



Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church
1530 Oakdale Avenue
West St. Paul MN 55118
(651) 457-5686
Faithumc@usfamily.net

"Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference — together"

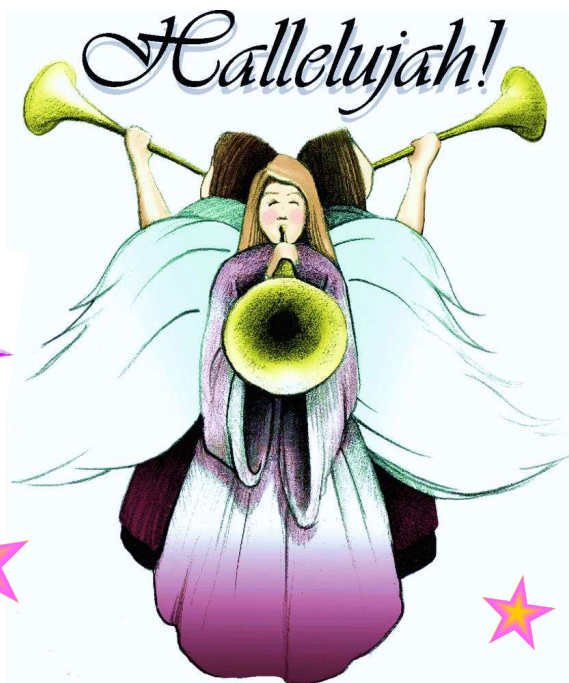
December 2019

Christmas Eve Worship Service December 24

4:00 p.m.

On Christmas Eve this year, come hear about Christmas from a different perspective!

We will worship together at 4:00 p.m.
This will be a family-orientated worship with candlelight. Please join us.



GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

May 5-15, 2020 — Minneapolis Convention Center

Are you interested in volunteering for the "Host Team" at General Conference 2020 in Minneapolis? There are opportunities for people of ALL ages, interests, and abilities! Volunteering provides an opportunity to see the United Methodist connection up close and extend hospitality to siblings in Christ from around the world! To indicate your initial interest

in volunteering go to the General Conference 2020 website and click on volunteering. For now it will ask for basic information about yourself and the areas in which you'd like to volunteer. The MN Annual Conference will be in regular communication to provide updates and let you know when it's time to sign up for specific shifts. Sign up now to express interest in volunteering. Thank you! (<https://gc2020welcome.org/>)



December Birthdays



12/2 —	Gail Alexander	12/14 —	Laurel Venhuizen
	Nathaniel DeNardo	12/15 —	Christian Johnson
12/5 —	Nancy Reid	12/16 —	Peter DeNardo
	Angela High-Pippert	12/18 —	Jazlynn Gallegos
12/6 —	Nancy Rankin	12/19 —	Meta Nachtsheim
	Melissa Schneider	12/23 —	Ekemini Jonathon
12/8 —	Angel Doughty	12/25 —	Patrick Short
12/11 —	Dylan Cox	12/27 —	Adaline DeNardo
	Olivia Stehr	12/28 —	Ryan Boelter

• If your birthday is missing or listed incorrectly, contact the church office for additions/changes. Happy Birthday, everyone! •

Thank you to and for during November...

- **Greeters:** Taffy Storck, Bill Short, Dawn & Gil Kinnunen, and Dianne & Ward Mens
- **Liturgists:** Gil Kinnunen, Carol Schuldt, Charles Beardshear, and Bruce Opp
- **Serving refreshments:** Dan Miller
- **Communion Steward:** Marsha Spatafore
- **Thank you** to our volunteers who managed the PowerPoint during Sunday worship
- **Thank you** to the volunteers who helped assemble the November newsletter
- **Thank you** to Steve Larsen, Bruce Opp and Paul Williams for working on the drainage problem on the east side of the parking lot.
- **WE ARE READY! Thank you** to everyone who helped decorate our church for the Christmas and Advent seasons. It looks awesome! Our Decorating Team this year: Gloria Gurtin, Nancy Rankin, Dan Miller, Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Steve & Rose Larsen, Carol Schuldt, Bill Short, Sharon Yekaldo, John Kemp, Judy Turk, and Pastor Gail Alexander. If we missed someone, please know that you are appreciated!
- **Johnny Gallegos** is our Faith 3rd grader who received his Bible on November 17.
- **“Dear Faith United Methodist Church:** Thank you for your October donation, including 116 pounds of garden produce! Your support helps provide food and other services to families and seniors during some of the most difficult times in their lives. With your gift, Neighbors is addressing the hunger, clothing and other emergency and supportive needs of people right here in our community. Our data shows that the average person only comes to us for help three times a year – meaning they only come when they absolutely have to. . . . We are continually inspired by the generosity of people like you who answer the call to support our community and help your neighbors thrive. Thank you for your gift, and for being a part of the Neighbors family.

