



Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

January Banner 2022

(763) 537 4523 | Faithlilacway.org

5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Happy Epiphany!

Pastoral Article

Happy Epiphany!

The season of Epiphany begins with the wisemen following a star to find the Christ child. It is a season of illumination, of revelation, of “ah ha!” as Jesus is revealed in scripture as the Christ, the Messiah, as the Light of the World.

And yet... in January, in the cold and dark of winter, it is easy to forget that we are called to be bearers of light and love. At our baptism, we are commissioned, to “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” This is our calling. This is our job.

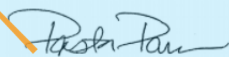
We don't do it perfectly. And yet... this is what we are called to do – and this is what you *do!*... sometimes even without knowing.

On the day before Christmas Eve, December 23, our doors were open as the Red Cross held a Blood Drive. People came and waited patiently to donate their blood so that others could live. One of the donors peaked her head in the church office and said, “ I'm so glad you have opened your doors to let us come in. I live just a few blocks away and I've always wanted to come in your church. The church is beautiful. You are such beautiful people. Thank you.”

Later that night I received a call from one of our members who had shared a prayer at a Midweek service. “Thank you for praying for my friend's daughter. Her court date was today - and she was given a second chance.” Thank you for your prayers.

We don't always know the good that we do - or the light that we bring into another's life. But friends in Christ, keep shining Christ's light on the world and the world or at least the lives that we touch, will be brighter.

Shine Jesus Shine,



Prayers

Emmanuel, God With Us, be with all those who are hurting and in need of healing and tender care including, from our congregation, Lois Anderson, 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. Sustain our medical community. Help them not to be overwhelmed as they continue to care for those who are ill with the coronavirus as well as all of the other illnesses and health concerns. Bless this new year and help us come together to bring your peace and love to all the earth. Amen.

Vicar Article

When I moved to Minnesota in 2010 I was advised to pick up a winter hobby as part of coping with the reality of winter in the North Star State. I have dabbled in both cross country skiing and ice skating but ultimately the winter pursuit that seems to suit me best is catching up with my reading. For any Christian looking for a good read in the winter I recommend the Gospel of John especially the first two chapters. The Gospel of John begins with a beautiful prologue which describes the nature of the incarnation and introduces the idea that Jesus is the one who makes God known. In John 1:4 we read that “in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.” This idea of Jesus being the source of life occurs often in John’s gospel. It is easy to become discouraged during the cold, dark days of January but focusing on the one who gives life can help keep us from despair. As we see in John 1:5 “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” The light of Christ continues to shine brightly despite all of the turmoil and strife in the world.

The Gospel of John continues with the calling of the first disciples. Jesus invites these new disciples to “Come and see.” (John 1:39) We are all looking for a source of hope during another winter of pandemic and Jesus invites us to come and see what he is doing. Shortly after inviting us to “come and see” Jesus then performs his first miracle when he turned water into wine at Cana. For anyone who had doubts Jesus showed that God is an abundant provider who works through common elements to do extraordinary things.

Yes, January is a long month but by the time it concludes we will again have daylight until almost 5:30 in the evening and this light is proof that winter won’t last forever. More importantly, the light of Jesus who gives eternal life to all of us will continue to shine no matter what happens in these turbulent times.

