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Faith Messenger

DECEMBER

*Faith United Methodist Church
"Engage, Equip, and Empower!"*

**Volume 2019.
Issue 12**

A Healthy Fear of God

Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

We see God as a God of love and He is. We talk a lot about the grace of God and how we do not have to add anything to what Jesus has done for us on the Cross. Grace is indeed free and our salvation complete.

So why are we told to "fear God"? Is that just for the Old Testament or does that command have a claim on our lives today?

In Proverbs 15:33, the fear of the Lord is described as the "discipline" or "instruction" of wisdom. Writing in the Catholic Encyclopedia, Jacques Forget explains that this gift "*fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread, above all things, to offend Him.*"

A healthy fear of God is a deep respect for God's power and majesty. It is a healthy understanding that God is in control of life and we are not. It is a deep desire not to offend Him through our words or actions and it is a motivation for both avoiding and turning away from Evil and opposing it in whatever for we encounter it.

A healthy fear of God places the God of scripture at the center of our lives. He is the only one we worship and adore. He is the only one we bow down to and obey. He is the one we trust above all others.

When we lose sight of who God is we lose our healthy fear of God and we replace the God of scripture with "other gods" or idols.

Idolatry is the worship of, being, or a physical image, such as a statue, or a person in place of God, the worship of something or someone other than God as if it were God.

Five Ways to Recognize an Idol in Your Life (the "it" can be a person, place or thing)

1. Are you willing to compromise your beliefs to get it or keep it?
2. Do you get angry If you can't do It/don't get It/or someone gets close to it?
3. Do you value It over people/are you willing to hurt or manipulate others to get it or keep it?
4. Does It push you closer to God or pull you farther away?
5. How does it impact on your walk with God?

Continued on page 4

Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

**Mon. through Thurs.:
8:45 am to 12:45 pm**

Prayer Requests



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

BridgeWater at Janesville: Joe & Gloria Tollefson

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Colony Court: Ardella Draheim, Muriel Jenkins

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Liz Corchran, Leona Quast, George Kubista

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, John Slattery and family, Leona Quast, Gordy Miller, Liz Corchran, Nina Youngberg, Tim Smith, Sally Slattery, Marlys Faulkner, Harold Lomen Family, all who are battle cancer or other chronic diseases.

Administrative Assistant Hours

Please note that Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be out of the office on the following dates in December: 16 and 31. During the holiday weeks Stacy will be in the office as follows: December 23 9:00 to Noon, December 26 9:30 to 12:30, December 30 9:00 to Noon, January 2 9:00 to Noon.

Faith In the Future

YOU can help assure the long term financial stability of Faith Church! A few years ago, a small group of dedicated members from Faith Church created the Faith in the Future Fund with the Waseca Area Foundation. This fund would provide annual grants to Faith Church to be used as determined by Faith Church. It is an endowment fund to last into perpetuity with only the interest used each year.

The spending rate from the fund is based on a five-year rolling average of the fund's current market value not to be less than 4.25% or more than 5.5%. Investment returns in excess of the spending rate are added to the balance of the assets in the fund.

In 2019, the grant to Faith Church was \$1,381. The fund balance on Sept. 30 was \$35,997. There are many ways to give to the Faith in the Future Fund:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cash | Appreciated securities | Life insurance |
| Real estate | Retirement plan assets | Planned gift – a bequest in your Will |

All gifts are exempt from state and Federal income taxes.

In the unlikely event that Faith Church no longer exists, the Agreement with the Waseca Area Foundation states that the annual grants shall go to the successor church in Waseca. A successor church would be the result of merger, consolidation, reorganization or the like.

Everyone has a Will. Either it is one that you have created that spells out exactly what you want done with your assets in the final distribution, or it is one that the State provides. This latter one is not very personalized! Have you created your Will or updated your existing one lately? This is a good time to do that.

Include a provision that at least some your assets are given to the Faith in the Future Fund. In this way you will know that your gift will last forever. For more information, contact Neil Fruechte at 507-384-1454.

Fellowship Event

The Fellowship event held on November 10th was displays that people shared in remembering/honoring the military. We had military hats, uniforms, articles from prisoners of war, flags, pillow coverings, metals, and many other items. Saw a lot of visiting around the displays and I'm sure the memorabilia brought back memories.

The Vietnam Experience

'The Vietnam Experience' was held November 10th at the Senior Citizen Center. It was a great event sponsored by Faith UMC. The people who attended appeared to really enjoy the presentation, had lots of questions, stayed around to visit and enjoy the treats and coffee which were a hit.

Al Smith displayed about a dozen of his pencil sketchings of soldiers and submarines. He is very talented and his pencil sketching really reflected the deep emotions the soldiers felt. His power point presentation was of his pencil sketching of soldiers and telling about their lives.

