



www.faithlutheranic.org

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

PO Box 325 926 West 6th Ave

Junction City OR 97448

Office: 541.998.2601

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Pastor Stuart Holland, 971.344.7537

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Rays of Sunshine – December 2018

From the Pastor:

The church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent (that's the 2nd of December by the way) and in honor of the new year, we will start having a bible study class on Tuesday evenings at six. The first meeting is in fact, this coming Tuesday, the 4th when I will take a few moments to lay out the plan and open our discussion along with our potluck.

My goal on the fourth is to lay out a Smörgåsbord of the tools the church has used to read, sit under, and rest in the text so that we can be open to what the Holy Spirit might wish to teach. While the bible is our singular witness to so much of Jesus' life and a model of our life of faith together, what it says to us will change as who we are changes. We'll learn some ways to approach the word with confidence and trust and I look forward to that time.

I also look forward to Advent because it is my favorite season in the church year. While it is a time full of much running about, chaos, decoration, and schedules which must tick off in order, it's also a season we mark with candle flame in a wreath. In this season, I tend to run through a lot of blue tapers, reading the daily reflection by the growing light of the wreath, sitting quietly with the little flames as the light grows brighter.

The growing light is part of the sign to us all that the true light, the quiet flame of life, that is Christ, is coming into both the wide world we can see, and the small world within me. Christ is coming! And isn't he glad to see and know us all.

Blessed Advent.

Pastor Stuart Holland, Interim

Blog: www.sicutcervus.wordpress.com

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am – Noon; Tuesday 10:30 am – Noon



Poinsettias will be placed in the church on Christmas Eve. Your donations are always welcome. If you would like to donate one, please place it in the kitchen Saturday or Sunday (Dec 22 or 23). Thank you!

**Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols is Monday
December 24 at 7:00 pm. Invite your friends, family and
neighbors to hear the good news!**



DECEMBER Service schedule

Thanks for giving of your time and talents this month...

Date	Lay Reader	Worship Asst	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour	Custodians – Have church & hall cleaned by this date
12/2	Nancy Clough	Cynthia M	Holly during Advent	Teri & Tom Fries	Nancy C, Sandy G, Greg G
12/9	Irene Lund	Scott Z	Holly	Jean & Joe Larkin	Nancy, Sandy, Greg
12/16	Lucille West	Cynthia M	Holly	Everyone bring a plate of cookies	Irene Lund, Sandy Wiese
12/23	Linde W.	Scott Z	Holly	Ginger Budington & Bill Mirabella	Hired Cleaning
12/24 Eve	Scott Z		Poinsettias & DLA	N/A	N/A
12/30	Cynthia M	Cynthia M	Poinsettias	Potluck w/ JCUMC	Irene L, Sandy W

December

Ushers: Larry & Nancy Clough
Altar Guild: Lori Zimmerman & Friends

January

Ushers: Joe & Jean Larkin
Altar Guild: Judy Simpson & Lucille West

Nov 6 Council Meeting Minutes in Part:

TREASURER REPORT:

\$3,200 was received from **DLA** earned from the fabric sale. Will be allocated as follows:
\$2,880---Capital Improvements
\$160---Junction City Local Aid
\$160---God's Storehouse

PASTOR'S REPORT:

--Pulpit swap on 11/18—Pastor Joy Proper will be here and Pastor Stuart will be with her church in Eugene
--Call Comm still waiting on names from Synod office
--Bible study will be on Tuesdays around 6:00-6:30 on non-council Tuesdays, which is usually the 1st Tuesday of the month. Will begin after Thanksgiving.

OLD BUSINESS:

--Gate update: Tom thanked Sandy & Nancy for meeting with Jim Reed, our insurance agent, re. letter of agreement. Pastor will contact property owner to complete the agreement.
--Festival meeting with new partners went well. ORL will provide their own costumes. May have understudies for day chairman.
--Nominating comm. looking for 2 members for council. Tom will make announcement in church.

NEW BUSINESS:

--Need to establish a budget/audit committee. Last year the members were Teri, Judy & Les. M/S/P to appoint them to budget/audit committee again.
--2018 Annual Meeting will be on Jan 27, 2019 following worship and potluck.
--Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 4th.

Check out the **new windows** in the west breezeway rooms that house the quilters and the choir room. Nancy says the quilters really appreciate the new windows and are deciding what kind of window coverings to use. The room now has better natural light and is more comfortable (no draft from the windows).



From Gail Goshert:

Attention Choir members and anyone who would like to sing! It's time to start working on special music for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Meet in the choir room at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings. All voices needed, please come and join in!

Holiday Bazaar Wrap-up

We had a great holiday bazaar this year grossing about \$3,300. We could not have had such a great bazaar without all of you who donated items to sell, set-up, worked the bazaar, helped to clean-up and shopped for some fantastic buys!! Thank you to all!!! Money made will be used for property maintenance and a portion will be sent to JC Local Aid for Holiday boxes.

GAME NIGHT is Friday December 14. Begins at 7 pm, Joe and Jean's house. Bring snacks, drink of choice, any games you want to play that we don't have.

