

**PASTOR’S**

**CORNER**

Dear Friends in Christ, Greetings in the name of Jesus!

It is already time for Advent and Christmas. Advent begins the fourth Sunday before December 25 and ends with the midday prayer on December 24th.

The Savior’s birth is second in importance only to his resurrection on Easter Sunday. During the time of Christmas Christians reflect on God’s great and gracious gift of Himself.

The Church Year begins with Advent (from Latin *Adventus,* which means “coming into”). It is a four week period of preparation before Christmas. The story of Jesus during Advent is the story of hope coming into the world. When the time was just right God sent His Son Jesus, into the world. The Advent season teaches us to prepare to receive Jesus, the hope of the world.

The liturgical color for Advent is blue, which symbolizes anticipation and hope in our coming King. Violet can also be used during Advent as a symbol of our repentance in preparation for our coming King.

It has become common to use an Advent wreath to mark the season. This wreath has four candles—one for each week in Advent. As these candles are lit each week, our anticipation mounts as we look forward to Jesus’ coming.

Advent also symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the Church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when He returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s cry during the Advent season.

While it is difficult to keep in mind in the midst of holiday celebrations, shopping, lights and decorations, and joyful carols, Advent is intended to be a season of fasting, much like Lent, and there are a variety of ways that this time of mourning works itself out in the season. Reflection on the violence and evil in the world cause us to cry out to God to make things right—to put death’s dark shadows to flight. Our exile in the present makes us look forward to our future Exodus. And our own sinfulness and need for grace lead us to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew his work in conforming us into the image of Christ.

The promise for Israel and the promise for the church is Jesus Christ; He has come, and He will come again. This is the essence of Advent. May you blessed this Advent.

In Christ,

Pastor Garwood



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| Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.  Matthew 1:23 |

**CNH Mission Prayer Requests**

1. Praise God with us for the faithful service of many of our retired Nevada pastors who keep the ministry alive and served in the California Mountain churches. Pray with us about how the Lord might work in the four communities of Susanville, Chester, Greenville and Portola in the future.

2. Tou Pau Lee, who serves as a temporary deacon under supervision of the pastors at St. Paul, Merced, has shown himself to be an important bridge between 1st generation Hmong and Englis-speaking cultures. Pray for his development as a leader, the spiritual protection of his family life and opportunities to open for pastoral ministry.

3. Ask that God would continue to open doors for fruitful ministry among Mandarin-speaking populations connected in and around Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in San Francisco. Holy Spirit now sponsors a Mandarin service and ministry. Pray also for spiritual growth among the leaders in this language group. (Holy Spirit has historically been a Cantonese and English-language church).

4. Praise God for the increase He has shown at Messiah Lutheran in Ewa Beach. This congregation of 8-10 faithful members has now turned over into a group 60+ with 25 or more children. More importantly, this church is directly engaging its community. Praise God.

5. Keep in prayer Pastor Herb and Markie Burch who labor faithfully in Belize. Ask that God would bless their work there and the expansion into the young families in the area.

**Featured Mission Prayer: Pastor Temesgen Dabsu has officially completed all necessary work to be officially installed as an LCMS pastor and the called pastor of Grace Lutheran in El Cerrito, CA and Bethlehem in Berkley, CA. In addition, he continues to serve as a planting missionary pastor for the Oromo Lutheran Fellowship, which meets at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Hayward. Praise God for the ministry of this faithful man and ask that God would grant opportunities in the future for him to serve in the role of missionary pastor to people of every culture.**

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| "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2 :14 |

**Let your prayers be a "gift" this Advent season!,**

**Cora**



**Thank you to all who packed a shoebox! Your boxes are now on their way to bring a smile to a child and let them come to know Jesus.**

**Pray for the thousands of volunteers that collect, inspect and distribute shoebox gifts for children in need as well as those who teach The Greatest Journey.**



JOY, Cora

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| The Children’s Christmas Play “The Nutty Nativity” will be next week December 8th |

