



Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

December Banner

(763) 537 4523 | Faithlilacway.org

5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422



**Worship with us on
Christmas Eve!**

See page 4



Pastoral Article

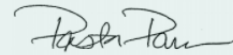
Merry Christmas! As I write this, we haven't even begun to celebrate Advent yet... but I am so looking forward to Christmas! Last year was memorable. I'm glad we celebrated in the parking lot even though it was only 10 degrees and even though I had to wear my snow pants, many layers of clothing, boots, mittens and a not so stylish hat--- but I don't want to make that a tradition! So... as we plan to hold Christmas services in the sanctuary this year, I can hardly wait!

I remember when I was a little girl, my father had a hard time waiting for Christmas too. Or maybe he just had a hard time saying no to his little girls. My mother liked to wrap the presents and put them under the tree as she purchased them. But to see those beautiful packages under the tree? That made waiting even harder! So...my sister and I would climb up on my father's lap and say... "Just one? Please?" My father was a great big man but was also a pushover for his little girls with big eyes and so it became a tradition to open one each night... starting at least by the 23rd - the eve of Christmas Eve!

Anticipation is a part of Advent. Christmas is coming - it's not a secret. We know that we will be celebrating Christ's birth, the day that God took on flesh and dwelt among us. But in Advent, in those days and weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth, we wait and watch and pray that Christ will come again to us and with us and for us.

This Advent, I pray that you will be filled with peace and not be overcome by worry or anxiety. I pray that you will be able to gather with friends and family and come to worship - safely - so that we as a congregation will be able, once more, to sing the Alleluias of the angels and wish one another a very merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!



Prayers

Holy God, in Advent, the season of waiting and watching, hoping and anticipating, we pray for those who are yearning for health, healing and wholeness. Surround with your love and care: Donna Benson, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Brad Hesselund, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Margaret Pendzimus, Herb Scheelk, Linda St. John, Lucas Wiste, and Vic Woolgar and all those you know are in need of care. Open our hearts and our lives to befriend those who are lonely, comfort those who are grieving, help those who are in need and welcome as the Christ child all who need our love and care. In the name of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who moved into the neighborhood. Amen.



Vicar Article



Advent is a time for spiritual renewal as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During Advent many people focus on preparing for the much anticipated Christmas season and no doubt that will be true this year as many Christmas celebrations were curtailed last year due to the pandemic. The observance of Advent actually anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives. The first is Christ's birth in Bethlehem. The second is Christ's anticipated Second Coming. The third and in my view the most significant is receiving Christ in one's heart.

How does a Christian prepare to receive Jesus in their heart? There is no one way to do this but I do think that the spiritual practices of prayer and reading scripture can be used to prepare for Christ's coming. One way to combine prayer and reading scripture is to engage with the Psalms. The Psalms have both been referred to as the prayer book of the Bible and the prayer book of Jesus. As part of my involvement with Faith-Lilac Way's Faith and Neighboring Practices team I have started reading one or two Psalms each day. I find it very meaningful to read a Psalm and then pick out one verse or theme to lift up as a prayer petition.

The Psalms cover the full range of the human experience. The Psalms include prayers for help, hymns of praise, songs of thanksgiving, instruction, expressions of faith, liturgies, and remembrances of the history of Israel. There is value in studying all of the Psalms but some that may be particularly appropriate for Advent include Psalms 25, 72, 80, 85, 89, 122, 126, and 146. Focusing on two Psalms during each week of Advent might be a good way to start engaging with the Psalms.

Education Classes

Adult Class Hybrid - in the library or on Zoom
Our December classes look deeper into the Psalms as prayers and songs for our daily life.

December 5: Psalms as prayer - How do I pray with my friend or family? Led by Pastor Pam
December 12: Psalms as songs led by Pastor Pam
December 19: Psalms for Christmas led by Vicar Kyle

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98882846617?pwd=eVV0TWIveTluN1pZWdN4L3ZkMnNHQT09>

Meeting ID: 988 8284 6617

Passcode: 335870

or call: +1 312 626 6799



For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day many congregations will read Psalms 96, 97, and 98 which are all hymns of praise. Psalm 96 portrays the Lord of Israel as a king who rules the universe in righteousness. Psalm 97 celebrates the rule of God. Psalm 98 celebrates the salvation of the world given by God as ruler and judge. These Psalms help us to remember that Christ our Savior is a just and loving ruler of the world.

