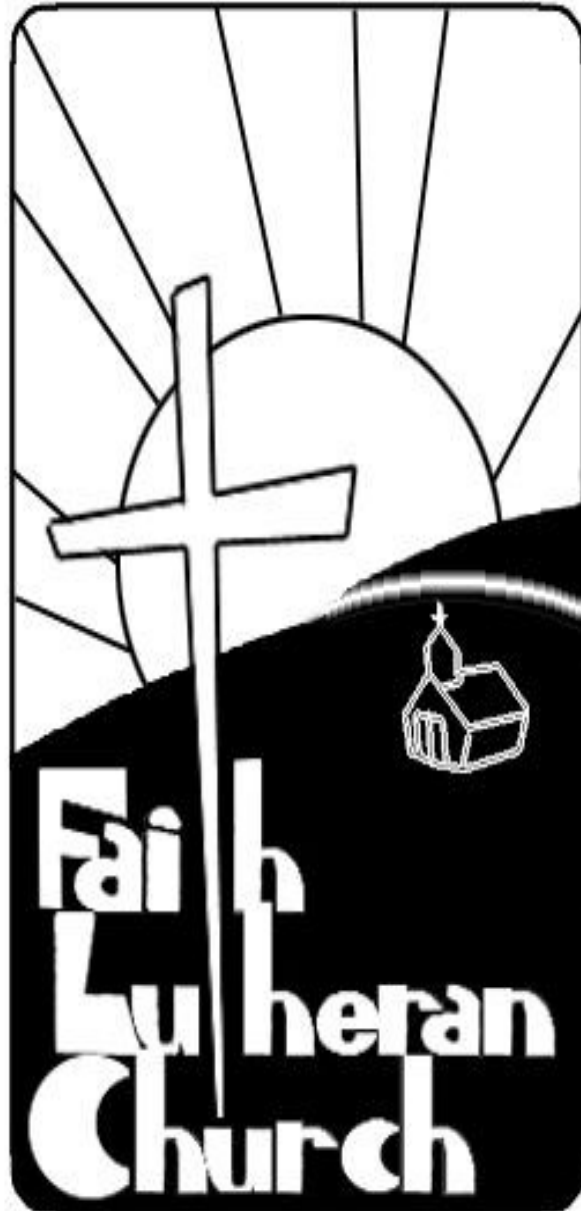


The Grapevine

January 2017

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Clippings from the Vinedresser



*Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God: let it be as deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask...
Isaiah 7:10-12*

This text, which we read on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, which goes on to prophesy the birth of Immanuel, God with us, pretty much sums up the book of Isaiah. It might just sum up the attitude that many of us have concerning the New Year.

King Ahaz was in a tight spot. He was pressured by two of the neighbouring kingdoms to join an ill-fated alliance against Assyria. A southern super power, Egypt was encouraging this alliance for it had plans of its own against Assyria. Ahaz ponders going to Assyria, one of the most notoriously brutal nations, for help. He was scared and rightfully so.

Enter Isaiah. He offering hope, God with us. Ask a sign of God if you don't believe that God will protect you. But Ahaz, pretending to be a faithful king, declines. Isaiah then points to a young pregnant woman and says, Since you don't have the faith to ask and trust God, here's the sign. Before that young woman's child reaches the age of two, those two nations you fear will be no longer.

Fear or Faith. That was Ahaz's dilemma. Do I fear the future

or do I put my trust in God and allow God to lead. Ahaz chose fear.

Fear is prevalent in our world today. There is considerable fear over the uncertain world condition, especially with the election of a president who specializes in fear and division. There is fear for the fragile state of our environment. Some fear the state of our economy. Still others fear for their jobs, children, health or even their life.

Astute politicians play on this fear. It is great for generating support, and ideal for whipping up suspicion and hatred of those who are different.

But we don't need to fear. Faith is our alternative. We can trust that God, whose Son's birth we celebrated just a few short days ago, really is with us. We can trust that despite all appearances to the contrary, God is still very much in control. We can have faith that God's Spirit will lead us to the people, places, situations that God wants us in. We can have faith that no matter what happens in, to, or around us, that God will make something good come of it; that we are safe in God's hands.

So let's start and live this New Year not in fear but in faith. And I can guarantee it will be an exciting ride.

"...let's start and live this New Year not in fear but in faith."



500 Years of Faith

As you are now well aware, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing his 95 Thesis onto the Castle Church door in Wittenberg. This dramatic event was the main catalyst for the start of the Reformation.

Lutherans around the world are celebrating this momentous event. But not only Lutherans. Our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters are also commemorating this anniversary, as are many of our friends in other Protestant Faiths.

As part of our commemoration and under the theme of "Liberated by God's Grace," we in the ELCIC are challenged to sponsor 500 refugees (at present the goal has been surpassed), plant 500,000 trees (we are currently at 51,000), provide 500 scholarships to schools sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (we are currently at 72), and contribute \$500,000 to the Lutheran World Relief Endowment fund (at present Lutherans have donated \$135,000). For more information about the challenge, visit

www.elcic.ca/reformationchallenge.

Faith Council is looking at ways we can contribute to this challenge.

In our local cluster of Lutheran churches, we will be celebrating by taking up the challenge collectively, plus worshipping together on several occasions.