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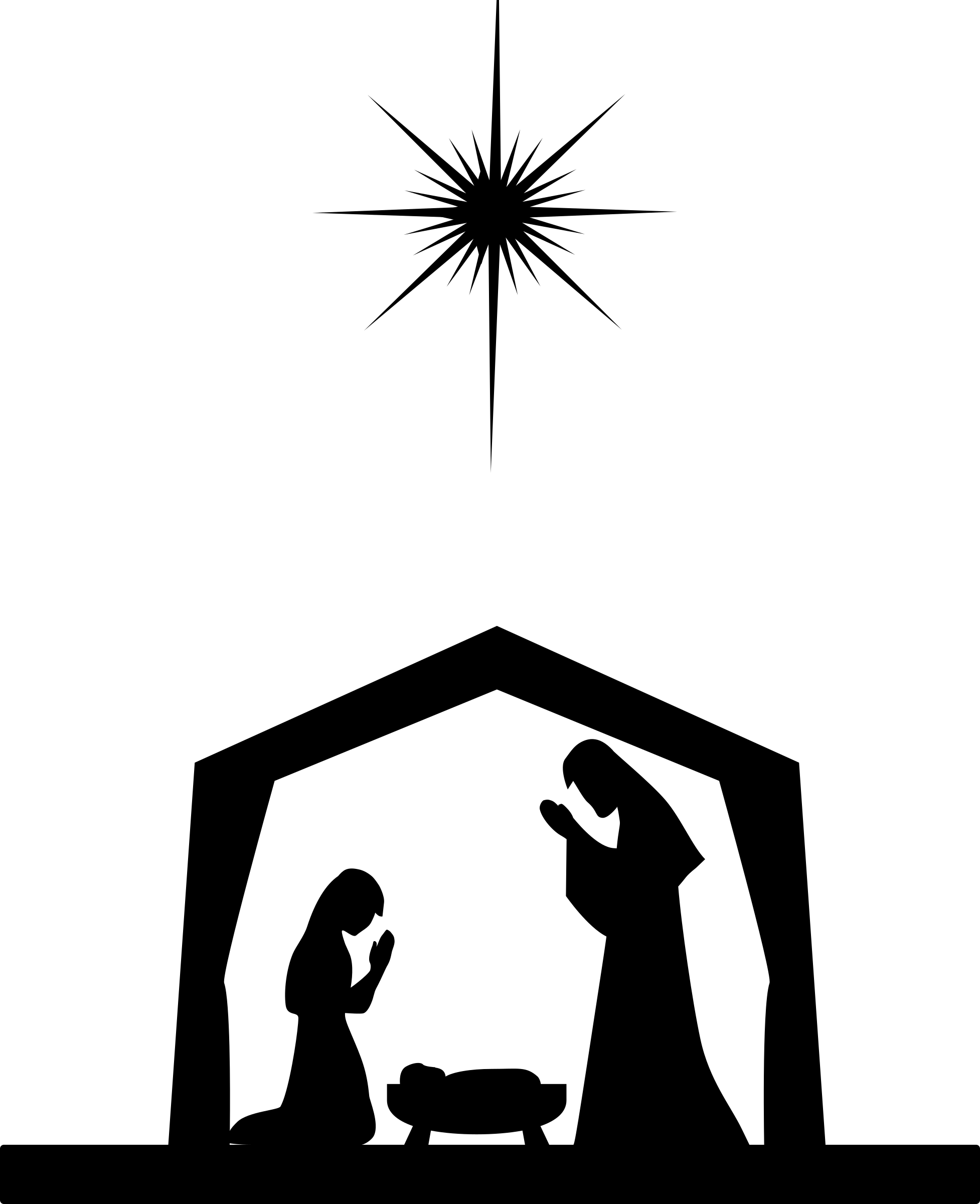
Can you believe that it’s already December? I can’t believe how fast this year has gone! The Christmas play will be next Sunday Dec. 8th. The kids, Laura and I are very excited for it!

