

# FABRIC OF FAITH

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December 2010

## Mission Statement

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16*

*We, the men, women and children of Faith, united in the knowledge that faith in Jesus Christ as Savior from sin is the only way to enter heaven, exist as a congregation to proclaim the message of salvation to the world by reaching out to those who do not know Christ and by nurturing those who do, encouraging them to lead lives of Christian service, all to the glory of God.*

Deadline for  
Newsletter Articles:  
20th of every month

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## Christmas Wealth

*Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich — 2 Corinthians 8:9.*

Isn't this the most amazing grace? God the Son gives up all he owns, gives up the wealth of the nations, and becomes poor. He who owns all things lays them all aside and is born without even a crib to call his own. Jesus Christ comes to earth from heaven and chooses the womb of a woman married to a poor carpenter as his first home.

And all of this he did without any selfish ambition — he did it because he loves you. He sacrificed his immense wealth, his because he created it all, in spite of the fact that we have so often been selfish in the use of our own wealth and have not been nearly as willing to make loving sacrifices to our God. Yes, in spite of this he loved us and made it so clear just how much he loved us by giving it all up.

And he did it without any complaining. No complaint would ever be heard from his lips. Modern missionaries to third world countries, who often sacrifice many comforts of American life, often wonder at this, that Jesus could give up so much and do it so willingly without ever feeling even a smidgen of self-pity. That's how much he loved you! Christmas must mean so much to you!

But it means even more. The Lord says that through his poverty you have become rich. Through his sacrifice, the wealth of heaven has become yours forever and ever, and belongs to all who believe this. Through his sacrifice, the wealth of the nations has become yours — really all things have become yours, because God the Son has become your brother, and he who again owns all things has given them all to you. For the time being all this wealth is ours by faith — we don't see it all in our bank accounts yet, and we don't have the right to make use of it yet, but it really and truly is still ours, and the day will come when you will see this reality with your own eyes.

How important it is for us to keep these truths in our minds and our hearts as we celebrate Christmas this year. To those who are facing financial challenges this year because of our nation's recovering economy, we are facing them with a sure and lasting hope. To those who have the feeling that they are poor, the Baby in Bethlehem has meaning that can bring joy to even the darkest days. Jesus, even though he was poor, lived the most generous life ever lived — and his generosity was for you!

## Official Acts

### Baptism

Lewis Richard Wetzel  
October 31, 2010

### Profession of Faith

Christopher Eckel  
Cindy Kubiak  
Richard and Susan Obenberger  
Renata Kolb  
Kerry Bradner, Tony, Sarah

### Transfer

Heidi Orchard  
Paul and Diana Larson

## In the Lord's House

### *We come to pray.*

"Ask and it will be given to you," Jesus encourages. He wants us to pray to our heavenly Father and has promised that his Father will "give good gifts to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:7,11). And we do pray to God above in the name of Jesus, just as we have been taught.

Jesus also suggests, "Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father" (Matthew 6:6). Believers in Jesus have been doing that for centuries. Prayer is a private conversation with God, who can give us what we want and need. It's not necessary to go into the house of the Lord to pray. We have the status of children of God and so pray . . . anywhere . . . anytime. What's more, we don't have to be bashful about making our requests. Children aren't. They trust the love of their parents and come boldly with requests for everything. Of course, sometimes they want things that are not good for them or that they are not ready to have.

A parent understands. So does our heavenly Father.

Like the children of God we are, we pray for what is on our hearts and minds. But our vision is often limited. We limit our requests because we easily see only our own needs. Those troubles are real, and our hurts, painful.

When we come into the Lord's house, we bring those prayers with us. Assured of our forgiveness and that God is truly our Father in Jesus, we boldly lay our private petitions before him. He listens to us in his house as well as when we make the same requests in our own rooms.

Praying in the Lord's house changes things a bit. We sense that our problems and challenges are not the only ones that God must address. Our vision expands. Yes, we see others also in prayer boldly coming to the throne of grace with their own problems. Our prayers reach out to God with petitions for

the sick, dying, and troubled around us.

Our vision in the Lord's house broadens even more. We hear prayers for the needs of all believers and people all over the world. Where there is tragedy and suffering, together we focus our attention and ask for the Lord's power and grace. We pray for missionaries whom we have sent to share the message of God where we cannot go.

