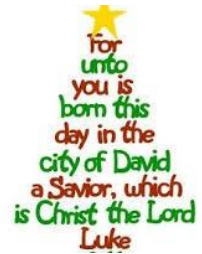




"Together in Christ's love, we joyfully serve, actively witness, and dedicate ourselves to caring, teaching, and growing through the Word."

Faith Lutheran Abilene

December 2019



Luke 2:7, "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

There is a children's Christmas song called, "That's Why We Have Christmas." It says, "God sent Jesus down to earth; God sent Jesus down to earth; God sent Jesus down to earth; That's why we have Christmas!" "Angels sang about His birth; Angels sang about His birth; Angels sang about His birth; That's why we have Christmas!" "Shepherds came to worship there; Shepherds came to worship there; Shepherds came to worship there; That's why we have Christmas!"

In that song we have the entire essence of just what Christmas is all about. Christmas is all about Jesus. Christmas is the long-fulfilled promise of God coming to past in the birth of a child, a child wrapped in human flesh just like you and me; a child conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary; a child conceived completely without sin!

The child conceived in the womb of Mary and born in the town of Bethlehem was completely without sin. As Christian believers celebrate a day, a season, a lifetime, that is all about Jesus, we have to understand the importance of this sinless Son of God. And we have to know just why our heavenly Father did such a thing for us.

Sin separates us from God. No matter how hard we might try to save ourselves, it just won't work. So, God sent Jesus down to earth to save you and me—sinners who are sinful and sin daily in thought, word and deed.

We rightly celebrate Christmas because God had to solve the sin problem. Because of our sin, He couldn't stand to be around us. Because of our sin, we couldn't do anything to save ourselves. So, let's use the children's song once again to see how God solved this problem. "God sent Jesus down to earth; God sent Jesus down to earth; God sent Jesus down to earth *to die for our sins*—that's why we have Christmas!"

The sinless Jesus came to save you—sinners—by taking your sins upon Himself and dying in your rightful place of death on the Cross. And by His one-time, perfect sacrifice on that Cross, He forever satisfied God's wrath and anger against you because of your sin. He shed His blood for you.

But the Good News doesn't end there. God sent His Son down to earth so that He might show just who has the power over death. It's not the devil. It's God Himself! You see, God sent Jesus down to earth so that He might demonstrate His power over death by rising again from the dead on the Third Day. Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil for you. And yes, it's the story of Christmas.

So, come. Come to worship in the anticipation of celebrating Christmas. Come to our regular Sunday morning Divine Services at 9am. Come to our Advent midweek worship services at 6:30pm. Come to Christmas Eve service at 5pm and Christmas morning service at 9am. Let the message of "Christmas now impact your daily life as it never has before." God sent His Son down to earth for **you**, to die for **your** sins, to be raised again to new life for **you**. This is no fairy tale. It is real.

This message of hope and assurance and eternity is yours because Christ has made you His own in the waters of Baptism when the Holy Spirit gave you faith and forgave your sins. And Christ now desires to constantly feed and strengthen you with His Word and Supper. Let that message of Good News not just come to you once or twice a year or haphazardly. Let that message of Good News take over your life. That's why we have Christmas. Amen.

- Pastor Panzer

2019 Christmas Poinsettias The church will purchase 2 poinsettias. You are encouraged to "purchase one or more" for a \$10 donation with proceeds going to help member families in need. Poinsettias can be given "to the glory of God" or "in memory of a loved one" and names will be listed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Checks can be made to Faith Lutheran. Please put "poinsettia" in the memo line. All are encouraged to participate!



"Isaiah's Advent Prophecies"

Advent midweek services are intended to focus our preparation on the Christ who has come and who will come again. The church will be opened at 6:00pm if you would like to come for a time of silent prayer and meditation.

