**FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**4543 DOUGLAS ROAD**

**TOLEDO, OH 43613**

**DECEMBER 2020**

**Wishing all of you a blessed, healthy and safe Christmas!**

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**From the staff at Faith United Lutheran Church**

 **FAITH CHRONICLES**

 **Faith United Lutheran** **Church**

 **4543 Douglas Road – Toledo, Ohio 43613**

 **419-473-1369**

**Email: faithunitedlutherantoledo@gmail.com**

**Website:** [**www.faithunitedlutherantoledo.com**](http://www.faithunitedlutherantoledo.com) **or** [**www.faithunited.church**](http://www.faithunited.church)

Pastor: Pr. Tom Schaeffer Worship Services: Saturday – 4:00 pm

Secretary: Jan Weatherly Sunday – 10:00 am

Organist: Patricia Haase Sunday School – 9:00 am

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. – 9:00-4:00; Wed. 10:00-4:00; Fri. 9:00-2:00.

*In case of an emergency, you may reach Pastor Tom at 419-481-3891 or Donna Morrin at 419-290-8997*

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**A Message from our Pastor**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach Christmas, I am reflecting on the waiting the people of God endured in preparation for the Messiah. There had been no prophet of God in 400 years. Israel was under the rule of the Roman Empire. God, no doubt, seemed distant to many. They prayed and wondered when God would redeem them. When would the Messiah come?

But then it happened. In a small town two travelers arrived—a young woman with child named Mary and her husband, Joseph. Finding shelter in an animal stall, she gave birth to a baby boy. This boy was the One long prayed for, long hoped for, the one who would save them . . . and the world! His name was Jesus.

Now, for nearly 2000 years, nothing has stopped the people of God from celebrating that awesome night. Throughout the ages and around the world, Christians being persecuted for their faith continued to celebrate the birth of this child. Through years of loss and triumph, want and plenty, this night remains one of peace and hope.

Even war cannot interrupt this celebration. During WW1 on December 24, 1914, soldiers spontaneously laid down their weapons, allied and enemy alike. They left their trenches, greeted each other on the field, and sang carols celebrating the birth of Jesus.

So, it is that we come to a year marked by a pandemic unlike any the world has seen in over a hundred years. Yet, it too will yield to the power of Christmas. Christ will still be celebrated. Carols will be sung, Gifts exchanged, and glad tidings of peace and redemption will be given for a hurting world. Nothing can stop the Kingdom of God and the good news of Jesus the Christ.

Here at Faith United, we will be gathering for a special parking lot worship of Carols and Communion. To participate, you simply need to drive into our parking lot and park in the spot you are led to by an attendant. Then tune your car radio to the designated radio station. We will be broadcasting with the use of an FM transmitter. The courtyard will be decorated for this special night as I and others lead worship from a small stage. We will sing. We will pray. We will praise. We will share the Lord’s Supper. And, yes, we will sing a “candlelit” Silent Night. This would be a wonderful event to invite some friends and neighbors to attend. We have room for a lot of cars in our parking lot! The time of the service is 7 PM on Christmas Eve. Join your church family for this special celebration.

United in Faith,

Pastor Tom

**What’s New at Faith United?**

**Facebook Page:** If you haven’t been to Faith United’s Facebook page yet, please visit there (and Like us.) Anyone is welcome to share photos of church activities, say hello to one another and just keep up on news. You can also share upcoming events with your Friends. It is called Faith United Lutheran Church.

**Donations to the Fish Bowl**

Each week donations to the Fishbowl will be designated to a different cause, organization or other purpose. Any and all donations are always gladly accepted.

**Web Site** – The church’s Web site, [www.faithunitedlutherantoledo.com](http://www.faithunitedlutherantoledo.com) or www.faithunited.church, is a great source for information for you and you can tell friends to check out the site to find out what is happening at Faith United!

**Church Office Hours** –The church office remains closed to visitors except by appointment. You can call the office and make an appointment to come in during office hours of 10:00 – 3:00 M-F. Like everything else connected to Covid-19, this could change, so if in doubt, call the church office.

**Church Supplies** – the church is always in need of paper towels, toilet paper, and hand soap. You can bring supplies to the church office or drop off on the next Sunday we are together.

Church Office

If you ever find yourself out driving around in this neck of the woods, stop on in and see the completely new church office. Thanks to help from Pastor Tom, Don Baker, Donna Morrin, and Paul Nelson, there is a whole new vibe going down in here. Call me to let me know you’re coming.

Jan Weatherly

Parish Secretary

**A Message from our President**

Hello Faith Family!