– *With Gratitude, Beth Skwire, Director of Mission Advancement.*”



Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Esther Craine** was hospitalized and then in rehab. She is now home.
- ♦ **Bill Bonkowske's mother, Florence**, was hospitalized for pneumonia and is now in rehab.
- ♦ **Fred Dick** hurt his back.
- ♦ **Marianne Young** fell and broke her femur. She is hospitalized. After surgery she will not be able to put weight on her foot for 6 weeks.

Care Centers:

- ♦ **Colleen Spadaccini** – *White Pine, Mendota Heights*
- ♦ **Jerry Lach** – *White Pine, Inver Grove Heights*

Ongoing Concerns:

- ♦ **Benjamin Brummund**, son of Ron Brummund, Jr., continues to struggle with health problems.

Concerns Beyond our Doors:

- ♦ Those being persecuted for their faith
- ♦ Those separated from family
- ♦ Those living with degenerative conditions
- ♦ Those who are hungry
- ♦ Those who have lost jobs or their homes
- ♦ Those who struggle due to natural disasters
- ♦ Those who grieve
- ♦ Those who are uncertain about the future

Congratulations:

- ♦ to **Joe & Caitlin Spatafore** on their marriage on October 19.

December Mission Well



The Mission Well welcomes your change! If you have loose change, take it off your hands on Sunday or any time during the week and support the offering of the month. This year the Outreach Committee has decided to make unpaid lunches our **December Mission Well offering and our Christmas offering. Please read more on page 6** about this offering for our school districts. The Mission Well is located in the church lobby.



★ **Church Conference:** The Faith UMC annual church conference is planned for Sunday, **January 19, 2020** following worship. We will hear reports from various groups within the entire congregation. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation. **If you contribute a report for the book of reports, please submit it to the church office by January 1.** Thank you.

Prayer changes things



The Prayer Chain is active. If you have a prayer concern, please contact the church office. If unable to reach Susan or Pastor Gail in the church office, please contact Sharon Yekaldo at 651-455-4770. Please make sure the pastor knows so she can respond to pastoral care needs, and knows what is going out over the telephone prayer chain so it can be sent to the e-mail prayer chain as well. If you wish to be involved in this ministry by being either on the telephone chain or the e-mail chain, please speak to Pastor Gail.

Hospital Calls: If you learn someone is hospitalized, please contact the church office or Pastor Gail. With new privacy laws, hospitals no longer call when a member is admitted. We would rather have several calls telling us of someone's hospitalization than not to know. Thank you.

FOR YOUR TIMES OF DEVOTION: Remember to pick up the **NEWEST issue** of the devotional *The Upper Room* (daily readings in regular or large print). This booklet is found on the table by the parking lot door.

Project Home

During the month of January in collaboration with Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, Salem Lutheran Church in West St. Paul provides shelter and food every night to 5-6 homeless families (14-20 people) in a program called Project Home.

Every night and weekends the families arrive at Salem about 5:45 p.m. They are bused from The Family Place in downtown St. Paul. Salem provides a light meal, activities, overnight accommodations in rooms in the church, and a breakfast. The families leave the church about 6:45 a.m. (8:45 a.m. on weekends) and return to The Family Place. From there the kids are bused to school while the adults go to work or participate in programs to increase their employment skills. The families work toward seeking permanent housing through programs offered by The Family Place and Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul. Interfaith Action carefully screens the families before they are admitted to the program.

