



the Banner of Faith

FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2021

Epiphany

The Season of the
revealing of Christ...

A NOTE FROM PASTOR PAM

HAPPY NEW YEAR! REFLECTING BACK- FORWARD IN FAITH

The changing of the calendar is a chance to reflect back - and look forward with faith and hope for the coming year. And this year of 2021... I'm eager to look forward.

But first, look back. Who could have predicted a pandemic, a time of racial reckoning and a new way of worshipping online - and in our parking lot? Yet, 2020 brought us all of that. It has been a heartbreaking year with far too many people - friends and relatives too - getting ill and dying from the coronavirus. I am looking forward to the time when we can safely gather again for worship.

On the positive side, who would have guessed that we would be able to worship and hold meetings online? Yet, we have. And we continue to find ways to connect with one another that are high tech - and low tech. I've been thrilled with the number of people who check in with one another through cards and phone calls as well as texts, emails and zoom. I'm looking forward to these connections and caring for one another continuing into the new year.

After George Floyd's death in May 2020, I and many others had our eyes opened to the racial injustice that our black and brown brothers and sisters face. I said at the time, and I still believe, that we as a church have work to do on this issue. One thing we can do is: listen. Listen to other voices, especially those of our black and brown sisters and brothers in Christ. We will have an opportunity to hear Rev. Roderick Ghoston, the pastor of the other church that worships in our building, Greater St. John Missionary Baptist, on Sunday, January 17. In this season of Epiphany - of Christ being made known to us - let us listen with open hearts and let the Holy Spirit guide and bless us all.

I'm eager to look forward. This is the year to move Forward in Faith! As a community of faith, I believe and I hope that we are ready to work with our Wildfire partners and our ecumenical brothers and sisters in Christ to care for our neighbors (nearby and far away) and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. See the article on the annual meeting on page 5 so that you can be part of our planning vision for 2021. There is much work for us and for our brothers and sisters in Christ to do to proclaim God's love for all people. But I am confident that, guided by the Holy Spirit, we can look forward with both faith and hope for a brighter future for everyone in 2021.

In hope and expectation,



Pam



A NOTE FROM VICAR KRISTIN

I AM PAYING ATTENTION.

I think most of us would agree that Christmas this year was different, and I'm taking stock of all the ways it felt 'off'. For me, the most difficult part of the holiday was not being able to see my sister, Jill, and her family. They work in health care, and the risk was just too great. I really missed gathering on Christmas Day as we usually do, relaxing together, and seeing my teenage nephews who seem to be growing at least a half foot every year. Our families are so busy and Christmas Day with them is something I can always count on...except for this year!

Other changes in the season were...dare I say...almost welcome. I felt no pressure to wander the malls endlessly searching for perfect gifts for family and friends. Other than working at church, my calendar was entirely free of social engagements and mandatory outings. I didn't bake or plan a Christmas dinner. We just hunkered down at home, lit candles and prayed before dinners, took walks around the neighborhood, listened to Christmas music, and decorated our tree and house slowly in stages. Our preparation for Christmas seemed more like a slow burn, not the mad frantic rush and consumer excess of years' past.

To be honest, our main focus as a family during Advent was quarantining as much as humanly possible so that we could feel comfortable being with my parents on Christmas Eve. Anja also made it a point to plan out a COVID-friendly environment for Santa and his reindeer: in addition to cookies, milk, and carrots, we also had masks and hand sanitizer available. She was pretty sure Santa was immune from the virus, but as a little COVID-warrior, she knows one can never be too careful.

As I think about Christmas 2020, I'm reminded of this verse from Hebrews: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2) This year, I laid aside many weights of the season and felt a certain freedom and peace to make meaning of Jesus' birth in a new way, perhaps in a more faithful way. In fact, I hope not to go back to 'business as usual' next year.

What did you notice about your Advent and Christmas? Did you sense any new invitations from God rising up during this time?

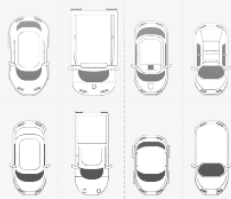
I remain so grateful for this loving congregation during my internship year! May you feel the radiance and liberating power of Christ's coming now and throughout the New Year.

Peace be with you,

Vicar Kristin

JANUARY WORSHIP OPTIONS

PARKING LOT WORSHIP!



SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM
(Unless it is below 10 degrees...
then we will preach from inside!)

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.

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>.

Several Worship Options available in January 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.



Welcome Guest Preacher Rev. Roderick Gholston!

We welcome Rev. Roderick Gholston, pastor of Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church, to preach for our worship service on Sunday, January 17th. Greater St. John has been a ministry partner, renting worship and program space from Faith - Lilac Way for many years. While we had hoped to worship in person together, we are blessed to have Pastor Gholston bring us the Good News on this day and will plan another worship service together when we can meet in person.

**Epiphany Sunday Morning Bible Study
Reflect on the Sermon and Scripture
Sundays at 11 AM by Zoom**

Epiphany is the revelation of Christ - an "aha!" moment. Join us Sunday mornings to dig into scripture. What was revealed? Did something catch your attention in the sermon? What does this mean for us? Come with questions or just to listen. The zoom link for the Bible study is found in our weekly emails or you can contact us for it!

