

Merry
Christmas



the Banner of Faith

FAITH-LILAC WAY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2020



ADVENT

JESSE TREE - DEVOTIONS AT HOME AND ON FACEBOOK!

Every day during ADVENT (Nov 29- Christmas Day), Pastor Pam and Vicar Kristin will be offering an online Facebook devotion from the Jesse tree. We will be using a resource shared by Pr Ryan Fletcher and his artist son Sam - and augmented by Gary Feyen. Supplies are found in the Worship at Home bag. (If you did not receive a Worship at Home bag or the devotions and ornaments please let us know and we will deliver or email them to you).

ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP:

Watch Bible Stories Come Alive: Paul Oman paints and proclaims a stunning story



Advent Worship on Zoom
Wednesday Nights 7 PM
With discussion following

Advent Worship Online
Watch anytime at Faithlilacway.org

Watch pastor and painter Paul Oman bring the Advent Bible stories to life online or join us for Zoom on Wednesday nights with time for discussion and prayer following Paul's presentation.

You may have seen Paul Oman paint one of the two large paintings in Faith-Lilac Way's Fellowship Hall. But in these videos Paul Oman isn't just painting a picture. In these videos, Paul works in layers, painting and transforming the canvass as he tells the story, proclaims the message and illustrates the promises of God. It's amazing.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS ONLINE WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS
ONLINE
WORSHIP!



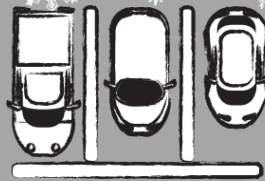
A full worship service is available online featuring the Christmas story and message, many of the traditional carols and candlelight. Watch any time from the comfort of your home.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24 at 4:30 PM

Christmas story, Carols, and Candlelight

PARKING LOT
WORSHIP!



Faith-Lilac Way Parking Lot

A shorter in-person service in the parking lot via radio will be offered on Christmas eve at 4:30 p.m. Hear the Christmas story and sing carols, including Silent Night by candlelight. Bring your own

candle and matches and stand by your car or bring an electronic candle, flashlight or phone to let your light shine as we hail the newborn Christ child. (Some battery operated candles will be available.) Join us outside or in your car for Christmas Carols and candlelight.

DECEMBER 27 - SYNOD-WIDE

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Preacher: Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Bishop Ann and staff are providing an online worship experience for the whole synod on first Sunday after Christmas, December 27th, as a Christmas gift to us all. There will be no parking lot worship, Zoom Communion or Zoom education on that day.



A WORD FROM

VICAR KRISTIN

As we approach Advent, I've been thinking about how I hear from God, especially in this season of watching and waiting. I know that some people hear from God in the quiet solitude of a nature hike, for example. But I tend to hear from God through the words of those I trust. For me, the Holy Spirit shows up in the midst of sharing my joys, sorrows, and news with special friends, and of course, my mom.

That is how I always imagine it to be between Mary and her cousin Elizabeth. Mary could not sit on her wonderful (and terrifying) news that she would give birth to the Son of God (Luke 1:30-45). She had to share it with Elizabeth! When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt a child she never thought she would be fortunate enough to have "leap in her womb", and she too was filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. I wonder how often the work of God manifests itself through the interconnected lives of close friends.

During this Advent Season, may you trust in the signs and wonders of the Spirit's presence in and through the time you share with those you love (Zoom sessions included).

Vicar Kristin

PASTOR PAM

Advent - A Season of Waiting and Wonder

I don't much like to wait. Perhaps it is just because I get impatient. Or maybe I have just become accustomed to be able to get what I want - when I want it. And so much of the time, we can have it. Today I don't think twice about buying fresh strawberries, peaches or even raspberries

in December. These fruits used to have a season.

There are still some things for which we have to wait: newborn babies, longer daylight hours and.... Christmas! Clearly some things are more fun to wait for than others. I don't want to have to wait for a vaccine for the coronavirus or the time it is safe to give people outside of our family a great big hug or the time we have to wait to worship safely together inside our sanctuary. But, like it or not, you and I have to wait.

However difficult waiting is this year, waiting is something that Advent reminds us to do every year- on purpose. We know the end of the story and it is always tempting to rush right to the story of Christmas. But the season of Advent reminds us that the waiting time is important and even necessary. Because, as we wait, we can take time to wonder and to reflect.