Salem Project Home is staffed daily by three shifts of volunteers from Salem and other churches at all times that homeless families are present at the facility. Salem has been involved with this program for over 10 years.

If you are interested in helping staff one of the 3 shifts on any date, please talk with Pastor Gail for more info.

Neighbors, Inc. "Quacktastic Award" Winners

"Dear Church Representative: At our October meeting I invited participation in a friendly competition for a "Quacktastic Award" for the congregation who recruits the most Neighbors volunteers. I wanted to thank you for the conversations you've been having about Neighbors to generate support and interest in Volunteerism. The last two months have boasted the highest number of new volunteer applicants since I began in my role last March. Of those nearly 80 applicants, five volunteers cited specific invitations from their congregations. Tied for first place in the "Friendly Volunteer Recruitment Contest" is:

- Good Shepard Lutheran
- Church of St. Patrick
- Faith United Methodist
- Concordia Lutheran
- Augustana Lutheran Church

We are incredibly thankful for the work you each do to support the work being done at Neighbors each day.

Blessings, Jenny Sanford / Volunteer Services Manager Neighbors, Inc."

UMC Market

The UMCmarket is available to use! If you shop online, you can go through the UMCmarket portal/website and a percentage of your purchase can be designated to Faith UMC. Signing up is free. Most churches are already listed on UMCmarket. When you go to UMCmarket.org, you will click on the get "Get Started" button, then simply sign up with your email or through Facebook, find your church, and start shopping and donating. Giving couldn't be easier. Last year we received a check in January because of the use of the UMC Market.



Christmas with Faith Church and Neighbors, Inc.

Faith Church is participating in sponsoring individuals through the Neighbors Christmas program. We now have the names for the children, so please stop by and pick up a name on one of the



Christmas trees in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have questions, contact Karen Cohoes at 651-456-0388. I will also be looking for help with Breakfast with Santa on December 14th. One thing Santa asks is for food donations to our food shelf. Thank you, Karen Cohoes, 651-456-0388

Church Office Hours

Susan will be in the office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Gail is in the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays most weeks. Tuesdays and Fridays are Pastor Gail's regular days off. Please call her at home (612-703-1296) if it is an emergency and you need to reach her. **The church office will be closed on Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 24 & 25, and on Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

Christmas Eve help

We are looking for help ushering, greeting, and leading worship at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship. If you can help, please contact Pastor Gail at the church office, 651-457-5686.

Lay Leadership

The Lay Leadership (formerly nominating) committee will be meeting on December 9. If there is a ministry you have wanted to be a part of but don't know how to volunteer please contact Marsha Spatafore, Bob Scopatz or Pastor Gail to get connected, or if you have questions about a committee or how something gets done.

Taking Down of the Greens

Come help un-decorate the church on **Saturday, Jan. 11 starting at 10:00 a.m.** A light lunch will be provided. For more info., contact Judy Turk at 651-343-8027 or judyturk123@gmail.com



Worship CDs

If you are interested in a CD of a particular worship service please let Steve Larsen or Susan, our administrative assistant know and they will create one for you. All Sunday worship services are recorded. If you have questions, talk to Steve Larsen or Pastor Gail.

“THANK YOU! We are truly grateful for your support of \$27.22 in October. You are helping rescue children, women and men from unspeakable violence. The impact you are making is felt around the world. Children will see justice for the abuse that stole their innocence. Women will be freed from sex trafficking that enslaved them. Men will be released from unlawful imprisonment. Families will be reunited and restored. ... Together, we are helping to protect more than 150 million people from violence.”

— *International Justice Mission*

Year End Giving for 2019

If you plan to give before the end of the year, please send your contribution to the church. The contribution must be postmarked by December 31, 2019 or in the church office by December 31, 2019 to be counted in 2019.

Online (ACH) giving

Do you want to be able to give to the church on a regular basis? Do you pay most of your bills online? Do you wish you could give to the church online? You can, using an ACH giving. ACH giving allows you to give to the church once a month. You can set it up by talking to Dan Miller at 651-354-0471 or emailing him at danelpaso@yahoo.com.