We may forget these prayers on our own, but in God's house we speak them. We join our hearts together in prayer for God's help for ourselves, for our fellow believers, and for all people on earth. We come to the Lord's house to expand our prayers larger than we sometimes do in our own private rooms.

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## A Prescription for Caregivers

Being a caregiver for someone you love is one of the greatest gifts you can give, but it can also be very stressful. So it is very important to care for yourself also. As you care for your loved one, there are resources that can help and things you can do to ease the strain on your

own health and well being.

Here are some ways to care for yourself while caring for your loved one.

Learn about the disease/condition your loved one is facing and how it

may affect his/her physical and emotional state. Ask questions and obtain answers to help your loved one. Find out about sources of support and help in your community.

*Continued on page 3*



## A Prescription for Caregivers *Continued from page 2*

Reach out to family members, friends, neighbors, parish nurses, and county agencies for help with caregiver tasks. Realize that your health matters. It benefits everyone if you stay healthy and less stressed. Visit your doctor yearly for a check up and obtain a flu shot. Participate in some sort of exercise, such as walking. Remember you can walk at Hamilton High School during the day or night. Just call the Hamilton High School office for further information on hours/days the school is open.

Finally, please share this Christmas recipe with your loved ones. It is written by Evy Reis.

Take a bit of cheerfulness, a pinch of laughter too. Next take a cup of thoughtfulness and stir them through and through.

Add to this tranquility a verse of Silent Night that ever quiet we may be when God sends His holy light.

Gently fold us some tenderness, a hand clasp or smile will do! Perhaps it could be a fond caress or a rose with a drop of dew.

Set aside a moment while you go for spices, herbs, a scent of pine for music and fun, a candles glow.

Now mix and stir and fold again, then add some mistletoe a bit of faith and love, and then into the oven your cake must go.

Where warmth and affection will combine. To make this cake come true. Garnish with happiness, truth so fine, enough for you, and you!

Cut a piece, but save some too for every day of the year. Serve with a prayer for peace on earth, and a heavenly kingdom near.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Faith's Parish Nurses

## The Signs of Christmas

THE SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS—The signs of Christmas are all around us. The world sees these signs as reminders of another festive season coming soon. The Sunday School and Lutheran Elementary School children will share with us the true meaning the sign of Christmas-- Jesus Christ, the Light of the World has come to save us from our sins! Please consider joining us in a service of praise and thanksgiving for God's love in sending us the precious gift of His own Son and our Savior on Sunday, Decem-

ber 19 at 3:30 P.M.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Please note that this year the children's Christmas service will take place on Sunday, December 19 at 3:30 P.M. This is a significant change to our Christmas worship schedule this year. Please mark it on your calendars and consider joining us in celebration of the true meaning of Christmas.

DRESS REHEARSAL – The Sunday School and Lutheran Elementary

School children will be joining together for the dress rehearsal for the children's Christmas service on Sunday, December 12. Following a light lunch after the 10:30 service, the children will practice from approximately 12:15 to 1:45 P.M. It is important that all children attend this practice. Congregational members who are not able to join us on Sunday, December 19 for the 3:30 P.M. service are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal.

## Free Turkey Stuffing (Almost)

Thanks to the Volesky family who brings the Panera bread products to church on Sunday, you can have free stuffing for your holiday meals! This is fairly simple, like your grandma would say. Start with a loaf of bread, cube it into 1/2" pieces. Place onto a baking sheet. Bake in a 300° oven till

toasted (15-20 minutes) depending on the type of bread. If using more than one loaf, use different pans for each variety of bread. Let cool. You may want to sample while it's still hot—put a little butter on a cube and enjoy. Cubes should dry for a day before packaging for stuffing cubes or for salad topping.

We are in the season of giving so take some bread or bagels to a friend or neighbor; you never know how the Lord can bless a gift of kindness.

Bill Hansen

## Christmas Message from St. John's

December is a time of year when certain trees become very important. For many of us it begins with spending time wandering through rows and rows of pine trees until we find the one just right that we want to give center stage in our homes. And whether you have a real tree or an artificial tree, you probably take great time and effort rearranging your furniture, untangling colored lights, hanging precious ornaments and stringing glittering tinsel.

