

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays 10:00 AM—11:00 AM
at Faith Fellowship
Led by Pastor Becky

Ladies Luncheon Dec. 16 at
 noon at Donna Brown's home,
 700 Zeneta

Wed. night Bible Study This study will be
 based on Dr. Steven Paulson's, *Luther for*
Armchair Theologians.

You are welcome to join in on the class with-
 out doing the reading if you'd like. You'll still
 gain and, no doubt offer, valuable insight.
 We'll meet Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.

No Bible Study on Dec. 22 or Dec. 29



Christmas Celebration
December 12 at 3:00 PM
Bring a homemade gift to exchange.
Appetizers and Desserts will be provided.

3 Days of Prayer

January 4-6, 2022 is a church-wide
 focus on Prayer. We will hold a prayer vigil
 from 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4th, through
 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 6th. Please sign up
 for days & times you'd like to spend in prayer.

Focus for **Tues.**— Faith Fellowship & our board.

Wed.—Those who don't yet know Jesus and Prodigal.

Thursday—Our Interaction Partners, Please sign up in
 the Narthex.



We are taking monetary
 donations for gift cards for our
 Beasley Family and Bobbie
 Project Family, deadline to get
 the money in is December 12 to give these moms
 time to shop. We are also collecting Food items for
 their Christmas Basket, please sign up what items
 you want to bring.

Looking Ahead:

Jan. 1—New Year's Day

Jan. 2—Laura's First Day

Jan. 4-6—Three Days of Prayer

Jan. 22—Meet LCMC Board President & AD
Service Coordinator: Pastor Randy Freund &
Fellowship

Jan. 23—Annual Meeting & Lunch

St. Paul Lutheran Seminary is
 offering a course entitled, "Renewing
 the Local Church." This class will
 focus on the root causes of
 congregational stagnancy and
 decline, it will delve into practical ways
 that the church can be revived for
 mission, and it will center on
 helping a parish embrace a new
 culture. This course, led by Rev. Brad
 Hales, will meet online for two hours
 on Thursday evenings for six weeks
 beginning on January 6th, 2022. Fee
 is \$50 per individual, \$100 for a group.
 Contact info@semic.org for details
 and sign-up.

Thank you to Blooming Rose for
providing us with Altar Flowers for
Sundays.

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For Sale: (6) Beautiful (84 x 48)
 Black out Curtain panels from JC
 Penney's with Long Curtain Rod.
 They have been dry cleaned.

\$180 for all. To see in person,
 contact Angie in the office.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FAITH FELLOWSHIP | DECEMBER 2021 – VOLUME 14

Becky's Billet-Doux

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your
goodness, O Lord. Psalm 25:5-6

Advent may seem like an odd
 time to focus on forgiveness.
 Let's face it, when it comes
 down to us forgiving others we'd
 prefer to never focus on it. When
 it's a case of others forgiving us,
 they should be merciful and
 forgive us, after all we really
 didn't *mean* it (whatever sin "it"
 is that we committed). God's
 forgiveness of our sins, however,
 seems to be a completely
 different story. We fully expect
 God's forgiveness, we need it, it
 is absolutely necessary to our
 very lives. In addition, God
 promises to cleanse us from our
 sin, our perversion, our criminal
 hearts.

We are in the season of Advent, a
 time to prepare for the coming of
 the Christ, the King of kings.
 We celebrate that God comes to
 dwell with us and that he will
 come again in glory to finally
 bring the need of forgiveness to a
 complete end, once and for all.
 The Good News is, at its core,
 the news of forgiveness. When
 God forgives you, he frees you.
 The sin that holds you in
 bondage to the lies of the evil
 one, the sin that requires your
 separation from God (which is
 death), the sin that breaks your
 relationship with God and with
 people is the very sin that
 Christ's crucifixion and

Church Events

- **Dec. 5—Advent 2**
- **Dec. 12—Advent 3; Christmas Celebration at 3:00 p.m.**
- **Dec. 14—Board Meeting**
- **Dec. 16—Ladies Luncheon**
- **Dec. 19—Advent 4**
- **Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Dec. 25—Merry Christmas**
- **Dec. 31—New Year's Eve**

Weekly Activities:

Tuesdays: Ladies Bible Study 10 AM

Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal;
 6:00 p.m. Theology Study based on Dr.
 Steven Paulson's, *Luther for Armchair*
Theologians; Lectionary Readings on Face-
 book after 5pm.

Sundays: Sunday School at 10 AM and
 Worship Service at 11 AM.

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resurrection removes from you. The gift of Christ is the gift of forgiveness.

Jay Rochelle wrote an introduction to Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Spiritual Care*. Rochelle writes, "The word of forgiveness comes to those who live life to the fullest and deepest, who engage in struggle at the extremes. Those who hate and those who love, those who desire order and those who live with chaos, those who weep and those who rejoice, those who celebrate and those who refuse to celebrate: these are some who are ready for the life in God proffered by forgiveness."