Reflection often involves looking back - and when I do, I see the incredible ways in which God has been at work in my life and in the world around me. Sometimes I don't see it at the time... I'm so busy "living" that part of my life. But when I take the time to reflect, I see the fingerprints of God everywhere. And that causes me to wonder: what is God up to next? How is God at work in our crazy, mixed up, fiercely divided and covid-infused world? And how can I - how can we - be a part of God's work in our little corner of the world. It's worth wondering about, and reflecting on, so that when the waiting is done, we can celebrate with awestruck wonder at the way that God is Emmanuel, God with us.... yesterday, today, and all of our tomorrow.

Waiting and wondering,

Pastor Pam

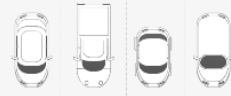
Pastor Pam

DECEMBER WORSHIP OPTIONS

PARKING



LOT WORSHIP!



SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM
(Unless it is below 10 degrees)

As it gets colder... You can be safe and warm in your car, worshipping and singing God's praise. The pastors will be outside - just dressed more warmly!

Bring your own communion elements and bulletin or pick up a prepackaged cup/wafer and printed bulletin.

Park your car facing the church building and tune your FM radio to the station listed on the white board or crack your window to listen through the speakers.

Several Worship Options available in December due to the pandemic.



**HOLY COMMUNION
BY ZOOM!**

Mini-Services with Communion available via Zoom Sundays at 10:30 AM

See the website <http://www.faithlilacway.org/online-worship> or the weekly email for the zoom link.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY
Reflect with the Preacher on the Sermon and Scripture
Sundays at 11 AM by Zoom

Did something catch your attention in the sermon? Would you like to explore the scripture in a deeper way? Do you have questions about the direction that the sermon took? Would you like to be a part of a Bible study? If you said "YES!" to any of those questions, then we have an opportunity for you!

Pastor Pam and Vicar Kristin spend a lot of time thinking, praying and writing their sermons - and would love to reflect on the message with you. And, because the sermons are available in written form, you can reflect on them too.

Join us for the Advent Bible Study discussion on the Sermon and scripture on Zoom at 11 AM on Sundays Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20. No Bible study discussion on Sunday, Dec 27.

See the website or the weekly email for the zoom link.

ONLINE WORSHIP!



We will continue to offer online worship services complete with liturgy, scripture, a message and music. To access, go to our website: <http://www.faithlilacway.org/online-worship>.

HOW CAN WE BETTER ENGAGE THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

What is church community organizing? What does a congregational community engagement coordinator do? Wildfire churches have been exploring the possibility of hiring a Community Organizer together at some point and so we asked Nick Tangen, a community organizer for University Lutheran Church of Hope to respond to these questions.

I began working as the Community Engagement Coordinator at University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis in 2016. This position was created following a long visioning process that culminated with the congregation setting a goal be a faith community with “porous walls.” These porous walls signified our hope to create deeper relationships with our neighbors, and the congregation committed time and resources, including the creation of this new position, to this effort.

We learned early on that we had some learning to do about how these relationships would be formed. We had all kinds of practices in place to learn about members of our congregation, but we often overlooked the need for practices that would help us learn about our neighbors outside the walls of our church.

Community organizing provided us with both a vision and a set of practical tools for what creating powerful relationships in our neighborhood could like. Bishop Ann Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod has often said that community organizing is “a spiritual practice for doing justice,” and we’ve discovered that to be true at our church.

One of the fundamental tools of community organizing is one-to-ones, which are listening sessions with neighbors to share with one another hopes, interests, concerns, and needs. We’ve put the practice of one-to-ones to good work, connecting with neighbors experiencing homelessness, folks without documents, and community members struggling with mental illness. In 2018, these relationships allowed us to gather congregants and neighbors together to meet with Senator Kari Dziedzic and Representatives Mohamud Noor and Diane

Loeffler about the need for increased affordable housing, access to driver’s licenses for all, and greater access to mental health resources. These were no longer issues that existed in the abstract, but were deeply felt within our community via the relationships we had formed.

Over the years, University Lutheran Church of Hope has grown to more deeply know our neighborhood, and each new relationship has taught us something new about who our neighbors are and what struggles they are facing, which continues to inform the direction of our work. Furthermore, the skills that we have developed through community organizing have allowed us to focus on creating concrete steps towards a more just and equitable neighborhood. Churches often focus on questions of injustice; what is wrong or broken in our world. Community organizing helps us to focus on questions of justice; how to heal and transform the community where we all live, work, and worship.