What would Christmas be without a Christmas tree? It stands on display so proudly, giving off light and beauty. It provides a great place for us to set our wrapped Christmas gifts, and it serves as a shelter for our precious manger crèche.

Jesus' work on earth only began on Christmas day. Thirty-three years later another tree would play an important part in the life of Jesus. This tree had been stripped of its beautiful leaves. The branches were all torn away, and all that was left was a rough beam of wood. It was on this tree that the loving Son of God would be crucified and die. Jesus would be nailed to this tree to suffer and die for all of us.

It was on this tree that Jesus finished his work of redemption. Standing in front of this tree we discover what Christmas is all about. It's about God's love. It's about our Savior Jesus. It's about washing our sins away. And it's about getting heaven ready for us,

the home of that beautiful Tree of Life.

Every December, the highlight for St. John's School is to share this Christmas message in our children's service. It is a great privilege and a great responsibility to deliver the birth announcement of our Savior Jesus in our congregations. Please join us for our Children's Services this year and join us in worshipping and celebrating the birth of Christ.

### Children's Christmas Services

Faith: December 19 at 3:30pm

St. John's: December 24 at 5:00pm

Chad Marhon, Principal

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## Meet a Member of Faith

*This article is written by Jerry Smith. Each month we will highlight one or two families from Faith. Surely you will learn something new about a fellow member. If you are interested in having your story in our newsletter, please contact the church office or put a note into Brenda Schweiger's (Schweiger, Mathew) or Jerry Smith's (Smith, Jerry) church mailbox.*

This month I introduce to you another choir member and his family.

Brian Zellmer grew up in the synod and graduated in 1987 from Wisconsin Lutheran High School. His senior year he began working in the printing industry and now works for Color Ink in shipping/receiving and as a driver.

Early on Brian had an interest in black powder shooting and a friend of his parents had a black powder shop and then an art store. This is where he met the owner's daughter, Lori, who became Brian's wife.

Lori was raised Catholic but followed her husband to our church. They have two children, Jesse, a Junior at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School and Brianna, a freshman at Kettle.

Brian has served on our Board of Education for three years and is now serving on our Board of Youth.

Besides their three children, Brian and Lori are raising a Border Collie, Molly. They share an interest in gardening and are specifically growing plants to attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Brian is hoping to compete at State Fair in photography taking pictures of his butterflies. He collects military patches and still has an interest in black powder shooting. He tells me he is involved in our church scrapbooking family and is working combining that with genealogy.

Lori enjoys gardening, reading, exercise, and Facebook. Brian likes to come to church for a feeling of peace and to reboot the Holy Spirit within him.



## A Sweet Christmas Story

Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his backyard in the snow. Bobby didn't wear boots; he didn't like them and anyway, he didn't own any. The thin sneakers he wore had a few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold. Bobby had been in his backyard for about an hour. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother's Christmas gift. He shook his head as he thought, "This is useless, even if I come up with an idea, I don't have any money to spend."

Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn't because his mother didn't care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning could only be stretched so far. What the family lacked in money and material things, they more than made up for in love and family unity.

Bobby had two older and one younger sister who ran the household in their mother's absence. All three of his sisters made beautiful gifts for their mother. Somehow it just wasn't fair. Here it was Christmas Eve already and he had nothing. Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were.

It wasn't easy being six without a father, especially when he needed a man to talk to. Bobby walked from shop to shop looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and so out of reach. It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home when suddenly his

eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun's rays reflecting off of something along the curb.

He reached down and discovered a shiny dime. Never before has anyone felt so wealthy as Bobby felt at that moment. As he held his new found treasure, a warmth spread throughout his entire body and he walked into the first store he saw. His excitement quickly turned cold when salesperson after salesperson told him that he could not buy anything with only a dime. He saw a flower shop and went inside to wait in line. When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked if he could buy one flower for his mother's Christmas gift.

The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten cent offering. Then, he put his hand on Bobby's shoulder and said to him, "You just wait here and I'll see what I can do for you." Bobby waited, he looked at the beautiful flowers and he could see why mothers and girls liked flowers. The sound of the door closing as the last customer left jolted Bobby back to reality. All alone in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid. Suddenly, the shop owner came out and moved to the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes, lay twelve long-stem, red roses, with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow.

Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them gently into a long white box. "That will be ten cents young man," the shop owner said, reaching out his hand for the dime. Slowly, Bobby moved his hand to give the man his dime. Could this be true? No one

else would give him a thing for his dime!

