



Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church



Midweek Advent Worship - Wednesdays starting November 29th at 6:30PM

Sunday, December 24th

- ★Christmas Eve Morning Service 10:00 AM
- ★Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4:30 PM and 10:00 PM

(Details on page 7)

2023

December Banner

763.537.4523 | faithlilacway.org
 5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Pastor's Article

How do you come to Advent and Christmas this year?

Are you joyful? Hopeful? Excited? Or does your to-do list make you feel anxious, distracted or distressed? Or maybe you feel a bit nostalgic, wistful or sad because the way Christmas was is no longer the way it is? Or maybe you are none of the above. However you enter into this season I invite you to hit the “pause” button occasionally to simply, in the words of the Psalmist, “*Be still.*”



If you are one who is joyful, hopeful, excited and loves the bustle and activities of the season, wonderful. Pause. Take a moment to savor this time.



If you are one who is overly busy, anxious and distracted, then you, absolutely, need to “pause” and be still. You need a moment to slow down, regroup, and let God refill your heart.



If you feel nostalgic, wistful or sad, then breathe in and take a pause to listen to what God has for you in the

And even if you enter this season in a completely different way, it is worth taking time to take a “pause” to hear the promises of God, light a candle and be reminded that the Christ Child was born for you. One way to do this is through our midweek Advent service on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We are livestreaming it so it is also available on your own time. Simply find a candle to light and 20 minutes to a half hour of time to breathe. See page 7. Another option is our Contemplative prayer time at 10 AM on Wednesday mornings. You could also pick up a Christmas book of devotions. There is a display of several of them in the library – feel free to take one home. Finally, there is a really simple way to take a pause – and that is by coming to church on Sunday mornings – and joining us for Christmas eve – or watching online.

In the midst of all of the challenges in our world, Christ has come and will come once again for you and for me. And this is news worth celebrating.

May your Advent and your Christmas become peace-filled so that Christ may fill your heart and your life with love, grace and blessings.

Pastor Pam

Mission of the Month-What's Your Passion?

Planning for 2024 includes determining our Mission of the Month focus. So, what are you passionate about? If you'd like to submit recommendations for a preferred Mission of the Month, send an email by December 15th to the office that includes the agency and some of the things they do that stand out to you. We'll include a list in the January 2024 Banner and at the Annual Meeting on January 28th the congregation will vote resulting in our top picks for 2024 Mission of the Month.

As November draws to a close and the days get shorter and colder, I begin to realize that Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are just around the corner, and I find myself reflecting on the past year, counting all the ways in which God has blessed me, and all that I have to be thankful for. Of course, some are so obvious that it's easy to take them for granted, and easy to forget that many people in this world don't have them—good health; a roof over my head; a closet full of clothes; plenty of nutritious food in my cupboards; clean water; heat and air conditioning, an education, freedom to make my own choices... There are blessings that last and last: family and friends; talents, skills and hobbies; faith and grace and the love of God in Jesus. And there are blessings that are new and unexpected—blessings that are granted for a limited time, blessings that must be savored and committed to heart and memory.

This year, my surprise blessing is the joy-filled experience of being the new Vicar/Intern Pastor at Faith-Lilac Way, learning from and spending time with the Pastor and gracious people of this congregation. Right now, you all are the blessing for which I am most grateful. I know I've only been here three months, but I can honestly say, this is the most wonderful learning environment I could ever imagine, filled with the most gracious mentors and teachers I've ever had. So, thank you for accepting me and welcoming me, and for choosing to walk alongside me on this last stretch of my long journey to ordination. I couldn't get there without you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

May you all have a blessed holiday season, surrounded by people you love, celebrating much to be grateful for.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Vicar Karen

Prayers requested on behalf of ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. We give thanks for Bishop Eaton's tireless dedication and leadership and acknowledge that sometimes leaders need to take some time for their own health and healing. Bishop Eaton will be taking a 4-6 month leave of absence for a time of rest and rejuvenation. During this time, we will join the whole ELCA in praying for her health and rejuvenation. The ELCA Church Council appointed former bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, the Rev. Michael Burk, as Presiding Bishop Pro Tem to care for the responsibilities of the presiding bishop during this time.

Holy God, be with all who are in need of health, respite and care. We ask for your Holy Spirit to rest on Bishop Eaton and renew her spirit and her life. Be with our members who are in need of care including: David Bjorkquist, Helen Brandon, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Betty Schmidt, Linda St. John, Jackie Woolgar, Vic Woolgar, and all those who you know need care. Guide our hands and feet to places where we can offer a glass of water for someone who is thirsty, a listening ear for one who needs to share, a toy for a child who is in need, groceries for the hungry or who has some other need that we can fill. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who is our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Announcements

Join us for Treats and Talk on Sunday Mornings!

Join us in the library after worship on Sunday mornings for treats and conversation.

Winner of the Robbinsdale Lutheran Church Award!

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Michael Lopez, and I am writing on behalf of the Robbinsdale Award Program. We're the organization that puts on the annual "Best of Robbinsdale Award", and I'm pleased to inform you that your company has been selected as the winner in the category of Lutheran church.

