

JANUARY 2-4, THREE DAYS OF PRAYER

Prayer was a holy habit practiced by Jesus Himself (see Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1). The disciples who walked alongside Him witnessed a connection between His public life and ministry, and this habit of prayer. It was a connection so significant, that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1).

LCMC's Three Days of Prayer on January 2-4 is an opportunity for us to follow the Lord's example and to come together as one across the association with a shared purpose: to pray. Prayer Handouts will be available for you to take home for our focused Three Days of Prayer.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking ahead:

- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve - 7:00 a.m. **(No Morning Service that day)**
- Dec. 10th Christmas Fellowship will sing some old carols!! Plus the Christmas Ornament exchange and lunch!
- We will start another food basket for Christmas outreach.



Church Events

- **Dec. 3 First Sunday in Advent, Youth Night 5-6:30**
- **Dec. 10 Second Sunday in Advent, Fellowship Christmas Meal/Party**
- **Dec. 17 Third Sunday in Advent**
- **Dec. 21 Blue Christmas service at 6:30 (Bee Loved will meet briefly at 6:00)**
- **Dec. 24 Fourth Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve, NO MORNING SERVICE. Worship will be at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Dec. 25-26th, Church Office is closed**
- **Dec. 26th No Bible Study**
- **Jan. 2-4, LCMC Three Days of Prayer.**
- **Jan. 28 Annual Congregation meeting**

Faith

MATTERS

FAITH FELLOWSHIP | December 2023 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Becky's Billet-doux

Matthew 25:21:

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Matthew 25:21

Happy December! Another year has come and gone. I say to you, "Well done!" The year has been full of new things along with some old problems (mostly building issues.) We now offer children's Sunday School classes. We have a confirmation student, and we'll soon have our first youth night activity. We are having our third new member class. Our board went on their first out-of-town retreat and developed goals and strategies for the next few months. At the January meeting the board will assess how those plans are going and set new goals. Robin will be sharing a schematic of this with you soon. The wall in the Fellowship Hall is completed, it looks nice, is much safer and drowns out a great deal of traffic noise. Our West Campus building has sold, and the board will be selecting a contractor for the work in the sanctuary. These are all good things as we move forward into our fourth year as a church (in August of 2024 we'll be four years old).

On a sad note, our dear Daisy has relocated to the metroplex, and she is greatly missed. Mike Kelly, a long-time member of Risen Lord passed away.

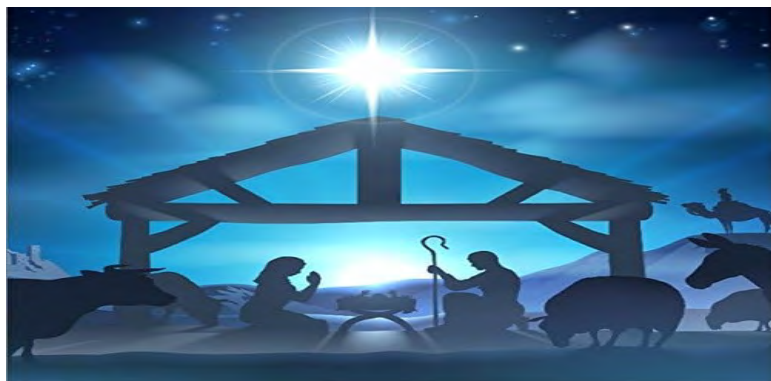
We think we have solved the squirrel problem, again, but building maintenance issues are constant. Sally, our Property Chair, rocks by the way! The kitchen now proudly boasts of a wonderful ice maker and a new stove. We deeply appreciate the donor for those! Painting has happened, our Art Gallery (a.k.a. the Coffee Bar) is ready for rotating art shows.

We are continually finding our way together and to you, again, I say, "Well Done!" Our footing is firm in Jesus Christ our Lord and our future is bright. You are generous and community minded. Bee Loved is a huge ministry that works out of Faith Fellowship.

Phoebe's Door, our food pantry, serves many in our community and basket fillers do a great job keeping food baskets ready to go. Brian does a fantastic job keeping the pantry ready to go. Each month the board selects a recipient of our 5% tithe. Sometimes this is sent far away, sometimes it remains local. If you have an individual or entity that you'd like the board to consider for our tithe, please let a board member know. Five percent of our monthly general income goes to support Augustana District and 5% is voted on by the board for the community or church body.

Well Done Faith Fellowship! I pray the Lord finds us faithful in little and is preparing us to be faithful with much.

Pastor Becky



Prayer Of The Month

Lord God, you are the giver of all good things. You have blessed us beyond measure, and you continue to bless us in this congregation with this church family. Direct us in our care and love for each other. Guide us in our care and love for this community. To you be the glory forever and ever, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Notes from the Oct Board Meeting

President report.

In October the board had a retreat to Ruidoso (the condo was donated). After a lengthy discussion several needs were developed and expanded upon. From that there were a few things planned. One was that we need to increase involvement in the church and services. It was decided to have at least three people who know how to do each job; usher, video, alter guild. If you would like to learn any of these jobs just ask me.

We also looked at training for our online presence. Facebook, YouTube, and websites can help to expand our reach to spread God's Word. Most of us are not that adapt at these platforms so we are looking into training/ classes to help with this. If you are on these platforms be sure to include Faith Fellowship to help spread the Word.

We are also looking at putting on some events for the youth. This is still in the planning stages and if you would like to help, reach out to a board member. We also thought that if there is a children sermon we should sing a children's song. The songs will change but we would like for everyone to sing along. The retreat was very helpful in setting some goals and getting us all on the same page. Even got in a little shopping.

George Hennig



Prayer Request & Concerns

Aaron Shearer (Health)

Andy Loyd (Cancer)

Bennington Family (Guidance)

Beth Littlejohn (Healing)

Brittany Sanchez (Healing & Peace)

Debbie Tiemann (Cancer & Healing)

Deborah Dudley (Health)

Phyllis Dudley (Healing)

Doctor Larry Lassa (Hip replacement)

Donna Brown (Broken Knee)

Bruce Shearer (Healing)

Christie Lewis (Surgery)

Estrada Bobby & Mary (Healing)

Family of Derek Dennard (His Passing)

Frances Bush (Healing)

Gale & Bud Askren (Health)

Daniel Tew (Healing)

Josie & Cliff Warner (salvation Healing)

Lisa Gonzales (Healing & Cancer)

Lucy Robledo (Healing Liver Issues)

Jeff Thomas (Healing)

Jimmy Boggs (Healing)

Miranda Berlin (Cancer)

Teena Youngblood (Healing)

Vicki (Healing)

Weekly Activities:

Tuesdays: Ladies Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays: Choir Practice at 5:15 p.m., Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

Sundays: Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

For many, Christmas is not 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year' (as the song goes). A Blue Christmas service can offer some healing and hope. The idea behind the Blue Christmas service is to create space for the acknowledgment of the heaviness often carried during this season, as well as offering the hope that Jesus gives. Our society has become one of masking emotions that are sometimes considered negative. The Bible clearly acknowledges, celebrates, and makes space for pain, struggle, hardship, and tears — and so should we.

This Blue service is a beautiful way to make space during the Advent season for those suffering any kind of loss whether the loss of a person, a dream, finances, stability, health, or more. Our Blue Christmas Service is open to the community, Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

