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**Special Points of Interest:**

- December Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- December Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar

**Administrative Assistant**

**Office Hours**

Mon. through Thurs.  
9:00 am to 12:30 pm  
Fri. 9:00 am to Noon



**The Season of Advent**

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24).



This is an Advent symbol of Jesus from Rev 1:8 and 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega [the first and the last, the beginning and the end], says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (see also Isaiah 44:6).

The blue letter is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, Aleph, and the purple is the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Omega. Not only does this symbolize the One who has come and will come again, it also emphasizes the continuity of God's work in history throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

**The Meaning of "Advent"**

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate.

Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power.

That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's in breaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself."

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## Prayer Requests

**Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:**

**Colony Court Memory & Care Suites:** Ann Swenson

**Colony Court:** Ardella Draheim, Nina Youngberg, Leona Quast, Muriel Jenkins

**Lakeshore Inn:** Florence Gutknecht, Liz Corchran

**Latham Place:** George and Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

**Koda Living Community:** Chuck Youngberg

**Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship:** Steve Conway, Bea Callahan, Connie Moran, Adeline Buss, JoAnn Egness, Jon & Nikki Schultz, Dan & Nancy Thomas, Bud Deno, Leona Quast, Victims of the wildfire in California



## Faith Crafters & Stitchers

Faith Crafters & Stitchers will not meet in December. We will begin meeting again in January, 2019.

## Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy True, Administrative Assistant will be out of the office on the following dates in December: 3, 7, 14 and 31. December 26 through December 28, Stacy will be working the hours of 9:00 AM to Noon.

## Poinsettias for Christmas Week

We would like the congregation to flood the altar area with poinsettias for Christmas week. Please bring them in any time between December 16 through December 23. By Saturday the 22nd would be best if you are able. The more we have, the more beautiful our sanctuary will be as we celebrate our Savior's birth. You may leave them in either the nursery or church office.



## Mitten Tree

We will once again have a Mitten Tree up in the Narthex to collect warm gloves, mittens, scarves or hats for children who need them in our community. We ask you to please bring your items by December 16. The last Sunday for collection will be December 16th so they are able to be distributed before Christmas. Let's fill up the tree this advent season to help the children get through this very cold winter ahead.

## M & M Night (Meal and Movie)

Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> was a good night for Chicken Wild rice soup that was served at M&M Night. It appeared that people enjoyed the movie 'Sweet Land'. It was interesting to see a movie that was filmed in Minnesota with the story taking place in Minnesota.

Mark Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> on your calendar as that is the date of our next Meal and Movie Night. Remember, the admission is free and we invite you to bring your family members and friends. The meal is served at 5:00 and the movie is shown about 6:00 pm.

## Fellowship Events

On Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> **Veterans Day**, the pastor honored the Veterans with a prayer and there was trivia during fellowship. Some of the questions were difficult but there were a few fellows that know their history. Barb elaborated on some of the answers which were interesting.

**Nativity sets** is what we will have for our fellowship event in December. We would like to invite members of the congregation to bring their Nativity sets and have them on display on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. You can bring them and set them up on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. We need to end the year with the **BIGGEST AND BEST** display of Nativity sets.

## Hospitality Team

The next Hospitality team meeting will be Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30. We meet about 6 times a year. We are always looking for people to join our group. So think about it and join us.

## Missions at Faith UMC

I don't know about you but to me "Mission" is always what the whole church thing is about. I attended a meeting called "Mission Summit". I did it because a friend asked if I would attend. I attended more for her than for "mission"; and I enjoy good Christian fellowship. So I attended and was bitten by the "mission bug". There is so much to do, so much to learn, so many projects to get involved in. During the summer months a couple visited our church, Faith United Methodist Church. They were very interested in the church. One of their questions was "What do we do?" More of their questions made me think, what I or others do to make the world a better place or Waseca a better place. I know we can open our checkbooks or pocketbooks, and give money, but it doesn't have the same feeling as actually doing something.

So, the members of Faith UMC did Flood Buckets. With all the hurricanes, wild fires, tornadoes and bad weather this country and other countries have had this year, many places need cleaning. And they need supplies. And don't you feel good because you donated and item or two.

What is next??? Do you have an idea?

Team Coordinator, Barbara Friedl



## The Season of Advent

*Continued from Page 1*

### **The Spirit of Advent**

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world.

Part of the expectation also anticipates a judgment on sin and a calling of the world to accountability before God. We long for God to come and set the world right! Yet, as the prophet Amos warned, the expectation of a coming judgment at the "Day of the Lord" may not be the day of light that we might want, because the penetrating light of God's judgment on sin will shine just as brightly on God's people.