Sensing the boy's reluctance, the shop owner added, "I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?" This time Bobby did not hesitate, and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door, he heard the shop keeper say, "Merry Christmas, son." As he returned inside, the shop keepers wife walked out. "Who were you talking to back there and where are the roses you were fixing?"

Staring out the window, and blinking the tears from his own eyes, he replied, "A strange thing happened to me this morning. While I was setting up things to open the shop, I thought I heard a voice telling me to set aside a dozen of my best roses for a special gift. I wasn't sure at the time whether I had lost my mind or what, but I set them aside anyway. Then, just a few minutes ago a little boy came into the shop and wanted to buy a flower for his mother with one small dime. When I looked at him, I saw myself, many years ago. I too was a poor boy with nothing to buy my mother a Christmas gift. A bearded man, whom I never knew, stopped me on the street and told me that he wanted to give me ten dollars. When I saw that little boy tonight, I knew who that voice was, and I put together a dozen of my very best roses."

The shop owner and his wife hugged each other tightly, and as they stepped out into the bitter cold air, they somehow didn't feel cold at all. *Unknown.*

# Contribution Update

The following represents our offerings from January - October, 2010

<u>Home and Mission</u>		<u>Debt Fund</u>		<u>Miscellaneous Designated Funds</u>	
Goal thru October	\$457,204	Goal thru October	\$60,505	Actual Offerings	\$46,099
Actual Offerings	\$419,681	Actual Offerings	\$60,295		
Under Goal	\$37,523	Under Goal	\$210		

## Recent Reminders

### Newsletter

Faith offers our newsletter via e-mail. If you wish to help Faith save on paper costs contact the church office. You may also view our newsletter at [www.faithsussex.org](http://www.faithsussex.org)

### Electronic Giving

Faith offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. One authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount. Contact the church office for details.

### Faithful Hands

The next Faithful Hands gathering is Tuesday, December 29 at 11:30. They will be going to the Silver Spring Country Club for lunch. Contact Lu Zellmer at 538-1316 with any questions. We hope that all ladies can join us!

### College Students

The WOW group, along with the Board of Youth, would like to begin sending care packages to our college students. In an effort to not leave anyone out, we would like to make sure that we have all of our college students' information in our file. If you did not receive a call in October to update your college student's address for the 2010-11 school year, please take a form on the back table of the narthex and fill it out. Also fill out the form if you did receive the call but didn't have the new information at that time. Please be sure to take the time to fill out the form whether your college student is away at school or continues to live at home while attending school. Thank you!

### LGP

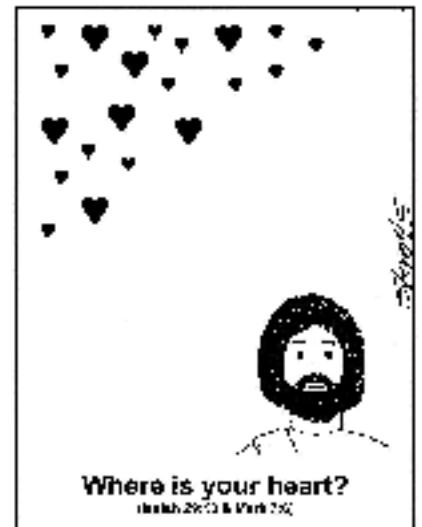
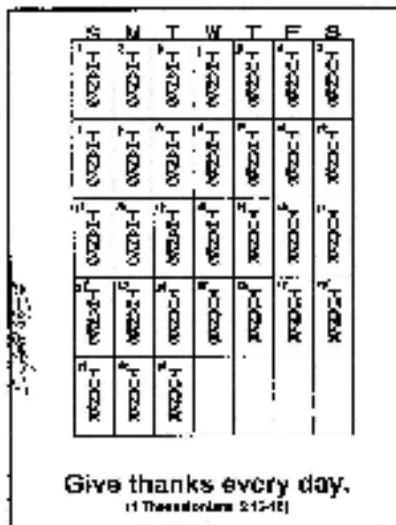
We are looking for leaders, helpers, advisors, pastors and friends of Lutheran Girl Pioneers. A 50th anniversary celebration of the Rainbow (Milwaukee) District is being planned for Mar. 19th, 2011. If you are/were involved in Pioneers or know of someone, please provide us with the contact info-name, mailing address and/or e-mail. Send info to [karenmartinez13@yahoo.com](mailto:karenmartinez13@yahoo.com) or call 414-449-1401.