Financial Report, October

Operating income	\$9,241
Operating expense	\$10,777



www.jcartsCouncil.com

3rd Sunday at 3:30

Free will donations accepted

Sunday December 16 at 3:30 pm

Faith Lutheran Church

Bruce Tabb, flute & Nathalie Fortin, piano

Ms. Fortin and Mr. Tabb will perform Gabriel Fauré's Sicilienne, Albert Roussel's Joueurs de flûte, J. S. Bach's Sonata in b minor, Francis Poulenc's Vocalise étude, and Aaron Copland's Duo for Flute and Piano.

December 18 Pizza Lunch for high school students

... still looking for folks to assist with set up, serving, clean up and financially. 60 kids showed up to the November lunch!!! The monthly lunch began ten years ago as a way to connect with students and to let them know we're here.

Pizza lunch is the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Anyone who wants to help or know more, contact Nancy Clough. naclough@yahoo.com 541.915.0151

First Tuesday Potluck is December 4, 6 pm Bring your dish to share, we'll be discussing the bible study that will occur on Tuesday nights.



LOCAL AID HOLIDAY FOOD BOXES

Through December 9 the people of Faith will be collecting **canned frosting, bread dressing and money for hams** for the Junction City Local Aid food boxes. Please bring your donations to the hall and put in marked boxes and money can. Thank you for your donations. Any questions, contact Judy Simpson.

Joy to the world, the Lord is returning!

A beer & cheese pairing to benefit **Luther House Campus Ministry** at Oregon State and will be Feb 24, 1:45-4:30pm, at Boulder Falls Center in Lebanon. Tickets are \$50 each or \$350 for a table of 8. Interested in table of 8? See Nancy Clough.

Who is your Neighbor? Everyone!
Marked collection boxes in the hall.

Toiletries... Collecting small toiletry items for Local Aid to disburse.

Socks & glove donations... Collecting what you bring for those in need on the streets New or slightly used and clean.

Bunches of Lunches... a program to send home meals with students who on non-school days might not have anything to eat.

Your donations of **oatmeal packets** and **fruit cups** is appreciated!! Leave your donations in the big blue tote in the fellowship hall.

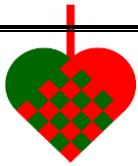
Don't want to do the shopping? You can donate money towards the effort and we'll shop for you! If giving by check, make it out to Faith Lutheran and indicate the money is for Bunches of Lunches so you'll receive tax benefits.

Dorothy Senchina continues her **HOLIDAY FAIR** at her business, **Our House Interiors**, in Santa Clara at 298 Banton Ave. The Open House ends Dec 2... open each Fri-Sat-Sun 10 am – 5 pm, or call for appointment to visit at other times past Dec 2. Call Dorothy 541.689.5529.

Giving thanks for the Never Empty Sock box and Bunches of Lunches Box.

Several weeks ago Pastor Stuart preached on 1 Kings 17:8-16, the story of the prophet Elijah asking the woman at the well to bring him a morsel of bread. She replied that she had only a handful of meal and a little oil and she and her son were starving. Elijah told her to not be afraid and to do as he had asked. "For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail" As I listened to the sermon I kept thinking of the box for socks that I keep at church. I keep going to the box and there are socks waiting for me. I take these socks to be distributed to those without shelter in our community. I come back in a week or so and there are more socks in the box. Somehow the box never stays empty. It is a miracle created by the people of Faith through the grace of God. The same miracle is created with the Bunches of Lunches box. I rejoice that we, a small congregation, are able to create these small miracles that mean so very much to the people in our community. Adding these miracles to the others we create - pizza lunches, breakfast with the Methodists, help at Local Aid, quilts, and many I'm sure I'm missing - is a very real witness of God's love in our lives and our sharing that love.

Let us give thanks for all we are able to do for others! --Sandy Wiese



**Glaedelig Jul!
Merry Christmas!**

**Annual Danish Ladies Aid Christmas Party
Sunday January 6, 2019 2:00 pm**

**Danish & American Christmas songs
Traditional Cooked Rice
Cookies, Pastries and Sandwiches**

All are welcome!

“Sometimes it seems as though we spend our lives waiting. Daydreaming about an upcoming vacation, worrying over a medical test, preparing for the birth of grandchild-our days are filled with anticipation and anxiety over what the future holds. As Christians, we too spend our lives waiting. But we are waiting for something much bigger than a trip, bigger even than retirement or a wedding: We are waiting for the return of Jesus in glory. Advent heightens this sense of waiting, because it marks not only our anticipation of Jesus’ final coming, but also our remembrance of his arrival into our world more than 2,000 years ago.” --Anonymous

Shared Sunday Service at Faith Dec, 30

Faith will host JC United Methodist on the 30th, service begins at 11:00 am. Potluck will follow. Great way to end the year!!



Coffee Hour on December 16...



Please bring a plate of your favorite holiday (or not) cookies to share! Leftovers will be used for the JC Arts

Council concert at Faith that afternoon.