I encourage you to dive deeply into the Psalms as part of preparing to receive Christ in your heart.

Vicar Kyle Anderson

Candlelight Christmas Worship

Holy Communion

Friday, December 24th at 4:30 PM & 10:30 PM

Musical preludes at 4:20 PM and 10:20 PM

- * Masks required for non-vaccinated people
- * Masks are recommended for those vaccinated especially if the sanctuary is full.
- * Physical distancing between groups is encouraged.

NEW Covid-Safe Service

Candlelight Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th at 3:00 PM - 3:40 PM

- * MASKS REQUIRED of ALL worshippers;
- * Vaccination or a Negative Covid Test*
- * Distance between family groups

The sanctuary is open for prayer at any time and you are welcome.

However, the office is not staffed every day and the outside doors are locked. Please check the website or call the church office to make sure something else isn't scheduled at that time and to arrange to be let into the church building if you do not have a key.



Advent Daily Devotions

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. One way to do this is through daily scripture and prayer. We have prepared daily devotions for you in print format each Sunday of Advent or online.

Online Options:

Check out Faith Lilac Way's Facebook Page Daily Scripture Readings - Advent 2021

Week 1

Monday November 29 - Jeremiah 33:14-16
Tuesday November 30 - Psalm 25:1-10
Wednesday December 1 - Isaiah 2:1-4
Thursday December 2 - Isaiah 40:1-11
Friday December 3 - Psalm 85
Saturday December 4 - Philippians 1:3-11

Week 2

Monday December 6 - Malachi 3:1-4
Tuesday December 7 - Psalm 72:1-7
Wednesday December 8 - Isaiah 11:1-10
Thursday December 9 - Isaiah 35:1-10
Friday December 10 - Psalm 146
Saturday December 11 - James 5:7-10

Week 3

Monday December 13 - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Tuesday December 14 - Psalm 126
Wednesday December 15 - Zephaniah 3:14-20
Thursday December 16 - Micah 5:2-5a
Friday December 17 - Psalm 80:1-7
Saturday December 18 - Hebrews 10:5-10

Week 4

Monday December 20 - Luke 1:5-25
Tuesday December 21 - Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday December 22 - Luke 1:39-56
Thursday December 23 - Luke 1:67-80
Friday December 24 - Matthew 1:18-25

Advent Service with Candles, Scripture, and Prayer

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 6:30 - 7 PM

HYBRID: In person or on zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98882846617?pwd=eVV0TWIveTluN1pZWdN4L3ZkMnNHQT09>

- * Meeting ID: 988 8284 6617
- * Passcode: 335870
- * or call: +1 312 626 6799

NEW Covid-Safe Mid-Week Advent Service!

Wednesday Afternoons

December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 3 - 3:30 PM

Service of the Word with scripture, prayer and communion (*see Covid Safety info below*).

The Covid Safety Service

3 PM COVID-SAFE SERVICES have stricter protocols

- * **Masks REQUIRED of ALL Worshippers;**
- * **Vaccination or a Negative Covid Test (except children under age 5)**
- * **Distance between family groups**

These *new* Covid Safe worship services are designed especially for those who have been uncomfortable with gathering together because of the coronavirus, whether because of their own health or someone else's. Also, out of concern for safety, this worship will be shorter than our traditional service. Please speak with Pastor Pam if you have questions or concerns.