To practice for the play we meet only one time. That’s right we have one day to get the play learned! We all meet the day before from 9am to 3pm and try to get through the play a few times. But it’s not all work. We also do games, crafts, make costumes, decorations and of course have lunch and play time.

The kids amaze me each year! They learn things so fast. We have a couple weeks to listen to the music and learn the words to the songs we will be singing. I love the songs chosen for this play.

I don’t want to give too much of the play away, so all I’ll say that it’s the nativity story told by the animals, but there is a twist! We are so excited to share the “Nutty Nativity” with you all!

In peace, Sarah 

**Faith Lutheran**

**Children’s Church Chat**

Greetings to you from the youth of Faith Lutheran Church! It seems hard to believe that we’re already in the Advent season – what a glorious time of year! May the Lord truly bless all of us as we experience and celebrate the true reason for the season!

FLC Tutoring is off and running. We have 8 students currently enrolled being served by our caring tutors. ).

The Children of Faith Lutheran will be presenting our annual Christmas Program on December 8th during our regular 8 AM service. We hope you will be able to join us for this special event. We will be rehearsing and creating all the props and decorations the day before the program. If you’d like to help out, please join us! Lunch will be provided again this year.

Christmas Break is coming!! The last session for Children’s Church will be Tuesday, December 10th, and will resume on Tuesday, January 7th, 2020. The last session of FLC Tutoring will be Wednesday, December 11th, and will resume on Wednesday, January 8th, 2020.

Once again, we thank you for your continued prayers to prosper ALL the youth programs at FLC - it is definitely working! Merry Christmas, and may God truly bless your Christmas season!

**~MERRY CHRISTMAS~**

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| ***2019 Faith Lutheran Christmas Program Information***  ***One Day Rehearsal:***  ***Saturday, Dec. 7th 9 AM – 3 PM***  ***(Lunch, Fun, & Crafts Provided)***  ***Christmas Program:***  ***Sunday, Dec. 8th at 8 AM*** |

***Religious Tracts***

A religious tract is a short yet succinct pamphlet used for religious purposes. Currently, we have a wide assortment of tracts covering an array of subjects that you may find useful when talking to friends or family. Many are written by the founder of Answers in Genesis, Ken Ham.

***We have Tracts on the following Subjects:***

* Evolution
* Dinosaurs
* The Big Bang Theory
* The Nativity Story
* Death & Suffering
* Noah’s Ark
* Purpose of Life
* UFO’s
* AStronomy
* The Existence of God

*If you are interested in obtaining any of these tracts, please contact Miss Sarah.*

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| The food pantry is in need of food. Suggested items for December are Christmas meal items such as jars of gravy and mashed potato mix. |

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| **December Birthday blessings**    3. Mariann Burgess  6. Rick Smith  15. Kristine Stewart |

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| **COUNCIL NOTES**  Oct. income $10,526.57  Oct. expenses $9,600  Average attendance 42  Communed 82 |

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| “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”  **John 1 :14** |

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| **Events**  2. Church Council 6pm  7. Christmas play practice 9am-3pm  8. Christmas play 8am  13. Men's Breakfast 7am  14. Christmas Parade 5pm  24. Christmas Eve service 6pm |

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| Help us make and decorate our Christmas parade float!  Time for decorating TBA! |

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| **Faith Lutheran Church**  www.faithlutheran.info  Pastor Everett Garwood  775-232-1891  revev@att.net  Worship Service  8am Sunday  Communion: 2nd & 4th Sundays  Children's church Tuesdays 3-4:15pm  Tutoring  Wednesday a 3-5pm  Bible study  Wednesday 6pm  Contact Phone Numbers  Rick Smith  Church President  775-302-7033  Secretary Gigi Neal  Charles Hicks  Head Elder  775-224-1792  Steve Tomac  Elder  775-750-1579 |