Lutheran Disaster Response: Their mission is long-term recovery, a commitment to serve people impacted by a disaster years after the event. Needs: Monetary donations (checks should be made out to Faith and designated to Lutheran Disaster Response) For more information go to www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response

Fruitful theological food for thought for anyone who cares about USA immigration policies.
-- J. Barrett Lee

"The Immigrant Apostles' Creed"

I believe in Almighty God,
who guided the people in exile and in exodus,
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,
the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,
who was born away from his people and his home,
who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger.

When he returned to his own country
he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,
the servant of a foreign power.

Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death.

But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,
not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries,
and reunites all races.

I believe that the Church is the secure home
for foreigners and for all believers.

I believe that the communion of saints begins
when we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.

I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal
before God,
and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.


I believe that in the Resurrection
God will unite us as one people
in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.

I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be
foreigner
but all will be citizens of the kingdom
where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.

This widely printed and shared piece, **The Immigrant Apostles' Creed**, was written by Rev. Jose Luis Casal, the director of Presbyterian World Mission. He is an immigrant to the United States of America from Cuba.

Once in our world, a stable had
something in it that was bigger than
our whole world. --C.S. Lewis

DECEMBER 2018

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
2 Advent 9:15a Choir Practice 10:30a Worship	3 7p Weight Watchers	4 6p 1 st Tues Potluck, discuss bible study 7p Church Council	5 7:30a Men's Bible Study/Breakfast Dorothy Hansey BD	6 9-12 LWR Quilters 1-4 Memory Makers	7	8 8-10a FREE Breakfast at JCUMC
9 Advent 9:15a Choir Practice 10:30a Worship	10 7p Weight Watchers	11  6p Bible Study, hall	12 7:30a Men's Bible Study/Breakfast	13 9:30a Hens & Chicks	14 7p Game Night at Larkin's	15 9a Stashbusters, quilt group
16 Advent 9:15a Choir Practice 10:30a Worship Bring your cookies! 3:30p Concert at Faith, Flute & Piano	17 7p Weight Watchers	18 10a-1p JCHS Pizza Lunch prep & serve, See Nancy C to help 6p Bible Study, hall	19 7:30a Men's Bible Study/Breakfast	20 9-12 LWR Quilters 1-4 Memory Makers	21 Without Christ there is no hope. --Chas. Spurgeon	22 8-10a FREE Breakfast at JCUMC
23 Advent 9:15a Choir Practice 10:30a Worship	24 7p Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 7:30a Men's Bible Study/Breakfast	27 9:30a Hens & Chicks 3p January newsletter items due to Jean	28 Ed Amundson BD	29
30 9:15a Choir Practice 11:00a Worship with JCUMC at Faith Potluck follows	31 7p Weight Watchers	January 1, 2019!! <i>Happy New Year</i> Joe Larkin BD	2 7:30a Men's Bible Study/Breakfast	3 9-12 LWR Quilters 1-4 Memory Makers	4	5 9-4 Lutheran World Relief (LWR) quilting

SUNDAY & Christmas Readings

1 Advent	Dec 2	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
2 Advent	Dec 9	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
3 Advent	Dec 16	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
4 Advent	Dec 23	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1: 46b-55	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Christmas Eve	Dec 24	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Christmas Day	Dec 25	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20
1 Christmas	Dec 30	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

Newsletter Editor, Jean Larkin mizzholly@msn.com Cell 541.514.9820, Hm 541.998.2475

JANUARY news/announcements/prayer updates due to Jean by 3 pm Thursday DECEMBER 27.

DECEMBER 2018 NEWS
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 325
JUNCTION CITY OR 97448

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

As members of Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) we affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's grace and unconditional love. We celebrate both the diversity and inclusive unity of all people as created by God. Following Jesus' example we embrace all people regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic circumstance.



With welcoming hearts we invite you into full participation in the life and ministry of our congregation.

Faith is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. For more information, <http://www.reconcilingworks.org/about/>

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Mark 1:1-3 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" -"a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

As a community we gather in Christ's love to support one another in prayer:

New requests: Family of Danny Mages (friend of Joe L.), Family of John Kuzia (Fries' family) People & animals of Paradise CA & the Emergency Responders, Darla Knudsen, Milton Lee, Tracey, Billy Vendetti

Allan Close	Bette & Seymour Allen	Bobbi Nelson	Bobbie Gates	Celest
Clint Gillette	Darlene	David Heggstad	Denise Miller	Doris Geiger
Efrem Zimmerman	Frank Fries	Gary Garrett	Glenn Robinson	Jaden Zimmerman
Jane McInnis	Jim Norlie, Pastor	Linda McClellan	Linde Wicklund	Linnis Jones
Mara Taylor	Marie Lockett	Marilyn/Dale Huth	Nerissa Townsend	Norine
Oluf	Quintin Nelson	Ruth Buckley	Shari Pierce	Shelia Rediger
Steve Christiansen	All Military & their Families			

Please review the list for those who can be removed from community prayer.