Because of this important truth, especially in the Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Season of Advent has been a time of fasting and penitence for sins similar to the Season of Lent. However, a different emphasis for the season of Advent has gradually unfolded in much of the rest of the church.

The season of Advent has come to be celebrated more in terms of expectation or anticipation. Yet, the anticipation of the Coming of the Messiah throughout the Old Testament and Judaism was not in connection with remembrance of sins. Rather, it was in the context of oppression and injustice, the longing for redemption, not from personal guilt and sin but from the systemic evil of the world expressed in evil empires and tyrants. It is in that sense that all creation groans for its redemption as we witness the evil that so dominates our world (Rom 8:18-25).

Of course, there is the problem of longing for vindication from an evil world when we are contributors to that evil. This is the power of the images of Amos when he warns about longing for the "Day of the Lord" that will really be a day of darkness (Amos 5:18-20). Still, even with Amos' warning the time of Advent is one of expectation and anticipation, a longing for God's actions to restore all things and vindicate the righteous. This is why during Advent we as Christians also anticipate the Second Coming as a twin theme of the season. So, while some church traditions focus on penitence during Advent, and there remains a place for that, the spirit of that expectation from the Old Testament is better captured with a joyous sense of expectancy.

Rather than a time of mourning and fasting, Advent is celebrated as a time of joy and happiness as we await the coming of the King.

There will be time enough during the rest of the journey through the Church Year to remember our sins. It begins in Epiphany when we hear about the brotherhood of the Kingdom, and realize our failure to effect it. Then as we move toward and through Lent we realize that the coming of Jesus served more to lay bare our own sin than it did to vindicate our righteousness. There will be time to shed Peter's bitter tears as we realize that what started with such possibility and expectation has apparently ended in such failure.

It is only as we experience that full cycle, beginning with unbridled joy in Advent that slowly fades into the realization of what we have done with and to the Christ, that the awful reality of Good Friday can have its full impact. And in that realization we can finally be ready to hear the Good News on Resurrection Sunday! That is the journey that the disciples took. And so there is value in taking the same journey beginning with the anticipation and joy of Advent!

*Continued on Next Page*

## The Season of Advent

So, we celebrate with gladness the great promise in the Advent, yet knowing that there is also a somber tone as the theme of threat is added to the theme of promise. This is reflected in some of the Scripture readings for Advent, in which there is a strong prophetic tone of accountability and judgment on sin. But this is also faithful to the role of the Coming King who comes to rule, save, and judge the world.

Because of the dual themes of threat and promise, Advent is a time of preparation that is marked by prayer. While Lent is characterized by fasting and a spirit of penitence, Advent's prayers are prayers of humble devotion and commitment, prayers of submission, prayers for deliverance, prayers from those walking in darkness who are awaiting and anticipating a great light (Isa 9)!

The spirit of Advent is expressed well in the parable of the bridesmaids who are anxiously awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom (Matt 25:1-13). There is profound joy at the Bridegroom's expected coming. And yet a warning of the need for preparation echoes through the parable. But even then, the prayer of Advent is still: Come, O Come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel!

Let have the most joyous Advent ever as we seek to celebrate and walk with Jesus through the daily events of our lives.

*Pastor Victor*

# Christmas Word Find

G	C	P	M	E	H	E	F	F	N	Y	Y	A	S	E
V	F	I	O	G	K	N	O	C	Y	R	R	I	L	B
Z	H	S	J	Z	X	U	H	E	G	A	B	Z	N	B
H	A	T	I	D	U	R	X	S	Z	M	E	I	P	E
R	P	L	R	S	I	L	E	N	T	N	I	G	H	T
R	K	O	Q	S	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	A	J	H
Y	L	X	T	Y	Z	S	W	C	Z	S	P	E	P	L
M	I	M	F	H	F	N	P	N	S	J	V	E	K	E
J	A	B	T	T	B	A	R	I	O	R	S	X	Z	H
S	A	I	Y	L	Y	T	E	K	V	O	F	L	W	E
H	A	Y	E	Y	T	I	G	N	J	I	O	E	E	M
F	A	M	K	R	H	V	N	A	E	V	U	G	P	E
M	A	A	N	W	A	I	A	R	S	A	S	N	O	E
C	I	H	O	T	C	T	M	F	U	S	O	A	H	F
D	J	E	D	K	Q	Y	S	V	S	W	T	E	K	Q

