

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACTIVITIES

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


 Ladies Luncheon,
Thursday,
January 21 at
noon, to be
announced where later.



AND

LUNCHEON

Saturday, January 22 Fellowship at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to meet Pastor Randy Freund, Chair, LCMC Board of trustees, and Service Coordinator for Augustana District. Hope you've been paying attention to the tidbits of information about LCMC in the bulletin and Faith Matters. There will be a game and those 'fun facts' will come in handy! If you need a ride that evening please let Billy Tripp know.

 Starts January 16
after the Worship
Service

Usher Meeting **Sunday, January 9** after the
Worship Service.



We helped **10** families in
December.

Children's Lunch & Lesson
Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m.
Starting January 9th please bring
your children to attend this special.
time. **Will not meet January 23rd**, we
will have our Annual Meeting then.

Thanks to those of you that attended our
Christmas Party and won bids on the
extra Christmas Gifts to go toward the
Food Pantry. We raised **\$90** for the Food
Pantry.



This gift was made
by Bruce Shearer
and brought the
most money.



The Wall Cross
was the most
traded gift.

Sunday, January 23
After the Worship Service
You can start picking up the
Annual Report on January 9th.

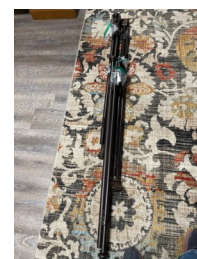


*Thank you very much for the Christmas Gift! I
am very thankful for each of you and I thank
God for you! Pastor Becky*

*Thank you so much for the thoughtful
Christmas Gift, I appreciate it so much! I
am blessed to work here! Angie*

Looking Ahead:
Pastoral Care Training
Men's Coffee Klatch

For Sale: (6) Beautiful (84 x 48) Black
out Curtain panels from JC Penney's
with Long Curtain Rod. They have
been dry cleaned. \$20 for each panel.
To see in person, contact Angie in the
office.



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to sell, someone you need to hire
for your business or home, or
looking for recommendations,
etc. please fill out a form, or
email Angie at
office@faithfellowshipodessa.org
and we can put it in our next
Newsletter.

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

Blooming Rose
Florist
302 E University Blvd
Odessa, TX 79762
(432) 337-7673

Faith Matters

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH | JANUARY 2022 – VOLUME 15

Becky's Billet-Doux

Happy New Calendar Year.

As the 'high' from the holiday
winds down and routines
return to whatever "normal" is,
we can catch our breaths and
settle in for another year. But
let us not forget the reason for
our celebrations, the purpose
of our living.

During December as I walked
through my neighborhood, I
noticed the Christmas
decorations going up. The vast
majority of them were secular
ornaments. As I walked by
one house, though, my interest
was piqued. One day, some
lumber was laying in the yard.
A couple days later, there was
a rough skeleton of a shed.
Next came a plywood roof,
then thatching (stapled down,
of course to secure it against
the west TX wind). I began to
wonder each day what the next
step would be. Would there be
hay? Would the eventual
people be wooden or plastic?
Would there be lights? What
would be included? Excluded?

As I enjoyed the process of
watching a Christ Christmas
yard decoration being built the
fact that it was Advent was not
lost on me. This little rough
stable reminded me, looking
back, of the history of the first
Christmas, and looking
forward, of the expectation of
Christ's return. This is what
Advent is all about.

It also made me wonder about
the actual stable in which
Christ was born. Someone or
ones, possibly many years
before, did the work to build
that structure. Perhaps it was
hewn in stone (there is
speculation of such) or perhaps
it was fashioned together with
wood as our manger scenes
depict. Either way, someone
developed the plan and
executed the labor to bring the
barn to life. Whoever that was
likely had no idea what would
one day happen in that place.
The Almighty Sovereign Lord

Church Events

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- Jan. 2 Laura's 1st Day
- Jan. 4—6 Three Days of Prayer
- Jan. 5 Theology Bible Study starts back
- Jan. 6 Epiphany
- Jan. 9 Baptism; Annual Reports can be
picked up; Children's L & L (Lunch &
Lesson); Usher Meeting.
- Jan. 16 New Members Class begins after
Worship; Children's L & L.
- Jan. 21 Ladies Luncheon
- Jan. 22 Fellowship & LCMC/AD Update
with Pr. Randy Freund.
- Jan. 23 Annual Meeting & Lunch.
- Jan. 30 Children's L & L.
- Jan. 31 Pastor starts her Doctorate
classes on Monday Evenings (6-9:00p.m.)

Weekly Activities:

Tuesdays: Ladies Bible Study 10 AM
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal; 6:00 p.m.
Theology Study
Sundays: Sunday School at 10 AM and Worship Service at
11 AM.