2021 ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 AT 11 AM



It's going to be a little different...but we can do it! That's the spirit that I hope you adopt for our first ever online Annual Meeting. It will have the same format as prior years except:
No lunch will be able to be served 😞

No dishes will need to be washed 😊

It will be online on ZOOM - so...

We need Zoom Buddies!

What are Zoom buddies? Zoom buddies are partners - Person A is really comfortable with using Zoom and Person B is not. But, Person B is comfortable using a phone. Person A connects to the meeting. Person B calls Person A and is able to hear and participate in the meeting through Person A's computer.



Let Pastor Pam, Vicar Kristin or Celeste in the office know if you are willing to be a Zoom Buddy!



zoom

RETURN TO BOOK CLUB...ON ZOOM!

Join us Wednesday evenings from 7:30—8:30 PM for Book discussions and fellowship, beginning again January 13th over Zoom. We will pick up by finishing our discussion on Lenny Duncan's book, Dear Church. Come with Ideas for our next book! RSVP to Vicar Kristin at vicar@faithlilacway.org and she will send you the zoom link!



YOUTH CORNER

CONFIRMATION & HIGH SCHOOL

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



THANK YOU

Lutheran Social Service - It happens in more than 300 communities across Minnesota. When a child is adopted; when a young person is safe; a family supported; a stranger is welcomed; when a warm meal is shared. Your generosity makes these acts of God's love possible. On behalf of LSS thank you for your recent gift of \$400.00. You are an essential partner in our mission to helping us grow.

Lutheran Disaster Response - Thank you for your recent gift of \$450.00. This season we remember a time before Christ's birth, when humanity waited to be delivered from fear to sin. We also remember the day the waiting ended. Our Savior arrived, and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families reeling from disasters here in the U.S. and around the world.

Thank you 

CHERISH ALL CHILDREN

Cherish All Children is seeking members for its board who want to work to prevent child sexual exploitation in their own communities. We're looking for individuals that will assist with fundraising, and help use their connections to help advance the mission of Cherish All Children. There are quarterly meetings to attend (virtual right now) and you may need to dedicate a couple of hours of work between meetings. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can be involved, contact Joy McElroy, Director of Cherish All Children. joy.mcelroy@cherishallchildren.org
651.642.5990

NAME CHANGE FOR KIDPACK!

The Sheridan Story, supplier to the Wildfire KidPack Ministry has a new name!
Now called "***Every Meal, Fighting Child Hunger***", this organization continues to work to address the nutritional needs of more than 200,000 children in Minnesota living with food insecurity. We, at Wildfire, have decided to change our name, in response, to: "***Wildfire Every Meal***".
Our role as volunteers in distribution and fund raising continues, even as Covid 19 has greatly increased that acute need of food for local children and families.
Currently, packing and distribution is being handled by the school's culinary staff so ***Wildfire Every Meal's*** role has become primarily fundraising until we can get back into school to help with distribution post Covid.
For those of you interested in finding out more about the work of Every meal, Please go to www.everymeal.org

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:

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

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

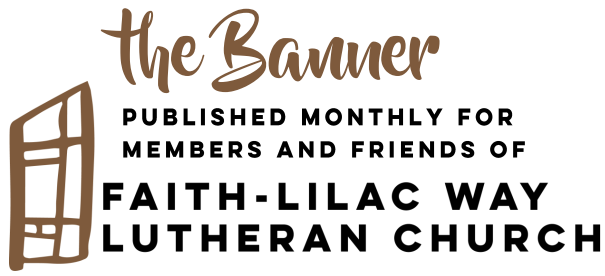
Amen.

JANUARY 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.

29 th	Anja Engelbert	14 th	Dennis Davis
1 st	Richard Anderson	18 th	Travis Gasper
	Hunter Mjelde		Beverly Halbrooks
	Dylan Mjelde	21 st	Gary Feyen
2 nd	Deborah Barland		Nancy Shallcross
4 th	Debbie Bren	23 rd	George Lynum
5 th	Jeff Tiber	25 th	Tim Swanson
6 th	Emma Weilage	28 th	Ella Evans
7 th	Tim Lindgren		Terri Hyduke
8 th	Ellen Wood		Joseph Thompson
9 th	Brooke Tiber	29 th	William Halos
11 th	Donna Benson	30 th	Patricia Kurki
12 th	Merideth Foster	31 st	James Ng
13 th	James Lyons		Cole Stobbs





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



JANUARY 2021

Cherish All Children (CAC) is our January 2021 mission of the month. CAC is an ELCA ministry that partners with congregations to help prevent child sexual trafficking and exploitation. The love of this ministry lies in congregations, where staff, leaders, and members pray, educate, and connect with other and act on behalf of children within and outside of their congregations. Our faith can make a difference in keeping kids and youth safe!

Here is a short message from Joy McElroy. Thank you Faith-Lilac Way for your dedicated support through your Mission of the Month gifts in January! Your partnership is vital to our work together to protect children and youth from sexual exploitation and trafficking.

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Prevention Month. Join us on January 14th to learn how you can keep children and youth safe online in your own homes and communities! As youth spend more time than ever online these days, predators have adjusted to reaching young people where they are - whether on social media apps, games, or school-issued devices. There is a great deal we can do to safeguard children from the risks.

To register for this free virtual event, go to www.Eventbrite.com and search Cherish All Children.

Online Safety for Youth

January 14, 2021
7:00 -8:15 PM

This event is for church leaders, parents grandparents, community members, and youth!