Well, here we are at the end of the crazy year known as 2020. I hope this finds you all doing well.

I was recently asked a few questions about items council has had on the table; I would like to address these items as best as I can. The first of those questions is about the sign in front of the church. The sign has had many issues after the move from Upton. Art had worked long and hard with the sign company but unfortunately it needs far more than we ever expected. This led to this year’s search for what to do and exploring everything from new parts (unfortunately not as easy as it sounds) or a new sign. These quotes came in at a large sum. We do have a private donation offered but the balance will be substantial, and with everything unsure due to the pandemic, it was determined to be fiscally irresponsible to spend while in uncertain times.

The next question is about the survey some of you took. Council did receive the results and some recommendations. We are currently reading the book that was suggested to us that we read to better understand the next steps in the process. These will bring changes that will happen over time.

The final question was about Council minutes & budget. I'm pleased to report we are well under the budget that was projected and approved in our January meeting. We definitely had to make tough decisions during this pandemic in regard to closing to renters, committees, and services for some time. However, we have weathered this storm better than we could have expected. Our budget for the new year is getting final touches and will be ready on time for the congregation to receive by the end of the year, as usual. You will most likely receive it as an email or regular mail, the same as your newsletter. I have also asked Jan to forward council minutes this same way from now on.

We are working to figure out what will be the best way for council member nominations and voting next month, and our annual meeting. These unprecedented times make our usual business a bit more complicated. If you would be willing to serve on council, please feel free to call or email the office and let Jan know or you can email me at dmorrin65@gmail.com

I hope this helps answer some of the questions you may have had, and that I get to see everyone in church soon. We are also preparing a special Christmas Eve service. Plans are in the works for a drive-in parking lot Christmas Eve worship so please plan to join us.

Love & Christmas Blessings,

Donna

**Angel Tree**

To those who have been blessed to not be financially affected by Covid, you may be looking for a way to give back. We would like to help a family in need to have a little brighter Christmas. We are suggesting cash donations so that no one has to go out shopping. Please consider donating whatever you would have spent on a gift on the Angel Tree or whatever you can give. We will purchase gift cards for the family to be delivered in time for them to Christmas shop.

**OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Despite the trauma of the Covid-19 worldwide battle, the Outreach Committee has been keeping busy coming up with ideas, and even instituting a few. Work on one project has been going full steam ahead after receiving a grant from the Northwest Ohio Synod. Sadly, while we have the supplies and the volunteers, the ever-surging cases of Covid-19 have made it difficult to entice teachers into a close quarters room to get school supplies that are exactly needed at the moment.

There are two other projects in the works, one of which we hope to have up and running in a very short time. You should be receiving information in the mail shortly. I can’t express just how vitally important it is for us and Faith United to become as visible as possible during this pandemic. If we aren’t willing to keep our mission going and continue helping our neighbors, we could well fade away as many local businesses have been during the last year.

Just a couple of the ideas being thrown around are amateur cooking classes (small groups), a neighborhood Ice Cream Stand once or twice a week during the summers, and a regular Friday movie night. If you have any ideas you want to add, don’t hesitate to contact me in the office. My thanks to all who have helped over the past year.

**News from WELCA**

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Advent Greetings as we begin the season of Hope, Love, Joy, Peace.

All WELCA activities have been suspended until it is “safe” to gather again in 2021. As this includes our Advent by Candlelight gathering, I have included an Advent reflection that may help lead us to the manger.

**The Gift of Hope**

God of all those who yearn for a glimmer of assurance on the long journey home to you, come! Come with a vast storehouse of renewed dreams, hopes, and peacefulness.

God of Hope, come! Enter into my memory and remind me often of the yearning of the people of history. Stir up stories of how the ancestors hung on to your promises, how they stole hope from tiny glimmers about you passed on from age to age. Help me to hear the loud, crying voices of the prophets who proclaimed that a new age would dawn.

God of Hope, come! Enter into this heart of mine which often loses itself in self, missing the message of your encouragement because I am so entangled in the web of my own whirl of life. Enable me to not lose sight of the power of your presence or the truth of your consolation.

God of Hope, come! Enter into the lives of all those I hold dear, the ones whose lives are marked with pain, struggle, and deep anxiety, those whose lives bear ongoing heartaches, those whose difficulties threaten to overwhelm them with helplessness and despair. Come and gift them with a deep belief about you and your never-ending faithfulness and companionship.

God of Hope, come! Enter into every human heart that cries out for a glimpse of your love, for a sign of your welcoming presence, for a taste of your happiness. Be the one who calms the restless and gentles the ache of the human journey.