### Mommy and Me

Faith is starting a Mommy and Me Group targeted at children ages 0-4 years old. Moms, dads, and grandparents can bring their (grand)children to this group. Meetings will be 1-2 days a month for 1-2 hours. If you are interested, please sign the sheet in the back of church. The first meeting will be the middle of December. Contact Stephanie Jennings at 628-2092 with questions.

### Facebook

Did you know that Faith is now on Facebook? If you have a Facebook account, look us up and press the "like" button on our page. We will use this page to remind you of upcoming events and to let you know of any closings, etc... that may come with the winter months.



# December Monthly Volunteers

## Bulletins

5 Barb Grygiel Memory of brother, Gordon  
12 OPEN  
19 OPEN  
26 OPEN

## Flowers

5 Barb Grygiel Memory of brother, Gordon  
12 Ronnie Benner  
19 Deb Wohlleben Birthday  
26 OPEN

## Ushers

### Wednesday 7:00

Keith Sand\*

### Saturday 5:30

Arnie Schaich\*  
Dave Andrew  
Ralph Rutkowski  
Russ Grunze  
Donna Grunze

### Sunday 8:00

Jim Walther\*  
Joe Muehlbach  
Amy Muehlbach  
John Larson

### Sunday 10:30

Mathew Schweiger\*

\* denotes head usher

## Organists

Judy Ozburn December 18, 19  
Joan Perron December 1, 15  
Liz Sand December 4, 19 (SS/LES Prgm), 31  
Jenny Schopper December 5, 24  
Holly Turpin December 11, 12, 25

## Counters

Jodi and Patrick Dublinski  
Patty Riek  
John Stuhr

## Altar Guild

Diane Perron  
Tina Schrimpf

## Cleaners

December 4 Paul Toepfer  
December 11 Joel Salzman  
December 18 Bob Singsheim  
December 25 Joe/MiMi Muehlbach

# Thank You!

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00am Worship 5 Communion 9:15 am Sunday School Bible Study 10:30am Worship Communion 11:30am Voter's Mtg. Advent Tea	9:00am Preschool 6 6:30pm Ringers of Faith 7:00pm Board Education 7:30pm Joint Board of Ed	9:00am Preschool 7 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	9:00am Bible Class 8 Preschool 4:00pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Advent Worship	9:00am Preschool 9 6:00pm Brd. Evangelism	9:00am Preschool 10 6:00pm Youth Decorate Christmas Trees	5:30pm Worship 11 Communion 5:30pm Worship
8:00am Worship 12 9:15am Sunday School Bible Study 10:30am Worship Child/Jr Choir 11:30am SS/LES Program Rehearsal	9:00am Preschool 13 6:30pm Ringers of Faith 7:00pm Council	9:00am Preschool 14 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	9:00am Bible Class 15 Preschool 4:00pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Advent Worship	9:00am Preschool 16	9:00am Preschool 17	5:30pm Worship 18 Communion
8:00am Worship 19 Communion 9:15am Sunday School Bible Study 10:30am Worship Communion 3:30pm Preschool Prgm SS/LES Program	9:00am Preschool 20 6:30pm Ringers of Faith 7:00pm Board of Elders <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	9:00am Preschool 21 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	9:00am Bible Class 22 Preschool	NO SCHOOL - Preschool 1/2 DAY - St. John's 23	6:30pm Candlelight 24 NO SCHOOL Preschool/St. John's	9:00am Christmas Day 25 Worship
8:00am Worship 26 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	6:30pm Ringers of Faith 27 NO SCHOOL Preschool/St. John's	1:15pm Linden Grove 28 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	9:00am Bible Class 29 11:30am Faithful Hands NO SCHOOL Preschool/St. John's	NO SCHOOL Preschool/St. John's 30	7:00pm New Year's Eve 31 Worship - Communion	

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Pastor Dustin Yahnke: 652-1017  
Mrs. Sue Anderson: 200-2467  
Mrs. Kathy Marggraf: 246-4156  
Miss Andrea Dunsmoor: 246-3424