Vicar Kyle Anderson

EveryMeal Provides Food

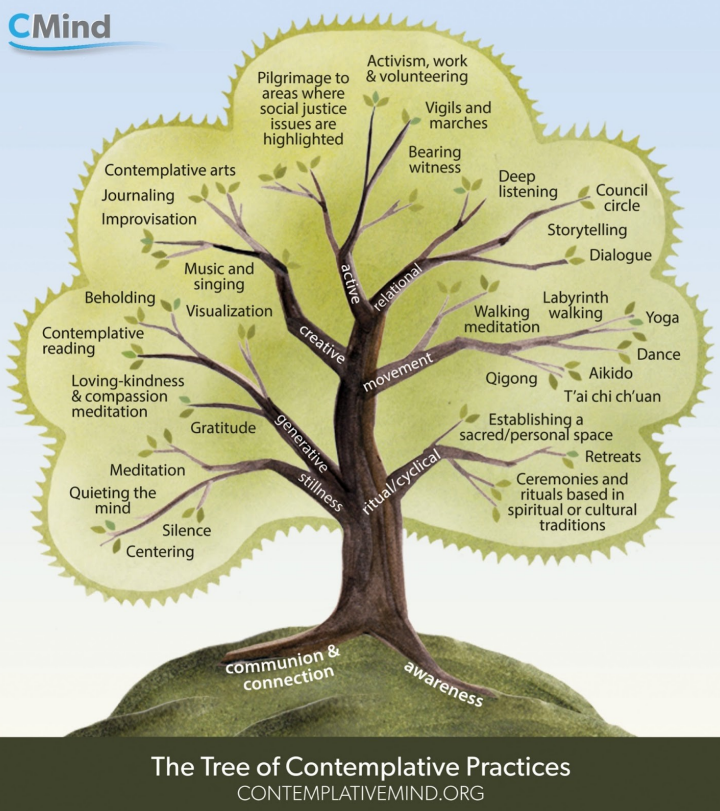
Our partner, EveryMeal, is expanding ways to provide food access to children and families during the winter months through community partnerships.

What: Free shelf-stable meal bags with 4-5 pounds of good food including a variety of fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains, and entrees.

- * **When:** Available from November 19, 2021 – January 3, 2022
- * **Where:** The closest site to Faith-Lilac Way is:
 - New Hope YMCA, 7601 42nd Avenue N.
- * **How:** Simply go to the front desk and ask for a meal bag. There are no qualification requirements and no contact information is collected.

January, Sunday Morning - Adult Class

CMind



In January the adult education hour will focus on contemplative practices and how they can enhance our spiritual lives. Contemplative practices can have many forms. Our discussions this month will be centered on three different categories of contemplative practices:

Sunday January 9 Creativity – In addition to making beautiful works of art, creative practices can also be contemplative. We will explore how a wide range of activities including but not limited to playing music, singing, drawing, writing, and knitting can be meditative.

Sunday January 16 Activism – In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend we will consider how engagement in society in the forms of activism work, volunteering, participating in marches, and taking pilgrimages to social justice sites can be spiritual and contemplative.

Sunday January 23 Movement – An active body can help spark a mental breakthrough. This week we will focus our discussion on physically active contemplative practices including but not limited to martial arts, yoga, dancing, walking, and working out.

Please note that there will not be a class on Sunday, January 2. On Sunday January 30 there will be a council-led session in order to prepare us for our annual meeting on February 6.

Join us in person or on zoom!

Here's the zoom link:

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

Meeting ID: 988 8284 6617

Passcode: 335870

or call: +1 312 626 6799



Mission of the Month - Cherish all Children

Cherish All Children works with churches and communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. The heart of this ministry lies in churches where staff, leaders and members work together to act on behalf of children and youth.



What does Cherish All Children Do?

We provide education, resources and tools to both adults and youth to promote healthy and safe relationships, guided by our Christian values. Faith communities are powerful agents for social change, and we invite you to join us in protecting all God's children.

Our Primary Prevention Model works with your community, to stop the harm *before it occurs*. We:

EDUCATE youth and adults about child sexual exploitation and trafficking and how to prevent it. Much of the work in this last year has been to provide information about online safety practices.

EQUIP churches and communities with resources to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking.

ENGAGE youth and adults to create a culture that promotes healthy relationships free from sexual exploitation.

PRAY for the youth in our churches and communities and for an end to child sexual exploitation and trafficking.

How can I help?

- * You are invited to become a prayer partner for one of the children/youth at FLW.
- * Support Cherish All Children with a gift to FLW's Mission of the month.
- * Contact Sue Ferkingstad for more information on how you can help: sueferk@msn.com



NOW
WITH
A NEW
NAME!