Would you like to do it directly through your bank? Then set up an EFT (electronic funds transfer) through your bank account, where the church will receive payment as often as you would like. For more information talk to Dan Miller or Pastor Gail.

COMING EVENTS

December 14 – Breakfast with Santa

December 21 – Sanctuary Choir sings at *The Sanctuary* in West St. Paul

December 24 – Christmas Eve

January 8 – Blood Drive

January 19 – Church Conference



Give a meaningful gift this holiday season. Make plans to donate blood.

Faith United Methodist Blood Drive

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm**



Poinsettias

Each year we get small poinsettia for our homebound and shut-in members. Various people are needed to deliver them. The small poinsettia will be available to be delivered on **Sunday, December 8**. If you can help please contact the church office.

Newsletter Update

Beginning last January the Faith in Action newsletter was emailed to all those persons who have an email. People who preferred a paper copy of the monthly newsletter received it through first class mail. It has seemed to go well and we will continue the practice in 2020. If you would like to change the way you receive the newsletter please contact the church office at 651-457-5686 or email the church, faithumc@usfamily.net. Thanks for your help.

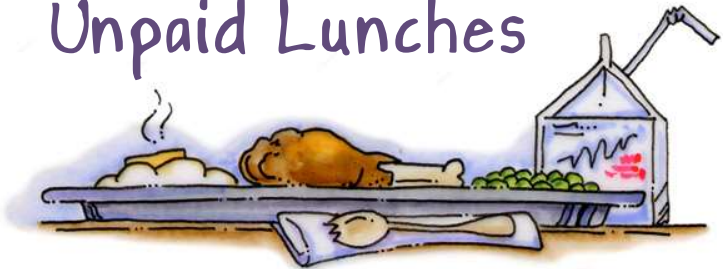


ADVENT, which marks the beginning of the church year, is "the first gleam of Christmas," writes W.E. Sangster. "It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it." Sangster adds: "It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. 'Get ready,' he seems to say. '**Get ready. He is coming!**'"

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Christmas Offering & December Wishing Well Donations

Unpaid Lunches



Can you imagine going to school hungry and not be able to get lunch at school because your parents did not have the money? Think how hard it would be to study and pay attention and learn. You would hear your stomach rumble and be embarrassed by the noise.

Would you like to reach out to a child in need?

Each school district has a line item for unpaid lunches; in some districts the children get a different lunch than the children who have paid. Other districts give everyone the same lunch but then have to raise money to pay for those unpaid lunches or take from other programs. We don't want districts to have to do either.

This year the Outreach Committee has decided to make unpaid lunches our December Mission Well offering and our Christmas offering. We will divide the money we receive between the three school districts in which we have children. The districts are District 199 (Inver Grove Heights), South St. Paul, and District 197 (West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan, and Lilydale). Be generous this year and help a child have a good meal.

December 2019 Calendar

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Sun., 12/1	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 12/2	9:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Bible Study
Wed., 12/4	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 12/8	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:50 a.m.	Outreach Committee
Mon., 12/9	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	6:30 p.m.	Lay Leadership Committee
Wed., 12/11	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., 12/14	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa
Sun., 12/15	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 12/16	9:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Faith Study
	6:30 p.m.	Welcome Team
Wed., 12/18	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., 12/21	10:00 a.m.	Choir at The Sanctuary
Sun., 12/22	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Mon., 12/23	9:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Tues., 12/24	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
		Office Closed
Wed., 12/25		Office Closed
Thurs., 12/26	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Sat. 12/28	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 12/29	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Wed., 1/1/20		Office Closed
Sun., 1/5	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School

Mon., 1/6	9:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Faith Study
	6:30 p.m.	Welcome Team
Wed., 1/8	1:00-7:00 p.m.	Blood Drive
	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 1/9	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sat., 1/11	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	10:00 a.m.	Un-decorating the Church
Sun., 1/12	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 1/13	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 1/15	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **12/14, 12/28, 1/11, and 1/25** at Stark's, 3125 Dodd Road, Eagan, starting at 8:00am. All men are invited to join us! For more info, please contact Bill Short at bill.short26@gmail.com or 651-552-0736.