He shared with the audience how sketching these soldiers was a way he could express his respect and appreciation of soldiers in the military.

Al sent a note saying how delighted he was in presenting the program in Waseca and would be happy to come again and show one of his other programs.

The group was also invited to visit the Waseca Veterans Memorial across the street on the courthouse lawn and view the vigil of veteran suicide called Operation Overwatch.

Meal and Movie Night (M & M Night)

Wow, what a powerful movie about racial relationships. The movie held on Sunday, November 17th was 'Remember the Titans'. The movie was based on a true story and it was great to see people overcome racial prejudice.

The Gathering Room

'The Gathering Room' is the name that was approved for the Sunday School room. The room is almost finished. Be sure to stop and take a look. Thank you to everyone who helped update the room. It looks great!

Hospitality Meeting

The next meeting will be held **Monday, December 9th at 10:00** in 'The Gathering Room'. We are looking for people to join us that day to talk about movies for next year for Meal and Movie Night (M&M Night), ideas for Fellowship events and ways we can continue to have Faith UMC be a welcoming church. We might have a look at what we did this last year. We would love to have you join us.

The Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is now up and looking very empty. Please bring in warm gloves, mittens, hats or scarves for children who need them in our community. Let's fill up the tree to help children get through the cold months ahead!

A Healthy Fear of God

Cont. from page 1

We all need to take these questions to heart and allow the Holy Spirit to examine our lives and point out areas of our lives that are in need of being turned back to Jesus.

We don't move away from Jesus in a big jump but in small shifts that go unnoticed until there is a distance that makes our relationship with Christ take a place of secondary importance in our lives.

Let us each follow the example of Paul when he writes: *Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Lets us press on together!

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 |





CELEBRATING ADVENT

9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICES

December 1

The Jesse Tree:
Jesus in the Old Testament

December 8

"A Kids Christmas"
The Christmas Story with Our Faith Choir
and Our Sunday School Children

December 15

"The Very Special Baby"
Read by Mark LaMont

December 22

"A Night to Remember"
Christmas Cantata, a Celebration of the Christmas Story
as presented by our Faith Choir

