessing of Hope,  
and the peace of His Love at Christmas and always.*



*Pastor Bob  
Mary Mich Ally Phylis*

## DECEMBER FAMILY OF FAITH CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Christina Landau  
12/2 Maret Hebert  
Allen Pannell  
12/3 Doug Sandidge  
12/5 Deb Morris  
12/6 Caiya Titsworth  
12/7 MacKaye Moore  
Andrea Myers  
12/10 Elliana Spangler  
12/12 Clara Rosa  
12/13 Larry Benorden  
12/14 Lisa Stelter  
12/15 Mason Sandidge  
Kathy Westbrook  
12/17 Eli McDonald  
Bea Schultz  
Nicole Yount  
12/19 Brandon Wright  
12/20 Kole Matherly  
12/21 Amanda Mitchell  
Michael Sproat  
12/22 Rachel Bell  
Eric Madson  
Isaac Taylor  
12/23 Alan Berdal  
Carrie Parrott

12/25 Tyler Burmaster  
12/27 Myra Rothenberg  
12/28 Dave Birkholz  
Yvette Edwards  
Ken Savitz  
12/29 Andrew Rothenberg  
12/30 Trish Holley

### BAPTISMS

12/1 Laura Beardsley  
Mary Beth Blake  
Zach Enderson  
Roy Fenstermaker  
Michael Lee  
Foster Loyacano  
Bob Moore  
Robin Madson  
Bob Moore  
Rick Parsons  
Joan Pfrommer  
Alice Pigott  
Joe Pigott  
Adam Rondinone  
Anna Sass  
Linda Shaver  
Tim Stone  
12/2 Arlene Aring  
Sofia Martorell

12/4 Kathy Wise  
12/8 Sarah Green  
12/9 Sam Thompson  
12/10 Dee Bumpers  
Debbie Pinchok  
12/11 Terry Runger  
12/13 Larry Benorden  
Linda Beyer  
12/17 Darren Rothenberg  
Nicole Yount  
12/19 Jasmine Holbert  
12/22 Grant Bauman  
Adam Schmid  
12/23 Lisa Berdal  
Ethan Gray  
Nick Lyman  
12/24 Tyler Bird  
12/25 Nortrud DePorter  
Deb Miller  
Rebecca Mitchell  
12/26 Parker Tunnell  
12/27 Ashley Benorden  
12/30 Lourdes Martorell  
12/31 Blaine Enderson  
Lorie Getzen  
James Thompson

### ANNIVERSARIES

12/7 Danny & Allison Pressley, 33  
12/8 Ed & Lois Engel, 45  
12/16 Karen & Laurence Koran, 49  
12/18 Justin & Katie Rosa, 9  
12/21 Toivo & Connie Rist, 26  
Ginger & Ron Grunke, 45  
12/24 Dan & Aileen O'Kada, 7  
12/28 Irene Dorfinger & Dieter  
Manthey, 17