The Award Program was created to honor and generate public recognition of the achievements and positive contributions of businesses and organizations in and around Robbinsdale. We believe that it's essential to acknowledge and reward businesses that contribute positively to the local economy and reputation of Robbinsdale. This award is an acknowledgment of your team's hard work and dedication.

Congratulations on being part of the Award Program.

Sincerely,

Michael Lopez
Review Committee

https://robbinsdale.companycitieshonor.com/sdsapjxu_FAITHLILAC-WAY-LUTHERAN-CHURCH



Mission of the Month: Support the Mission of FLW with a Gift of Love

Faith-Lilac Way has a tradition of supporting our partner ministries through our budget and through our Mission of the Month. Locally we support Every Meal, Meals on Wheels (formerly Dinner at Your Door), and NEAR Foodshelf. In our region, we support Cherish All Children, Luther Seminary and Lutheran Social Services and the Minneapolis Area Synod. Globally, we support ELCA Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger, and the wider ELCA church (The Synod sends 50% of the funds it receives to the wider church). This is done out of an understanding that we need to be generous to our partner ministries, just as members, associate members and friends of the congregation have been generous to us.

Twice a year, we turn our mission focus inward and ask for a Gift of Love to support the ministries of this congregation, above and beyond the regular gifts that our members, associate members and friends entrust to us. This Gift of Love has allowed us to continue to support an intern pastor. We are financially committed to our current intern, Vicar Karen Peterson, until she concludes her year with us in mid-August of 2024. A new intern in August is not guaranteed, but we cannot seek one unless we have sufficient funds to cover the costs. The Gift of Love supports our mission both inside and outside our doors.

To give a Gift of Love, please indicate on your gift (either in the memo of a check, on the envelope or choosing the Mission of the Month option online.)

Thank you!

We want to thank Pastor Pam, Vicar Karen, the choir, the lunch servers, and all of those at Faith Lilac Way Lutheran Church for making the funeral service and celebration for Lois Anderson so memorable. Both she and my dad Al loved this church and each of you who created this special community they were a part of for over 70 years. Our deep thanks! The Family of Lois Anderson

Thank you for your gift to ELCA World Hunger. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ, Amanda White, Director of Congregational Generosity

Servant corner - opportunities to serve your church and community

Needed:

- Like climbing ladders? Inside Worship Banner and star hangers needed for worship team;
- Willing to run a snowblower around the church sidewalks? Join the team and sign up for one week at a time;
- Willing to do handyman tasks? Join our property team (or help a neighbor - we receive some requests by members too);
- Occasional light office work;
- Kitchen help for funerals or other events.
- YOU! Have an idea of something that you can offer? Let us know!

Congratulations Joanna!

FLW will have a watch party –so gather in the library at 1:30pm. On December 2nd. Coffee, hot chocolate and snacks.

WELCA-Back!

Women – you are invited to a gathering of women on **Tuesday, December 12th at 5:30 PM** at Linda Fernelius’ home. We will be reimagining ideas for ways women at FLW can connect, engage, serve and have fun together.

- Bring an item to create a delicious Romaine Salad to enjoy together. Salad greens will be provided.

See Linda Fernelius or Jessica Hughes for details. And yes, you can bring a friend!



The Ordination of
Joanna Kathol
As a Pastor of Word and Sacrament
Saturday, December 2nd
@ 2:00pm
In person and Livestreamed

All are welcome to attend the service of Ordination for Joanna Kathol as she is ordained to be a pastor of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. Thanks be to God!

Date and Time: Saturday, December 2nd at 2pm (CST)
Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church: 104 Galvin Rd. N. Bellevue NE, 68005

All ELCA clergy are invited to process and participate in the laying on of hands.

The service will be live streamed on the Immanuel Lutheran Church–Bellevue NE Youtube Channel.

A reception with refreshments will follow the service. All are welcome!



Joanna has been called to serve the congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Falls City, Nebraska.



MOVIE NIGHT in the Library!

Sunday, December 10 at 5:30 PM

Join us in the library to watch a Christmas Movie “The Littlest Angel “ and join us for a Taco supper! Questions? See Vicar Karen or Pastor Pam.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Birthdays	
Nancy Goodwin	1
Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane	5
Lois Emmans	6
Kimberly Ipsen	8
Ryan Hartjen	10
Ann Marie Skoglund Anderson	10
Bryce Tiber	10
Josh Vallis	13
Evan Blackman	16
Pastor Durk Thompson	16
Benjamin Stalheim Lane	18
Steven Ferkingstad	19
Sutton Anderson	22
Carol Flom	24
Jack Ng	26
Lauren Clements	27
Pastor Paula Lawhead	29
Nicole Rambow	29
Christopher Ipsen	30
Korah Overman	31
Grayson Overman	31

We apologize if your name is missing. Please call the office, we are probably missing your



Treasurer's Report to FLW

This is a quick summary of how we are doing financially. These are the numbers (actual and budgeted) for January-October for this year.