EVERY MEAL
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Save the Date! Faith-Lilac Way Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 6 - Why attend an annual meeting? Officially, we need a quorum to pass a budget and elect new council members to the positions in which the current council member has completed his or her term. But our annual meeting can be much more than the “official business.” It can also be a time in which we celebrate the mission we share as we look back at the past year and see how we have adapted and changed - despite the pandemic – and then look forward and anticipate the way our mission can continue to thrive.

We Worship:

- * In the sanctuary! This year, we moved back into the church sanctuary. It looks so beautiful this year for Christmas - maybe even more so since we couldn't worship there last year.
- * On the radio in the parking lot for those who feel more comfortable there;
- * By mail - We mail bulletins and sermons to those who are homebound or who are not yet comfortable in larger group settings;
- * Online - We have been pre-recording our worship. It is accessible on our website and on YouTube.
See page 7.
- * Streaming - we have just installed two cameras and we will begin streaming worship in 2022!



Learning

- * We had outdoor VBS this year which was a blast!
- * We confirmed Lydia Foster and will be confirming Kaitlyn Bahneman (the family had to quarantine on Confirmation Sunday out of caution while awaiting a covid test - it turned out to be negative);
- * Our VBS, Confirmation and adult classes are meeting inside and on zoom.

Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices

We and three other Wildfire churches were chosen to be part of a learning cohort for both engaging our congregation in deeper faith practices and in learning how to better engage our neighbors. Faith-Lilac Way's team of: Tommy Thompson (current president), Sue Ferkingstad (incoming president); Heather Lane, Rory Joygaard, Vicar Kyle Anderson and Pastor Pam are meeting monthly with the Synod and bringing back some faith practices and some neighboring practices as well. The goal is to not only have a well trained team, but to share these practices with the whole congregation so that we can all deepen our relationship with God and join God in God's work in the neighborhood.

Covid Update



Following Jesus' call to love and care for the neighbor, especially those who are vulnerable:

- * **Masking is required for unvaccinated people**
- * **Masking & physical distancing is recommended for all.**
- * **Covid-Safe Services require masks and vaccination card or negative Covid test.**

We are Streaming Worship Live!

Thanks to Karsten Skoglund-Anderson's videography skill, we have been pre-recording our worship since shortly after the pandemic began in 2020. At that time, we assumed online worship would be for a few months. However, the council determined that it was clear that online worship, as a component of our worship offerings, is here to stay. Now, thanks to a generous memorial gift, we were able to work with WNAV, an audio visual and installation company, to order and install the equipment. They will also help train people to use it. According to Rory Joygaard, the application is fairly straightforward. Interested in exploring being on our worship streaming team? (training will be provided!) Please see Pastor Pam, Vicar Kyle or Rory Joygaard.

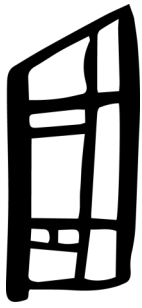


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1st Richard Anderson
2nd Deborah Barland
4th Debbie Bren
5th Jeff Tiber
6th Emma Weilage
7th Tim Lindgren
8th Ellen Wood
9th Brooke Tiber
11th Donna Benson
12th Merideth Foster
13th James Lyons
14th Dennis Davis

18th Travis Gaspar
Beverly Halbrooks
21st Gary Feyen
Nancy Shallcross
23rd George Lynum
25th Tim Swanson
28th Ella Evans
Terri Hyduke
Joseph Thompson
29th William Halos
30th Patricia Kurki
31st James Ng
Cole Stobbs





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Worship With Us!

Join us online every Sunday at faithlilacway.org where we have all our video services, printable bulletins, and sermons to read along with! Also visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/faithlilacway where we post updates and encouraging bible verses to brighten your day!



For those who are comfortable visiting the church, the sanctuary is open to all! Every Sunday at 9:30 AM we have worship in the sanctuary as well as in the parking lot! See page 4 for more information and options to join us in worship!