As people of faith, we affirm the call in our baptism to “proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.” Community organizing has given our church the tools to live into this call. The work is ongoing. “Success” is not about winning a single issue, or creating new programming. Nor is it about “serving” neighbors in need. Rather, “success” is about forming deep and mutual relationships, where everyone has something to give and everyone has something to receive, as together we work to create a community that is more livable for us all. We have found that as our church has worked to transform the lives of our neighbors, in other words, we are also transformed along the way.

I am excited to hear more about the relationships that will form in your neighborhoods as the Wildfire congregations join together around this work. We at University Lutheran Church of Hope are here as a resource to you. Peace be with you!

Nicholas Tangen
Minister of Faith in Community
University Lutheran Church of Hope

HOLY GOD, EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US,

You came to us as a baby, a vulnerable child. Open our eyes to see your face in the face of each vulnerable child of God that we meet. Protect those who have COVID-19 and the frontline workers exposed to it. Pour out your love to surround those who are ill, lonely, mourning, dying, struggling, fearful or simply in need of care including:

Bev, Beverly, Bob, Brad, Carolyn, Cori, David, George, Helen, Herb, Jacqueline, Jane, Larry, Linda, Lois, Lucas, Margaret, Ramona, Ruth, and Sandy.

Grant health and healing and a sure knowledge of your presence to all those in need.

Amen.

YOUTH CORNER

CONFIRMATION & HIGH SCHOOL

Confirmation and Youth Group continues on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM See Pastor Pam and Vicar Kristin for details!

THANK YOU

Every Meal - Thank you for your kind contribution to Every Meal. No child should go hungry yet over 200,000 children just in the state of MN live in food insecurity. You have changed the story of child hunger for many kids!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Pray for, call, email, send a note to these members as they celebrate their birthdays this month. To correct or add a birthday, call the office (763.537.4523) so we can update our records. Thank you.

1st Nancy Goodwin

3rd Rebecca Crass

4th Louie Stevens

5th Pastor Pam Stalheim Lane

8th Kim Ipsen

9th Joshua Luoma

10th Ryan Hartjen

Noah Olson

Ann Marie Skoglund Anderson

Bryce Tiber

Josh Wiste

13th Joshua Vallis

15th Darlene Charboneau

16th Evan Blackman

Durk Thompson

18th Mary O'Neill

Benjamin Stalheim Lane

19th Steven Ferkingstad

24th Carol Flom

26th Jack Ng

28th Rev. Eleanor Hunsberger

29th Paula Lawhead

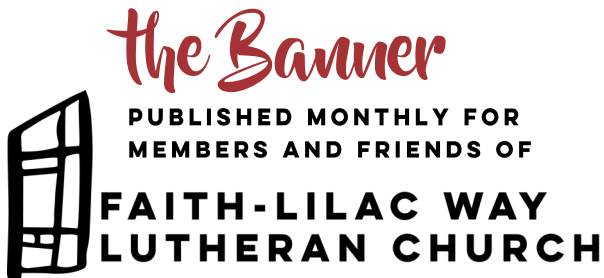
Nicole Rambow

30th Christopher Ipsen

31st Korah Overman

Grayson Overman

Happy Birthday!



ADDRESS SERVICE
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Nonprofit Org.
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Permit NO. 1589

**SUNDAY WORSHIP
ONLINE:
www.faithlilacway.org
PARKING LOT:
9:30 AM**

DECEMBER 2020



NEAR food shelf is our December 2020 mission of the month. What is NEAR you ask? It is a non-profit organization ran by volunteers that responds to the emergency needs of people in our community. Through a cooperative effort of twelve

area churches, volunteers help to provide emergency food relief to residents that need it in northern Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope who live between 42nd and 62nd Avenues North.

Anyone with a true need who lives in the area served by NEAR is eligible to receive food.

Due to COVID-19 the event is being modified this year to ensure the utmost safety and still make Christmas brighter for children after this difficult year.

Following are suggestions for church members who would be willing and able to help.

Make cash donations to be used to purchase Target gift cards for children. (NEAR has arranged to receive a 15% discount by buying in bulk from Target.)

OR

Make a donation of a Target gift card in denominations of \$10 or \$20. Small Stocking Stuffer bags will be given to clients when they come in to receive their food between Nov. 23 and Dec. 23.