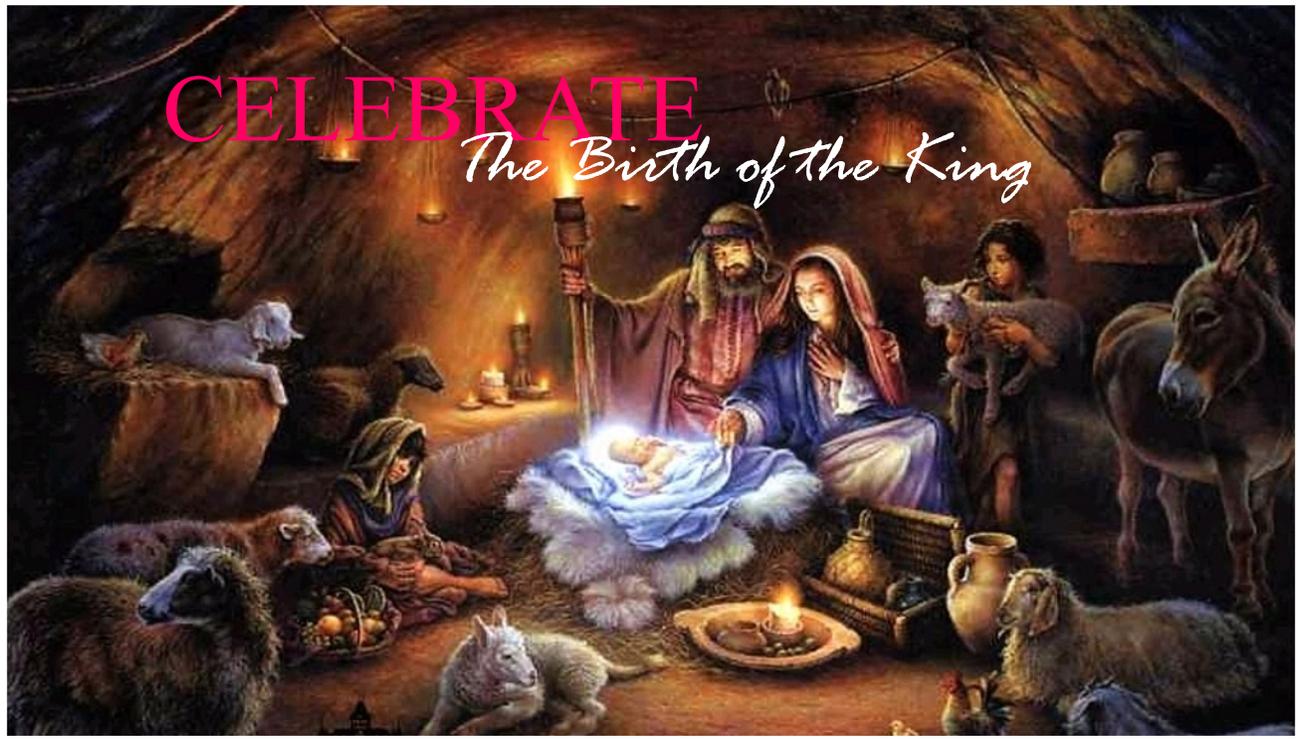
*Have a November date  
not featured here?  
Contact Mary Boring,  
966-9626  
to have your special day  
recorded in  
our church records.*



Check us out!  
[facebook.com/  
FaithLutheran Knoxville](https://www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranKnoxville)

# CELEBRATE

*The Birth of the King*



## STAFF MEMBERS

**The Rev. Dr. Robert Stelter**  
Pastor  
pastorbob@faithloves.org

**Mich Walters**  
Choirmaster/Organist

**Allison (Ally) Cosby**  
Director of Contemporary  
Worship Band

**Mary Boring**  
Office Manager  
mary@faithloves.org

**Phylis Garrison**  
Publications

**Barbara Birkholz**  
Finance Secretary

**Mildred Fenske**  
Prayer Chain Coordinator  
jyarnell@knology.net

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

OUR SANCTUARY will be radiant with gorgeous red poinsettias for Christmas! You can sponsor these beautiful plants to remember or honor your loved ones. Place the suggested donation of \$13 in a pew envelope along with a notation of your special person(s).



## YEAR END PLANNING

It is hard to believe that 2019 is fast approaching. ***The last day*** to make a tax deductible offering for 2018 is **Monday, December 31**. Now is a good time to look at planning your 2018 year end contribution strategy, especially if you are considering one of the following options. Be sure to allow enough time for your broker to record your transaction by the year end deadline. Contact Mary in the church office if you need additional information.

### ◆ ***Contribute with stock transfers?***

Information is available for your broker to complete transactions prior to the end of 2018.

### ◆ ***Required Minimum Distributions***

If you are eligible to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your retirement plan, you can make a charitable distribution to Faith Lutheran Church. Contact your trustee or custodian for details on how to transfer funds directly from your account.

## 2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Doug Goins**  
President

**Steve Dean**  
Vice President

**Laura Beardsley**  
Secretary

**Christina Landau**  
Treasurer

**David Mabry**

**Deb Miller**

**Mike Niemeyer**

**Randy Stewart**

**Phil Whitehead**