God oh Hope, come. Enter into this Advent season with the grace of joy and laughter. Fill faces with smiles of delight and voices with sounds of pleasure. Let this gift come from deep within. Replenish all with the joyful blessings that only your peace can bring.

God of Hope, come! Be the Morning Star in our midst, the Light that can never go out, the Beacon of Hope guiding our way to you. Come into our midst and make of our lives a home, where your everlasting goodness resonates with assuring love and vigorous hope. From: Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp

**Christmas Eve needs:** We are in need of ½ gallon or gallon sized plastic milk cartons, and any Christmas lights (preferably LED) you may have around your house. These will be used to decorate the parking lot for our Christmas Eve outdoor worship. If you have these items, please contact the church to arrange for a drop-off or for someone to pick them up from you.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Home:** Corinne Oliger, Marcia Conn, Mary Ann McDermott, Art Schroeder, Terry Belcik, Jan Ellenberger, Wow Wagner, Daniel Young, Randy Collier, Lois Manning, Jan Leonard, Julie & Rick Hagg, Phyllis Neeley, Char Bowlus, Judy & Al Schaarschmidt, John Bailiff, Sandy Drake, Larry & Sandy Matzinger, Gloria DeMerritt, Lori Knous, Pattie Webber, Joanna Ranes, William McDermott, Colleen Krebser, Shearl Schmidt.

**Hospitals/Care Centers:** Pastor Mays (Sunset House); Shirley Kennedy (Rosary Care Center); Michael Morrin; Elsie Johnson (The Waterford At Levis Commons).

**Family And Friends:** Ashley Weatherly; Karon Kennedy; Jennifer & Steven Kern; Lauren Schaeffer; Julie Hipple; Nicole Erdman; Paula Sanner, Gina Glover, Margaret, Tom & Jack Schonter; Violet Liest; Jeff Snow; Connie & Brandon Sondergeld & Katie Holtgrieve; Clay Wilson; Frankie Edinger, Jim Ansted; Cara, Bob & Son Of Jennifer Prueter; Mike Jorris; Regina, Kim; Janice Blazey, Erica Foster, Christina Loyd, Jim Lang, Sharon; Heather; Wendy & Neal; Greg Horton; Maggie & Britany; Sandie & Keith Rabie; Karen Sauppe & Tim Cummings; Jaime Wetherald; Chuck & Shirley Skeldon; Karen Bernadino; Betsy Jaynes, Kristie Massie, Morgan Hickerson; Barbara McClintock, Jeff Decker; Noah Asher, Adeline Masters; Tony & Pam Zglinski; Vern, Joe Hoye, Jim Relford; Ryan Schaarschmidt; Mike Smith; Katie Rittner; Terry Stygles; Julie; Tom & Teri, Jim, Linda & Fritz, Betty, Nathan, Dennis & family, Lou & Barbie, Beverly, & Linda & Jim; Ann Green & Family; Marilyn & Deb H; Bev; Steve, Toni; Ian & Deb; Laura; Tom McNally; John Bailiff’s sister, Sandy; Kelly.

**In the military**: Bill Myers, Ashley and Jason Weatherly, Kyle Dietrich, Kyle Mikolajczyk, Kayla Fowler, Sean Ray, Logan Hillesheim, Chris, Tyler Coulter, Pete Christoff, Roy Oberhaus.

**December Birthdays Anniversaries**

2 Ryan Titkemeier 4 Peg & Dave Hinds

3 Nancy Taylor 19 Linda & John Bailiff

14 Pastor Tom 27 Carol & Chuck Dolt

19 Peg Hinds

21 Jan Titkemeier

22 Sue Kusz

23 Chuck Dolt

28 Kristy Sims

30 Randy Collier

**December Bible Readings**

1. Revelation 18:1019 20 Luke 1:26-38
2. Luke 21:34-38 21 Hebrews 9:1-14
3. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 22 Hebrews 8:1-13
4. Acts 11:19-26 23 Mark 11:1-11
5. Mark 11:27-33 24 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
6. Mark 1:1-8 25 John 1:1-14
7. Acts 2:37-42 26 Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60
8. Acts 11:1-18 27 1 John 1:1-9
9. Luke 1:5-17 28 Matthew 2:13-18
10. Philippians 3:7-11 29 Matthew 12:46-50
11. Philippians 3:12-16 30 2 Peter 3:8-13
12. Matthew 21:28-32 31 John 8:12-19
13. John 1:6-8, 19-28
14. Ephesians 6:10-17
15. Acts 3:17-4:4
16. Mark 9:9-13
17. Hebrews 1:1-4
18. Hebrews 1:5-14
19. John 7:40-52