*Wednesday, December 4 @ 6:30 PM

*Wednesday, December 11 @ 6:30 PM

*Wednesday, December 18 @ 6:30 PM



**Junior confirmation class will not be held on Wed. during Advent, but will be held Sunday, Dec. 1st & 15th from 11:30am-1:00pm *

Children's Christmas Program -- Sunday, December 15th during the 9 AM worship service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service -- Tuesday, December 24th @ 5:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship Service -- Wednesday, December 25th @ 9 AM



"Live Nativity" at the Abilene Heritage Center -- Sunday, December 8 -- 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Join us as we will host a "live nativity" event at the Abilene Heritage Center on Sunday, December 8th, 5:30-7:30. **This event is free to attend** and will be held in conjunction with the Heritage Center's "A Very Prairie Christmas." Ride the carousel and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate—it's all free! We are seeking volunteers to play the parts, to sing in the choir, and to read the Christmas story. Come and view! Come and participate! Prayerfully consider what you can do to help as we share the story of Christ through word and action! ***To God alone be the glory!***



Faith Lutheran Church supports the Abilene Area Food & Clothing Center during this time of year. We will also be collecting for member families as well. Please bring your food items to the church for collection until **Sunday, December 15th** and put them in the church narthex. All pantry goods are needed. Check the bulletin board for a list of suggestions. Prayerfully consider what you can do to reach out to "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

Children's Christmas Program "Behold the Child"

The children's Christmas program is almost here! The program will be held on Sunday, December 15th at 9 a.m. during the worship service. *Program practice began on Sunday, November 3rd during Sunday School time* and will be held every Sunday until the program date. All kids, ages nursery to 8th grade, are invited to participate.



Some adult bible study classes will meet in the basement fellowship hall.

This year, we will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

****Please note that the children will be singing at the Live Nativity on December 8th. Please plan to join us!****



Congratulations and God's blessings to our December Graduate!

Abby Chewning - Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from James Madison University



Together In Mission -- Faith Lutheran Church proudly supports Rev. Daniel Conrad and Rev. Jacob Gaugert -missionaries to Mexico and Africa. Please keep them in your daily prayers

<http://www.faithabilene.org/mexico-and-west-africa-missionary-support.php>

***Fellowship Breakfast** will be held at Joe Snuffy's on **Thursday, December 12th, 8:30am.**

A signup sheet is on the parament cabinet. See you there!



***Book Club** will not meet in December. Be back in January to meet on Sunday the 19th.



Thank you to everyone who donated towards the college students' finals boxes.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to our **Annual LWML Christmas Brunch** on **Saturday, December 7th at 10:30 a.m.** in the church basement. Each lady should bring your favorite dish for brunch and a gift (under \$10) for a Christmas gift exchange. Sign-up on the sheet located on the parament cabinet, so we know how many to set up for. Please, join us for fun, food, and fellowship to start the Christmas Season!

Our **Christmas Stocking Mission** project will be to decorate a Christmas tree with gloves, hats, scarves, or warm socks. These will be donated to the Cedar House, who will then distribute them to needy Abilene families. A Christmas tree will be set up in the Narthex through Wednesday, December 18th. We invite all members of the congregation to help us decorate this tree.

If you have any questions, please call Debbie Jenne at 785-280-0985.

LYF (Lutheran Youth Fellowship)

LYF will meet on Saturday, December 14th, 4:00pm, at the church and go caroling to some of our members. We will end our time at the Panzer's house, eating Shelli's pizza and joining in a time of fellowship and food. All youth 7th-12th grade are invited and encouraged to attend!



- 1 - **Darek Graves**
- 3 - **Mindy Sanders**
Logan Schaich
Brooklyn Stahl
- 4 - **Eddee Anderson**
Trent Stahl
- 5 - **Travis Luthi**
Mackenzie Riffel
Owen Tichenor
- 6 - **Andrew Capsey**
- 10 - **Holly Hageman**
- 11 - **Kristen Rahe**
- 13 - **Joshua Gustin**
- 14 - **John Augustine**
Kris Gilchrist



- 14 - **Nola Sanders**
- 17 - **Mitchell Feeney**
- 19 - **Kathy Gay**
Ellary Krause
- 20 - **Jodi Gay**
Krista Leusman
- 21 - **Caryss West**
- 23 - **Sabrina Holland**
Mark Signer
- 27 - **Cindy Manning**
- 28 - **Mason Rogge**
- 30 - **Jenna Hayes**
Shelli Panzer
- 31 - **Corbin Rogge**



December Anniversaries:

Kyle & Jessica Haslouer
12-15-2007

Rocky & Ginger Sanders
12-27-1975

R.W. & Donna Cook
12-29-1959

November Official Acts: ***Transfer Out - Vera Wegner (Peace Lutheran Church - Andover)***
Removed: Tim Garth (joined non-Lutheran church)

November Council Meeting Highlights: ++ The TIM missionary Faith has been supporting in Africa, Rev, Ryan McDermott, accepted a call stateside. Rev. Jacob Gaugert now has the mission in West Africa.
++ Beneficiary of the Jan. 26, 2020, Soup Supper/Raffle has been set to help offset extensive medical expenses for community member - Silynda Christensen.



**** LCMS Kansas District News ****

To keep up with the events of the District, please go their website at www.kslcms.org. It is easy to be added to the monthly newsletter mailing. Simply subscribe at the bottom of the website home page. If you are a Facebook user, the page to follow is, "Kansas District LCMS."



Faith to Go - a congregation of helpers



Need assistance with transportation? Volunteers are available to help you. Make the call!

Mary Frances Rippert: 785-342-0221 || Elizabeth Wischer: 785-342-4809 || Doris Johnson: 620-364-9288
Ellen Basso: 785-263-2174 || George Taplin: 785-263-0577 || Jim or Karen Schoenbeck: 785-263-7779

Faith Lutheran has a “prayer chain.” To begin a prayer request call Pastor (263-1842) or Debbie Jenne (280-0985). If you would like to be added as a caller to the prayer chain, please speak with Debbie.



Faith Lutheran is on “Facebook.”
Like us and follow us.



www.faithabilene.org

Faith Lutheran is on YouTube.
Search for “Faith, Abilene.”



FAITHful SERVANTS for the month of December **2019**



Elder: B. Hageman

Organists: K. Gilchrist (12/1; 12/4; 12/18; 12/22; 12/24; 12/29)

Altar Guild: S. Panzer & C. Krause

B. Schwab (12/8; 12/11; 12/15; 12/25)

Sunday Mornings - Ushers

Dec 1st: J. Rogge & L. Riffel
Dec 8th: G. Stuart & T. Rahe
Dec 15th: A. Minson & R. Sanders
Dec 22nd: G. Stuart & T. Rahe
Dec 29th: J. Rippert & B. Zwiebel

Special Services - Ushers

Dec 4th (Wed) - R. Sanders
Dec 11th (Wed) - J. Rogge
Dec 18th (Wed) - J. Rippert
Dec 24th (Christmas Eve) - A. Minson & B. Minson
Dec 25th (Christmas Day) - G. Minson

Advent Services - Acolytes

4th: L. Corn & E. Gustin
11th: S. Medlock & G. Panzer
18th: C. West & E. Gustin

Sunday Morning Church Service	Acolytes	Lectors	Greeters	Bulletin Bureau
December 1	E. Gustin	1 st Reader: B. Zwiebel	M. Schultze	Corn Family
	L. Corn	2 nd Reader: C. West	E. Basso	
December 8	I. Rippert	1 st Reader: J. Rippert	Aufdemberge	P. Taplin
	S. Medlock	2 nd Reader: B. Hageman		
December 15	C. West		Horsfall	Helmke
	E. Gustin			
December 22	L. Corn	1 st Reader: H. Corn	Zwiebel	E. Basso
	G. Panzer	2 nd Reader: B. Depew		
December 29	Cael Biggs	1 st Reader: G. Minson	Youth	K. Minneman
	Caed Biggs	2 nd Reader: R. Sanders		

NOTE: A master assignment list reflecting any changes will be posted in the upstairs living room/classroom

Your Support is Appreciated!



Faith Lutheran Youth collect aluminum cans (please place behind the wooden fence) and ink cartridges/cell phones (please place in the church narthex). Monies raised go to help our youth group. Since September '03, the LYF group has collected 8390 lbs for \$3237.73 and mailed in ink cartridges/cell phones for a total of \$1038.46.