The Annual Candlelight Epiphany Service at the Old Salem Shrine will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. Rev. Harold Lang, former pastor from Riverview Baptist Church, will bring the message. Come and experience an old-fashioned service as it was in the 1800s, including candles, lanterns and a wood stove, while singing Christmas carols by the antique pump organ. Old Salem Kirche, organized in 1857, was the first evangelical church in the state of Minnesota and the birthplace for several congregations throughout our region. Let this service become a tradition for you and your family. Old Salem is located on Upper 55th St. (formerly Salem Church Road) and Annette Ave. between Robert St. and Babcock Trail in Inver Grove Heights. For more information contact Jill Lewis at 651-455-9404.

December 2019 Worship Schedule

December 2 — 1st Sunday of Advent — *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon title: "What Time Is It?"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time host: Dan Miller

Communion Steward: Rose Larsen

December 8 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon title: "Preparing Our Hearts"

Greeter: Judy Pfenning

Lay Reader: Dana Scopatz

Fellowship Time Host: Dan Miller

December 15 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon title: the Faith Sunday School children bring the message

Greeter: Dianna Gallegos

Lay Reader: Bill Bonkowske

Fellowship Time hosts: Dawn & Gil Kinnunen

December 22 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon title: the Sanctuary Choir brings the message

Greeter: Rose Larsen

Lay Reader: Judy Pfenning

Fellowship Time host: Dan Miller

★ December 24 — Christmas Eve Family Worship — 4:00 p.m.

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 29 — 1st Sunday of Christmas

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon title: "Travel Plans"

Greeters: Dawn & Gil Kinnunen

Lay Reader: John Kemp

Fellowship Time hosts:

This 'n' That

Breakfast with Santa



Volunteers & money donations are needed to help with Breakfast with Santa. To help, please contact Karen Cohoes at 651-456-0388

'It's a Wonderful Life' Live Radio Play!

**Neighbors, Inc. Benefit • Thursday,
December 5, 2019 7:30-9:45 pm
St. Paul Hotel, 350 Market St., St. Paul**

It's a Wonderful Life, based on the classic movie of the same name, is considered one of the most inspirational and best loved holiday stories. George Bailey, a man whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve brings about the intervention of his guardian angel, Clarence Oddbody, who shows George all the lives he has touched and how different life in his community would be had he never been born. This performance, set as if it were a live radio broadcast of the film from the 1940's, is full of emotion, humor, sound effects, and lots of classic holiday music. It will have you counting your blessings during the holiday season.

Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and the show will commence at 7:30 p.m. This special performance will kick off the cast's seasonal engagement at The Saint Paul Hotel. Proceeds from ticket sales of this performance will benefit Neighbors, Inc. Ticket prices are **\$35 General Admission; \$25 for Neighbors' volunteers and members of Neighbors' Community Builders Circle.** [Purchase tickets here: https://events.idonate.com/wonderfullifebenefit](https://events.idonate.com/wonderfullifebenefit)

Special thanks to the amazing cast of *It's a Wonderful Life* and The Saint Paul Hotel.



Need a day brightener or thought provoker?

Dial up *Ideas for Positive Living!* Every Thursday Gil Kinnunen provides an uplifting phone message. So call 651-602-2176 each Thursday for a weekly picker-upper!

Community Boards

Help us expand our advertising for church events! Keep your eyes open for community boards, and tell Judy Turk. She is looking for places we can hang posters for events here at church.

Merry Christmas!



Faith United Methodist Church
1530 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul MN 55118

December 2019



Sunday Worship Schedule

We invite you to join us this Sunday
for worship, study and fellowship:

- Worship — 9:30 a.m.
- Fellowship time — 10:30 a.m.
- Children's and Youth Sunday School — 9:45 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School — 10:50 a.m.

Christmas Blessings



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



The Sunday School

of Faith United Methodist will bring
the message during worship on
Sunday, December 15,
the 3rd Sunday in Advent.

Invite a friend to church!

Facebook Page

Remember to like our Facebook page at:
<http://tinyurl.com/FaithUMCmn>