He continues, "Forgiveness offers us the actuality of new life through Christ. Forgiveness is a declaration event by which the barrier between the human and a saving knowledge of God is broken. Christ is the actor in who this barrier is broken..."

The gift of Christ is the gift of forgiveness and of eternal life. For the sake of Jesus Christ, God forgives all who are penitent. This is the gift that comes wrapped in swaddling clothes. This is the gift that we mourn on Good Friday and sing praises to on Easter morning. We live and have hope in this gift. This gift is given to us for the sake of Jesus Christ, the gift himself, and it is given *through* us for those who have trespassed against us.

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, you are forgiven, thanks be to God! Pastor Becky

The logo  represents the blood of Christ chasing darkness out of this world.

LCMC's Statement of Faith includes:

The proclamation of God's message to us as both law and gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy in the person and work of Jesus Christ through whom God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself.

LCMC's service coordinator is Mike Bradley.

Pastor Becky serves on LCMC's Ministry Board which oversees Pastoral Certifications and Seminaries that serve LCMC.

LCMC offers assistance with things like calling a pastor, conflict resolution and other times of transition.

Our church had a reception for Laura Webb, our Intern, on November 14th and everyone had a great time getting to know her, her mom and her sister. Laura will start work here with us, January 2.



Prayer Concerns

Adams, Calvin (Angie Gullett's dad, prayer for salvation; health; eye issues, infection)

Ard, Farrell & Kellie (healing)

Arnold, Dale (health)

Askren, Gale (Sherry Shearer's sister, recovery from surgery)

Bowman, Michael

Brown, Bonnie (recovery from surgery)

Brown, Donna (healing)

Bomar, Terri (knee issue)

Boyd, Martha (Hospice)

Burditt, Larry (Angie Gullett's brother-in-law, Parkinson's & his dad for healing)

Carr, Billie (Betty Lively's sister, healing)

Collerd, Tyler

Conway, Martha (rec. from Post-Covid)

Cox, Wanda (Angie's sis-in-law, heart issues, Diabetes, health)

Duff, Norma (move to Fredericksburg)

Eilers, Melvin (healing)

Estrada, Mary

Fowler, Ginnie (treatments)

Fowler, Jerry

Garrison, Marilee (lung cancer)

Gonzales, Lisa (treatments)

Graves, Steve (recovery from procedure)

Gullett, Angie (eye injections)

Pr. Kaskela, Jerry (healing)

Kurek, Darrell (recovery from surgery)

Marlee—prayer request from lady that came to Back to School Coffee & Donuts (young girl, needs healing from cancer)

McCarter, Sarah (healing)

McGee, Helen (healing)

McMillan, Gary (loss of dad)

Mullins, Ellie (6 yr old, transplanted kidney to stay healthy)

Nance, Bodhi (Watson's grandson)

Otwell, Joyce (health)

Overstreet family (loss of 18 yr. old son)

Perez, Marsha (health)

Scott, Abe (cancer, for healing)

Silhan, Charlie

Simendinger, Bonnie (cancer)

Smith, Mava (Chemo treatments)

Southard, John (CHF)

Strickland, Gary (salvation)

Theesfield, Carol (at Daughter's home)

Vencil, Naylan (health)

Watson, Marlene (health)

Weaver, Sharlene (rec. from surgery)

Webster, Clarissa (recovery from surgery)

West, Kim (healing)

White, Ronnie (Praise), got to go home after 3 months in hospital)

Worthen Family (Terri's great-nephew, Canyon, for upcoming health procedures)

Prayer of the Month

Holy Lord,

As we wait for your return strengthen us in patience and love and mercy. As we wait for your return, keep our eyes focused on you and your will. As we wait for your return, teach us to live in the full knowledge that you are who was, who is and who is to come. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Special Prayers—For Community of Andrews, TX in loss of Band Director and Bus Driver from Andrews High School bus crash, and for students recovering from injuries; For the community and families in the deadly crash of a Christmas parade, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. For those affected by Covid-19 & Covid Delta Variant and healing from it, continued prayers for the city of Odessa and Midland and it's people; For the missionaries held hostage in Haiti ; For Afghanistan and our missionaries, pastors, Afghan believers, and Americans; for those in our state, country, & world that are hurting, sick, suffering and dealing with different issues. Faculty, Staff, Students and Families of Reagan Elementary, and Bonham Middle School, all our schools and teachers and administrators, President Biden/Harris, U. S. government officials, our country.

Specific Prayers for Faith

Fellowship— For Faith Fellowship & congregation, leaders, Board, Laura Webb; Church Growth; Augustana District; LCMC; Evangelism; Community Outreach; Rainbow's End (Emmaus Group); Community Bible Church; Family Promise.

Praises! God's continued Protection and Blessings on us.