Dillons Community Rewards (DCR #KA839)

Faith Lutheran is signed up as an eligible non-profit to receive rewards every time you shop. If you have a Shopper's Plus Card, please enroll your number in Community Rewards. In your browser type in www.dillons.com/communityrewards and sign in using your new or existing online account. Click on "Enroll now." Enter "Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene" or our organization number **KA839** and click on "enroll." Monies received benefit our "Mercy Fund."

**19 households' use resulted in \$68.94 donated to FLC the 3rd Qtr 2019. A total of \$1,784.95 has been now been received!

**Please note that Faith Lutheran Church is not endorsing Dillons nor encouraging you to shop there. We are asking you to please take advantage of this reward offered.*



"Giving back for the benefit of our communities"

Faith Lutheran collects Auburn Pharmacy bottle caps for the "caps-to-cash" program. Please put the caps in the plastic bucket located in the church narthex. Each cap redeemed receives 25 cents that is placed into our church "Mercy Fund."



Faith Lutheran Women in Mission collect *Best Choice* and *Boxtops for Education* labels! The collection box is on the parament cabinet. It may seem like a small thing, but we were able to receive \$300 in the past year from sending in these labels. That money was then used to support our various mission projects.



Boxtop for Education labels are given to Immanuel Lutheran Preschool, Junction City, for their use.



If you are a member of Thrivent, please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene, KS. All

proceeds benefit both the "Youth Group" and the "Contingency Fund."

Online:

1. Visit Thrivent Choice – www.thrivent.com
2. Click on "log in" at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password. (If you haven't registered on Thrivent.com, click on "register now" to register for full access.)
3. Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.
4. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars" in the Thrivent Choice® box on your MyThrivent page.
5. Search the catalog of organizations to find Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene, KS.
6. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars Now" to direct your designated Choice Dollars to FLC – Abilene, KS.

By Phone:

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. When prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."
3. Say or enter your Social Security number.
4. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or press 2 to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.
5. A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars to FLC – Abilene, KS.



Consider using smile.amazon.com/ instead of just amazon.com. The sign-on is the same and so are all the products. Type: "**Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS**" as the charitable recipient of .05% of your purchases, and hit the search button. Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS will appear for you to select. Amazon will send a check quarterly of all of our Faith-Abilene designated purchases. You only need to designate once, and every time you use the smile.amazon.com portal to make a qualified purchase, you are donating to Faith.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>1st Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00am Worship w/Lord's Supper 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Studies/Christmas Program Practice 11:30am Jr. Confirmation	2 Titus 3	3 Philemon 1-25	4 6:30pm Advent Service Hebrews 1	5 Hebrews 2	6 Hebrews 3	7 8 am Men of Faith Breakfast 10:30 am LWML Christmas Brunch @ Faith Hebrews 4
8 <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00am Worship w/Lord's Supper 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Studies/Christmas Program Practice 5:30-7:30pm Live Nativity @ Heritage Center	9 5 pm Elders Hebrews 5	10 9am Circuit 9 @ Abilene Hebrews 6	11 6:30pm Advent Service Hebrews 7	12 8:30 am Breakfast @ Snuffy's Hebrews 8	13 Hebrews 9	14 2pm – 4 pm Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 4 pm LYF Caroling Hebrews 10:1-18
15 <i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00am Worship w/Children's Christmas Program 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Studies	16 Hebrews 10:19-39	17 Hebrews 11	18 6:30pm Advent Service Hebrews 12	19 Hebrews 13	20 James 1	21 ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE WINTER BEGINS JANUARY CALENDAR ITEMS DUE TOMORROW James 2
22 <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00am Worship w/Lord's Supper *No Christian Education*	23 James 3	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE James 4	25 The Nativity of Our Lord CHRISTMAS DAY 9am Worship James 5	26 ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR (ACTS 6:8-7:2A, 51-60) 1 Peter 1	27 ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST (1 JOHN 1:1-2:2) 1 Peter 2	28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS (MATTHEW 2:13-18) 1 Peter 3-4
29 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00am Worship *No Christian Education*	30 1 Peter 5	31 Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus New Year's Eve 2 Peter 1-2	Read the Bible in 2 years! By reading the verses Printed at the bottom of Monday-Saturday, you will accomplish reading the Bible in 2 years. <i>"Search the Scriptures, because they are these which testify about Me." John 5:39</i>			