We are going to kick off these celebrations on Sunday, January 22 at Christ the King Lutheran Church with a joint worship service. Congregations from Epiphany Scarborough, Peace Pickering, Christ the King Whitby, Christ Peterborough and Faith Oshawa, will gather at 10:30 a.m., to lift our voices in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Our guest preacher will be Bishop Michael Pryse.

There will be no worship in Augustana Hall that morning. Rides will be arranged for those who need them.

Join us as we kick off our celebration of 500 years of Faith.

"We are going to kick off these celebrations on Sunday, January 22..."





Sunday School

Sunday School will resume after a Christmas break on Sunday, January 8. There will be no Sunday School on January 22 at Faith, as we will be joining our

friends at Christ the King for worship. But there will be Sunday School at Christ the King to which we are invited.



Thank You (Reverse Advent Calendar)

Many thanks to all who participated in the Reverse Advent calendar this year. Our food and clothing cupboard was full of items to share with Gate 3:16.

Special thanks to Lisa Bachewich who organized this program and to Lisa and Will who boxed the items and delivered them to the Gate.



Women's Circle

All women are invited to our first gathering of 2017 on Thursday, January 5 at Club Loreley.

We meet at 5:30 p.m., for dinner and discussion.

Can we expect to see you there?

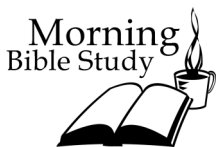
Bible Study

The morning Bible will begin on Tuesday, January 17 at 9:45 a.m., in the chapel. We will be embarking on an exciting journey through the books of 1&2 Samuel. These books are all about Israel's greatest king, David. They begin with the background story to David: the prophet/priest Samuel and Is-

rael's first king, Saul. But it is all about David.

This is important for us in New Testament times because Jesus is the direct descendant of David and occupies the throne of David in fulfillment of God's promise in 2 Samuel 7.

Why not come and join us?



Social Committee

Friday January 27th

Card Night!!

7 p.m. Cana Hall

Our 3rd Card Night featuring a Progressive Euchre Tournament.

Please add your name to the Signup Sheet on the Church bulletin board.

No partner needed – individuals are always welcome!!!!

\$2.00 Buy in for each participant.

This is an adult only evening, so get your babysitter ready, and come enjoy a fun event!

Please bring a sharable snack or dessert.



Choir

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready to come back to choir with renewed enthusiasm and rested voices. We are always ready to welcome new voices, so please come join us (Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the chapel) if you like to sing.

Our first practice will be January 11.

We will be singing, along some voices from other Lutheran churches in our conference, at the kick off service for the 500th

Anniversary of Reformation year. The service will be held on Sunday, Jan 22, at 10:30 a.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

We will have a practice on Thursday, Jan 12, with all the other churches to get a feel for the piece with everyone, or most everyone there. I will let you know the exact time once that has been decided. It will likely be between 6:0 and 6:30 that evening.

See you in January.



DIRECTORY

Faith Lutheran Ministries

We Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Church Office 905-725-2755
email of-
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fax 905-576-8676

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis Becker 905-725-2755
dbecker@elcic.ca

Ministers

People of Faith Lutheran Church

Faith Place Administration ..905-576-8619

Ray Latour, Administrator

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Gabriele Albrecht, Manager

Treasurer

Linda Fisher 905-723-0291

Faith Council

Faith Council Chair:

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Leslie Morrow 905-571-0845

Ed Albrecht 905-579-6803

Vickie Goddard..... 905-432-7444

Dayna Graham 905-240-5984

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Laurie Ikeda 705-357-3488

Wendy Ness 905-576-5724

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Finance Committee

Irvin Linkie 905-723-0684

Mutual Ministry Committee

Angela Hauke 905- 723-3717

Property Committee

Will Bachewich 905-433-1606

Program and Service Committee

Janice Plath 905-576-2257

Social Committee

Dayna Graham 289-240-5984

Stewardship Committee

Vickie Goddard..... 905-432-7444



January 2017



1 Worship, 10:30	2	3 Faith Council, 6:30	4	5 Women's Circle, 5:30	6	7 Coffee 1: Helen Linkie 8: Lori Wilson 15: Gabriele Albrecht 22: At Christ the King 29: Vivian Roth
8 Worship, 10:30 Sunday School, 10:30	9	10	11 Choir, 6:30 p.m.	12 Choir, 6:30 p.m. (?) Christ the King	13	14 Flowers 1: Live Plants 8: Vickie Goddard 15: Elke Rosenau 22: At Christ the King 29: Wendy Becker
15 Worship, 10:30	16	17 Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.	18 Choir, 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21 Counters: Kathy Habec Paul Wolfenberg
22 Worship, 10:30 at Christ the King	23	24	25 Choir, 6:30 p.m.	26 Pint with the Pastor, 7:00 p.m.	27 Card Night, 7:00 p.m.	28 Readers: 1: Bernie Roth 8: Carol Plath 15: Andrew Mounney 22: At Christ the King 29: Vickie Goddard
29 Pick Your Own Hymns Worship, 10:30	30	31 Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.	Ushers: 1: Bernie and Vivian Roth 8: Elmer Plath, Philip Plath 15: Andrew Mounney, Joel Mounney 22: At Christ the King 29: Rob and Vickie Goddard		Communion Set-Up: 1: Wendy Ness, Wendy Becker 15: Carol Plath, Laurie Ikeda Communion Servers: 1: Irv Linkie, Tammy Becker 15: Paul and Charlotte Wolfenberg	
NO WORSHIP AT FAITH PLACE						

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