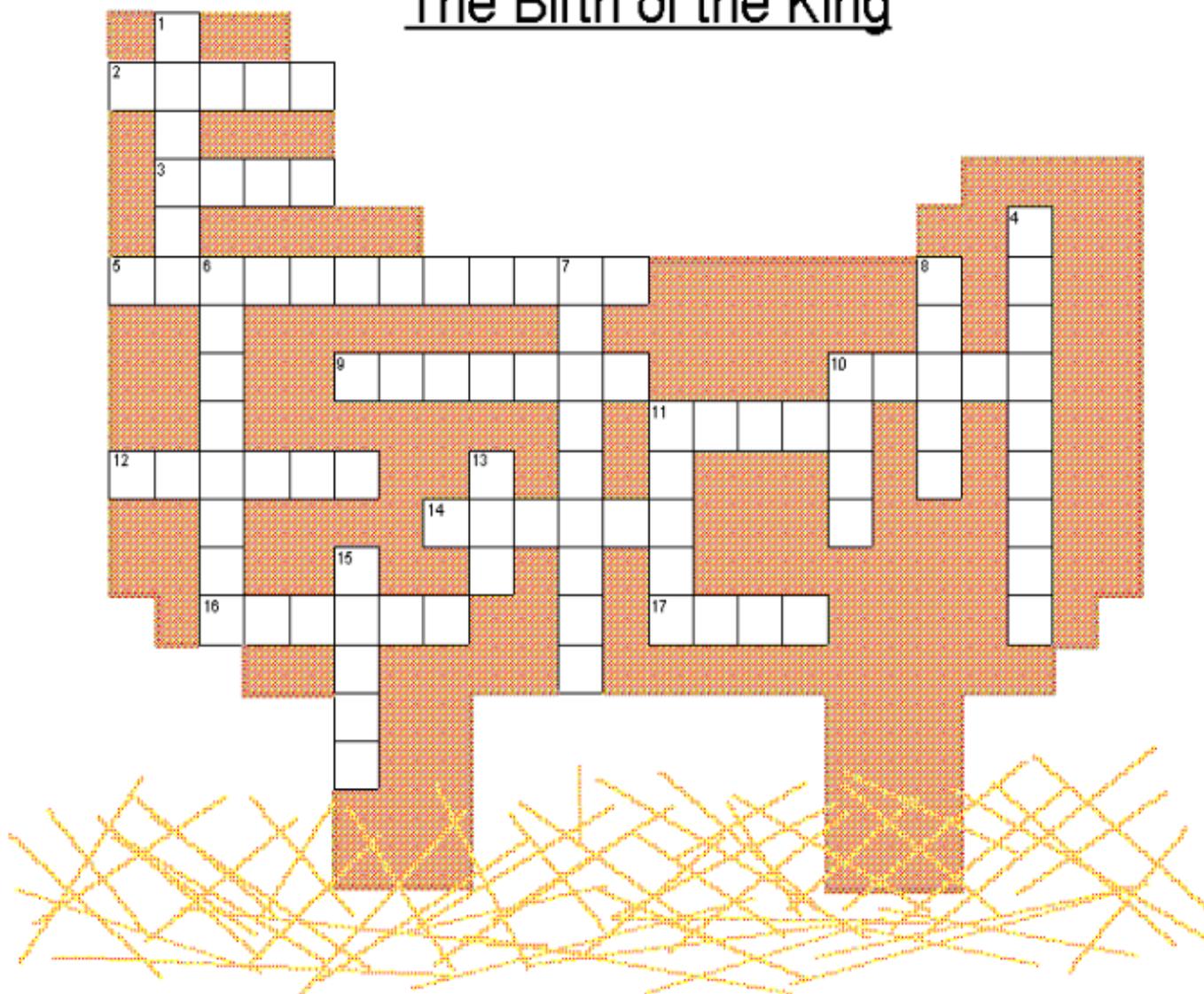
December 29

"Songs of Christmas"
A Selection of Traditional Carols
Special Music by Alison Prange - "Heirlooms"

December 24 (4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service)

Telling the Story of Christmas through Word and Music
"There's a New Kid In Town"

The Birth of the King



Across

2. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these
3. A precious metal: one of the gifts from the 3 kings
5. A fragrant gum used to make incense: one of the gifts from the wisemen
9. The 3 kings from the east
10. A pungent tasting herb: A gift from the wisemen
11. Bethlehem is here
12. Mary's husband
14. These appeared to shepherds and told them about the birth of Christ
16. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord
17. This led the wisemen to Jesus

Down

1. An open box to hold food for livestock: Mary laid Jesus in one
4. The city of His birth
6. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone
7. Angels told these guys about His birth while they were watching their flocks
8. The king of Judea when Jesus was born
10. His mother
11. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name _____
13. He was born in a stable because there was no room here
15. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas



How Well Do You Know Your Christmas Carols?

Match the title with the lines from the song.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ___ O Little Town of Bethlehem | 1. Good tidings we bring to you and your kin |
| ___ What Child Is This? | 2. Long lay the world in sin and error pining |
| ___ Love Came Down at Christmas | 3. Please have snow and mistletoe and presents on the tree |
| ___ Go, Tell It on the Mountain | 4. Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day |
| ___ Jolly Old Saint Nicholas | 5. From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold |
| ___ We Wish You a Merry Christmas | 6. Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary |
| ___ Of the Father's Love Begotten | 7. The ox and lamb kept time |
| ___ Carol of the Bells | 8. Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light |
| ___ God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen | 9. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation |
| ___ Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella | 10. The world, they treat you mean, they treat me mean, too |
| ___ Pat-a-Pan | 11. And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains |
| ___ Sweet Little Jesus Boy | 12. On December five and twenty |
| ___ O Holy Night | 13. From the eastern kingdoms come the wise men far |
| ___ Silver Bells | 14. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light |
| ___ It Came Upon a Midnight Clear | 15. Children laughing, people passing, greeting smile after smile |
| ___ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | 16. The blind will see, the lame will walk, the dead will rise again |
| ___ I'll Be Home for Christmas | 17. O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way |
| ___ Away in the Manger | 18. Star and angels gave the sign |
| ___ Sing We Now of Christmas | 19. Peace on Earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled |
| ___ Angels, We Have Heard on High | 20. Treetops glisten & children listen to hear sleighbells in the snow |
| ___ Silent Night | 21. Lean your ear this way |
| ___ Mary, Did You Know? | 22. The men of olden days gave the King of Kings their praise |
| ___ We Three Kings | 23. Behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light |
| ___ O Come All Ye Faithful | 24. He is Alpha & Omega, He the source, the ending He |
| ___ Joy to the World | 25. Let Earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room |
| ___ Little Drummer Boy | 26. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes |
| ___ The Holly and the Ivy | 27. Round yon Virgin Mother and Child |
| ___ Fum, Fum, Fum | 28. Beautiful is the mother! Hush! Hush! Beautiful is her Child! |
| ___ Jingle Bells | 29. One seems to hear words of good cheer from everywhere |
| ___ White Christmas | 30. The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir |



Faith United Methodist Church

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Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle meeting for December is to be determined.

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle will be meeting **Tuesday, December 10th at 11:00 a.m.** at the Tasty House. Gift exchange up to \$5.00. All ladies welcome.

Crafters & Stitchers

Faith Crafters & Stitchers will **not** meet in December.