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| JESUS     | HAY          |
| MARY      | ANGEL        |
| JOSEPH    | FAITH        |
| WISEMEN   | HOPE         |
| MANGER    | FRANKINCENSE |
| NATIVITY  | MYRRH        |
| BETHLEHEM | SILENTNIGHT  |
| CAMEL     | LORD         |
| DONKEY    | SAVIOR       |
| STAR      | CHRISTMAS    |



## Good News and Bad News!

At this time we do not plan to have a SPECIAL ASK to help meet our 2018 operating expenses. While there are still a couple of months left this year, Faith Church members have been giving more than we expected when the budget was approved at the beginning of the year. In addition, staff expenses have been lower than expected (particularly custodian and office assistant). The grant from the Faith in the Future fund (\$1,000+) along with the gift from the Fall Bazaar and continued generous support from our members should be enough to cover our operating expenses to the end of the year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this possible.

That is the good news. Now the bad news. Each year our apportionment expenses run about \$21,000. This is our "fair share" of the Conference expenses. Last year we were able to pay \$15,642. In 2016 we paid \$13,342 and the year before that \$11,168. While we have made some progress toward meeting our full apportionments, we still are falling significantly below what we are expected to pay. If you have been holding back and expecting a SPECIAL ASK this year, I encourage you to pay that amount toward our apportionments before Dec 31.

Neil Fruechte, Finance Chair

## Faith in the Future

It was just over two years ago when a few Faith Church members met to flesh out details of a proposed fund with the Waseca Area Foundation (WAF) that would provide a financial benefit to Faith United Methodist Church. This fund would accept donations and would pay an annual grant to the church within the granting policy of the WAF. The fund would not be considered an asset of nor sponsored by the church.

In the event Faith Church or its successor would cease to exist, the annual grants would support other worthwhile programs and activities in the Waseca community as determined by the WAF Board. 25% would be in the area of Education such as school equipment or school programs and not necessarily for scholarships and 75% to be in the area of Health and Human Services such as support for the Neighborhood Service Center.

Initial contributions in 2016 to establish the Faith in the Future fund totaled \$26,000. Grants to Faith Church in 2017 and 2018 were a bit over \$1,000 each. Additional contributions to the fund in 2018 of \$6,010 from four contributors so far along with earnings on its investment has resulted in a Sept 30, 2018 balance of \$36,081. This is in addition to the two grants given to Faith Church.

This is an ongoing fund intended to last in perpetuity. It accepts both large and small contributions. And all contributions are deductible from state and Federal income taxes as charitable donations. Please consider a gift to the Faith in the Future fund and/or include it in your estate plan. Checks can be made out to the Waseca Area Foundation, c/o Faith in the Future fund.

For more information, see Neil Fruechte

The Seasons Within the Season *Granny's Point of View 10/18*  
by Marlys Garness

Initially, I had always thought there were four seasons of life.

As I am now immersed in the Fall Season  I have a change of heart.

I now believe there are seasons within each season.

Retiring from my day jobs helped to usher me into Fall,

But now retiring from part-time jobs

**A** Ushers me into the Fall Season A, or B or C or D? **B** **D**

**C** I surely am not in the Winter Season yet - or am I?

I want to stretch out Fall as long as I can!

I recently retired from playing the piano and organ for church.

 God and I had our quiet time every Sunday morning   
And I did enjoy those special moments.

However, getting up at 6 AM so I could practice before church

Was getting more and more of a chore. 

As walking became more difficult,

It was a challenge to navigate throughout the church.

Sometimes during the service, my mind would wander -

 Then I would get lost on which verse we were on,  
And that was not good! **?**

So, besides the fact the heart was having issues - 

It was time to closeout a part of my Fall Season of living.

It has been wonderful to know the music was appreciated

And I am thought of and missed.

All helps in navigating this Fall Season of living. Thanks! 

*Thanks*



Faith United Methodist Church

*"Engage, Equip, and Empower"*

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**Change Service Requested**

**Come Worship with Us**  
We have room.

**MONTHLY MEET-UPS:**

**Elizabeth Circle**

UMW Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, December 19** in the Lakeview Room at **Noon** for lunch. We will bring Christmas readings to share. Guests and visitors are welcome.

**Ruth Circle**

UMW Ruth will meet **Tuesday, December 11** from **10:30 a.m. to Noon** at the home of Roberta Walker. All are welcome to attend.

**Join us for candlelight Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 4:30 p.m.**