Gift of Love

We sponsor ministries outside our doors with our Mission of the Month throughout the year. But in December, we ask for a "Gift of Love" to help your church, Faith-Lilac Way, fund our mission and ministry inside our doors and finish financially strong at the end of the year. It is because of your support that we can:



Pastor (former Vicar) Becca Holland's Ordination on October 16, 2021

- * Host an intern pastor each year. This ministry of FLW has sent 12 interns into the world to preach and teach. Vicar Kyle Anderson is our 13th intern! See (former intern) Pastor Becca Holland's ordination picture below!
- * Work with our Wildfire Partners on neighborhood programs such as EveryMeal - putting food for the weekend in kids school backpacks; Wildfire Confirmation activities; and Wildfire Community Voices hosting local elected leaders to speak to the community in a nonpartisan, civic minded gathering.
- * Grow in Faith and Neighboring practices, working with a Wildfire+ cohort in this Minneapolis Area Synod program to grow in our faith practices and to work with God and our neighbors to do Christ's work in the neighborhood .

It is because of your support that we can do all these things as well as worship together, teach the word of God, and visit the sick, the lonely and those who are homebound. Thank you, in advance, for your generous gift of love!

Dear Siblings in Christ at Faith-Lilac Way,
I wanted to write a quick note to say THANK YOU!
Thank you for the beautiful red stole. I had so much fun picking it out and I love wearing it! I will always think of FLW when I put it on. I also wanted to thank you for attending my Ordination Service - both in person and virtually. I felt your presence! Most of all, though, I wanted to say thank you for your faithfulness, support, and prayers. I am so honored to have been a part of the internship tradition at FLW. Thank you for teaching me how to be a pastor. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness when I fell short; And thank you for your continued prayers as I begin this journey into ordained ministry. I am forever grateful to God for all of you!
Your sister in Christ, Becca



I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. [Philemon 4-5,7]

NEAR Food Shelf - Christmas Toy Giveaway

NEAR is collecting gifts of money or \$5 Target gift cards for the Food Shelf Christmas Toy Giveaway.

Film Night! *Casa Blanca*

Thursday, December 9 at 6:30 PM

Need a break from pre-Christmas activities or covid concerns or other worries and challenges? Come watch a movie and enjoy popcorn while spreading out in the Fellowship Hall to relax and enjoy a classic movie and some good conversation after the show.

Acknowledgements

Lutheran Social Service

“Dear Pam and beloved Faith-Lilac Way members,

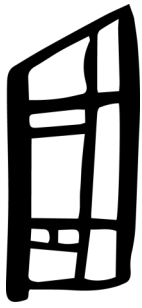
Just wanted to pass along my/our deepest gratitude for the congregation’s most recent (and wonderful) installment gift to LSS in this 2021 calendar year. Your series of gifts notches up our capacity to serve our hurting Minnesota neighbors with our services and compassion. We truly couldn’t do it without you and just as truly couldn’t be more grateful.

Love, grace, and peace, Rev. Bob Wertz

December Birthdays

Nancy Goodwin	1st	Steven Ferkingstad	19th
Rebecca Crass	3rd	Carol Flom	24th
Pamela Stalheim Lane	5th	Jack Ng	24th
Kim Ispen	8th	Rev. Eleanor Hunsberger	28th
Ryan Hartjen	10th	Paula Lawhead	29th
Noah Olson	10th	Nicole Rambow	29th
Ann Marie Skoglund Anderson	10th	Christopher Ispen	30th
Bryce Tiber	10th	Korah Overman	31st
Josh Wiste	10th	Grayson Overman	31st
Joshua Vallis	13th		
Darlene Charboneau	15th		
Evan Blackman	16th		
Durk Thompson	16th		
Mary O’Neill	18th		
Benjamin Stalheim Lane	18th		





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ADDRESS SERVICE
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Christmas Eve!

Candlelight Communion Service

3pm Christmas Eve Covid Safety Service

4:30 PM + 10:30 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight

See page 4 for times and Covid information

Advent Worship

Sunday, December Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 AM

December 5: Advent Worship with Holy Communion

December 12: Advent Worship with Holy Communion

December 19: Advent Worship + Children's

Sermon: *The Christmas Story*

December 26: Christmas Worship



Christmas Eve
Worship is available
online any time
December 24th at
[faithlilacway.org/
online-worship](http://faithlilacway.org/online-worship)