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would stoop down to us, in the most vulnerable way possible. That barn would hold the Creator himself. God’s gift to humanity came in human form in that structure, built by someone.

You are a someone. You build structures too. They may or may not be physical structures, but you have built a home, maybe a family, relationships, safe places, warm places and places of joy with family and friends. These are all places that house the Creator. God continually gives himself to us, coming to us exactly where we are.

This is your God. The Almighty Sovereign stoops down to you, to lift you up. This is the “normal” in which you live.

Blessings for 2022. God’s peace fill you to overflowing and his joy remain in your heart forever.

Pastor Becky

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 Prodigals.

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



Trivia Questions

LCMC’s Quarterly newsletter is called *By the Word*

LCMC Coordinator for Pastoral Ministry is Pr. Perry Fruhling

LCMC’s statement of Faith includes:

We believe, teach, and confess the gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the priesthood of all believers for God’s mission in the world.

LCMC stands for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

LCMC is NOT a denomination but an association of churches .

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@semlc.org for details and sign-up.



Welcome Laura Webb!

She will be our Intern working with us for the next year, her first day will be January 2, 2022.

Please make her feel welcome!

Thank You Letter from Micha Johnson

Hello, Faith Fellowship of Odessa! I am so grateful for the Scholarship you have granted me to continue my seminary studies at the Institute of Lutheran Theology! I was honored to come and preach at your church, and I am glad I did! I met many wonderful people in your beautiful church and felt so welcomed by the kind words from all who approached me. It was definitely an experience I will not forget! I look forward to coming back one day if Pastor Becky invites me again! I was reminded when I came to preach that you all are the church. It is not the building you are in, but the people you are gathered with in Christ's name. Your community of believers in Odessa inspired me to continue my studies and affirmed my call from God that I am on the right path. Thank you again for the opportunity to proclaim to Word of God to you all. It was an experience I will not forget! Please feel free to contact me if you ever have questions about my life, what I’m doing at my church, or what I am learning in Seminary. I appreciate your kindness and hope to see you all again soon! I will continue to pray for all of you.

God's blessings to you all,

Micah Johnson

Prayer Concerns

Adams, Calvin (Angie Gullett’s dad, prayer for salvation; in hospital in Arlington, pain, waiting on results of biopsy)

Ard, Farrell & Kellie (healing)

Arnold, Dale (health)

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

Bowman, Michael

Brown, Bonnie

Brown, Donna (healing)

Bomar, Terri (knee issue)

Boyd family in loss of Martha

Burditt, Larry (Angie Gullett’s brother-in-law, Parkinson’s is worse)

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

Collerd, Tyler

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

Dudley, Phyllis (rec. from fall, blood clot)

Duff, Norma (move to Fredericksburg)

Eilers, Melvin (healing)

Estrada, Mary & Bobby

Fowler, Ginnie (treatments)

Fowler, Jerry

Garrison, Marilee (lung cancer)

Gonzales, Lisa (treatments, loss of step-dad, Efrain Suarez, Esmeralda’s husband)

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; having issue)

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, Bobby & Marlene (loss of his brother)

Weaver, Sharlene (health)

West, Kim (healing)

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

Prayer of the Month

Holy Lord, guide us through the coming year that we may be in service to you. You are the Almighty who has given yourself to us. Lead us to give of ourselves to you. You alone are God and you alone are our hope. Secure us in yourself and embolden us to love others. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Sympathy—To Bobby & Marlene Watson in the loss of his brother, Eddie Watson; To Lisa Gonzales and her mom, Esmeralda, in the loss of her step-dad, Efrain Suarez.

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 for their new location; Family Promise.

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

Homebound—Larry Minor, Phyllis Dudley, Helen McGee, Charles & Charlene Miller, Barbara Ridge, Dan Womochel, Jo Hafer, Evelyn Byerly.

Nursing Homes Grover Charsha Rm. 406, Jack Tarter Rm. 703, Billie Carr (Betty Lively’s sister) Rm. 616 (**Parks**); Marsha Perez Rm. 313B (**Madison**); Bobby & Marlene Watson Rm. 604 (**Lincoln Tower**); Naylan Vencil Rm. 201 (**Brookdale**) Ronda Scott (Angie’s cousin) Rm. 303 (**Sienna**) ; Freddie Wheeler– Cowden Cottage Rm. 11A (**Manor Park—Midland**) Merry Gay Mesker (Granbury); Rosemary Browning; Charles & Shirley Garrett (Asst. Living) (Dallas); M’Liss Schneider (Knopp in Fredericksburg); Norma Duff (Fredericksburg).

Prayers For Our Military Service Men & Women (Please let us know of any individuals who are currently serving in a combat area) Jake Waddell (Shearers’ grandson, US Army, stationed in Iraq)