INCOME

Actual	Budgeted
\$218,707	\$229,234

Our giving is down by **5%** from what was budgeted.

EXPENSES

Actual	Budgeted
\$242,617	\$237,292

The expenses are slightly over budget **by 2%**.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving,
Paula Lindgren, FLW Treasurer



Online Live Streaming and Recorded Worship Service

For those who prefer at home and online worship and have wondered how to access it, we're here to help! Start by going to www.faithlilacway.org On our main web page, click on Worship Online With Us, this will take you to the ONLINE WORSHIP page. Click on the LIVESTREAMS button to watch worship services. If you log on shortly before 9:30am, you will most likely see the date of the service displayed. When service begins you will be able to hear and see Sunday's worship service. If you wish to take communion, please have your elements of bread and wine or juice gathered prior to the start of service.

If you weren't able to watch a Sunday service at 9:30am, you would be able to access the recorded service a day or two after the worship service. Follow the instructions above and on the ONLINE WORSHIP page, the video will be accessible by clicking on the forward arrow.

There is no charge for live streaming or recorded services access. Need assistance? Contact the office and we'll be happy to help! 763.537.4523

Be a part of the Snow Team!

This year we are creating a "Snow Team" of dedicated volunteers to take care of snow-blowing the sidewalks around the church. Sign up in the church Narthex or call the church office to sign up for a week at a time to keep the sidewalks clear and safe. 763.537.4523





Sunday, December 24 10:00 AM Christmas Service

- ☆ Listen to the children tell the story of Jesus' birth
- ☆ Sing Christmas Carols
- ☆ Celebrate Holy Communion
- ☆ Enjoy Christmas cookies & coffee/ hot chocolate before and after the service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4:30 PM and 10:00 PM

- ☆ Traditional Lessons and Carols Service
- ☆ Holy Communion

Midweek Advent Worship - Wednesdays at 6:30PM

This service will also be streamed. You can find it on our website.

Wednesday, November 29: Peace

What do you need to let go of to find peace? We light candles for peace.

Wednesday, December 6: Hope

What do you need to hold onto to have Hope? We light candles for hope.

Wednesday, December 13: Listen

What do you need to silence to hear the Spirit's voice? We light candles and listen.

Wednesday, December 20: The Longest Night

On this eve of the longest night, we acknowledge our sorrows, fears, and pain. We light candles against the darkness.



September 18, 2023

At our next Synod Assembly on May 2-4, 2024, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Ramsey, we will elect a new bishop for the Minneapolis Area Synod. "We" means more than voting members to the assembly; over the next eight months the whole Synod will be invited to discuss, discern, and pray. I hope that you and members of your congregation will take part in shaping what the office of the bishop will look like in years to come.

A Bishop Election Committee has formed in June under the direction of the Synod Council to coordinate the election process. (Are you wondering who is on the committee? Read this news story.) The committee not only will organize the logistics of how we elect a bishop, but also will invite the Synod — you — to define what we expect and elect a bishop to do.

What are the needs of this corner of God's kingdom? How could a bishop more fully equip our congregations to meet those needs? In upcoming months, look for invitations from the committee concerning listening sessions to share your thoughts.

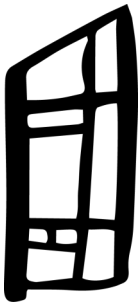
Who is eligible to be elected as our next bishop? According to the Synod's constitution, the office of bishop is open to any ELCA Minister of Word and Sacrament (8.11). That person may serve up to two consecutive six-year terms. Our current bishop Ann Svennungsen will complete two terms in 2024, so a new person will be elected bishop at the 2024 Synod Assembly.

The first stage of nominating prospective names will be on February 10, 2024, when Synod Assembly voting members from each congregation will be at one of the 12 Conference Assemblies (one for each of the 12 Conferences). Our constitution allows each conference to make up to three nominations at that time. Those who agree to continue in the process will have opportunities to get to know the synod better (and for members of congregations to get to know them better) as part of the process. According to the Synod Constitution, additional names may be added from the floor of the Synod Assembly in May, where a new bishop will be elected. Look for more information and resources from the Bishop Election Committee as these dates approach.

In the months ahead, I ask for your prayers: for the members of the Bishop Election Committee, for the whole synod, and for people discerning their own call to the office of bishop.

Pray, and then participate: Join the respectful and honest dialogue about the nature of the leadership we will need to meet today's challenges and work for tomorrow's dreams. Together in Christ, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, the God of hope will fill us with joy, peace, and courageous trust to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, ... in the Minneapolis Area Synod and beyond.

Felecia Boone, Vice President Minneapolis Area Synod



Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

December 2023 Banner

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5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422

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Worship Schedule

Advent Midweek Worship
6:30pm on Wednesdays, November
29, December 6, 13 & 20
In Person & Live Streaming

The Light Shines in the Darkness - Music of the Season
Sunday, December 10th 9:30am
Ladies Ensemble & Chancel Choir Program

Christmas Eve Morning 10:00am
The Christmas Story told by the children!

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship**
4:30pm and 10:30pm.