

Walk With Faith

Faith Lutheran Church

Rev. Stephen Lane, Pastor

Church Phone: 352-527-3325

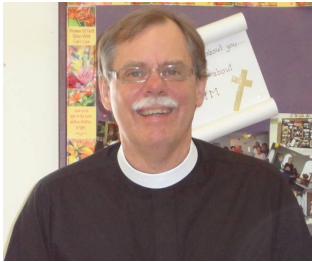
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December, 2011

Pastor Lane's Cell Phone: 586-4468



A Christmas Message From Pastor Lane,

December is a month of mixed emotions for many people. As soon as the page is turned on the calendar people start feeling pressure. Christmas is right around the corner. There are many preparations to be made. The house is decorated. Company may be coming or people begin planning their own visitations or both. Almost every thing about Christmas points to a festive occasion—there are parties, familiar and cheerful music is everywhere, decorations are far and wide. Paradoxically Christmas is also a time when depression runs high. People feel guilty or gloomy because their lives do not meet the artificial standard of “the perfect Christmas.” They may also remember loved ones who are not here to celebrate the Christmas season with them. People worry about bills in the month of December. Will they be able to pay for all the presents and celebrating that are traditional?

All of this points to the importance of Advent. Advent is the season before the season. It isn't recognized out there in the world. There is not much money to be made through an Advent message. Advent is a season of preparation. It helps us see the true joy in Christmas that comes with believing that God has sent to us a Savior. The following are some of the themes of Advent:



REPENTANCE

PRAYER

PATIENCE

JOY IN HOPE



The Sunday services in Advent and the midweek services are meant to help us in our Advent preparation. The midweek schedule will follow the theme:

THE POSTURES OF ADVENT

Midweek 1 – Nov. 30th – “On Your Toes”

Midweek 2 – Dec. 7th – “On Your Knees”

Midweek 3 – Dec. 14th – “With Eyes Wide Open”

God's blessing to all of you this month.
“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)

Advent Services at 5PM followed by potluck at 5:45PM Nov. 30, Dec.7 & 14.

Regular time schedule for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Services with Holy Communion in all services.

A Heart from God...A Heart for Others."

From the desk of the Christian Education Chairperson: As my term comes to an end, I would like to extend a very big "Thank You" to everyone who has helped out with VBS and Sunday School classes for the past two years. It has been a rewarding experience for me, working on this committee. Right now we do have a youth Sunday School program in place for children on three different levels, K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th- 8th. There are three volunteers ready to teach the children as they attend. The program is called "Growing In Christ." If you would also like to help out you can contact Judy Hill.



Thanks to all the people that signed up for a child on our "Angel Tree." Please return your gift to either the Fellowship Hall or the Office before Sunday, December 4th as Thrivent wants our paperwork at this time. Please include your receipts and the child's list in your package. We will make some of Citrus Counties children very happy. Questions? Call Marlene Griffin 795-4759



December, A most wonderful time of the year. Crafters and others have accomplished some exciting projects for the Bazaar. The talents of many helped with decorations for LWML Rally, favors for the upcoming Christmas Party. It is time to prepare for the holidays of Christmas and New Year. No scheduled meeting until after the New Year.



A large thank you to all who contributed to the Silent Auction Basket Sale. A great success we had 16 baskets and many thanks from those who won. Our customers look forward to our Bazaar every year. Merry Christmas to everyone from the Crafters.

Gerry Peterson

If you haven't had your picture taken for Faith's new Photo Directory there are a few openings in December. We would like to be able to put a picture with a name when we meet and greet you on Saturdays and Sundays. Call Sylvia Moeller for reservation at 527-7461.

In line with the above, we would ask you, if you would, to wear your **Name Tag** at the **Saturday & Sunday services**. With the Directory and using your Name Tag we can really put the face and the name together. It is Faith's aim to make everyone feel welcome. Please join us in worship & fellowship. Thanks

READERS FOR DECEMBER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Dec. 3 Tom Gottschalk	Dec. 4 Gloria Marquis
Dec. 10 Ellen Belfry	Dec. 11 Paul Mantey
Dec. 17 Joyce Engelbrecht	Dec. 18 Pete Forte
Dec. 24 Shirley Janisko	Dec. 25 Linda Fick
Dec. 31 Bob Janisko	



Bible Studies at Faith



Tuesday Bible study:

We had a great turnout for our sessions on Heaven/Hell/Paradise and some good discussion. Now we've begun Ezra and Nehemiah along with full background of the setting. We welcome all who have joined us for these great books of the Bible. Take note: we will NOT meet on December 13th since the Ladies of Faith will be having their luncheon that day. We plan to meet on all other December Tuesdays. God be with all of you as we approach the celebration of Christ's coming to dwell among us. Gloria

and at Homes!!

The Heralds of Faith will meet

for dinner on Friday, Dec. 2 and then attend the Citrus Community Choir (CCC) concert at Faith. (time and place of dinner to be decided, please contact Bill or Linda Fick)

Faith in the Woods Bible Class will have a Christmas Dinner at the home of Kurt and Joanne Johnson on Tuesday December 12th at 3:00 PM.



The Crystal River Bible Class will not be held in December. Please join us in January.



November 30th is the first of the Advent Services at 5:00 PM followed by the Covered Dish Supper and then Choir Rehearsals. These Advent Services continue on December 7th and 14th with the same schedule. We need men and ladies to volunteer for cleanup.

December 11th Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary following the 9:30AM Service with a short break time in the Narthex before the meeting.

The Ladies Breakfast is back to original day and time. December 19th at 8:30AM. Ladies come out and join Wanda and other ladies for a time of prayer, friendship and good food.



DECEMBER SCHEDULE		
DATE	HC	ELDER/TECH
12/03		Tom Gottschalk./Henry Striegl
12/04	HC	Gerry Gneckow & Paul Mantey/Bob Janisko
12/07		Bud Riedel
12/10	HC	Ed Stern/Tom Gottschalk
12/11		Paul Mantey/Bill Kavouras
12/14		Gus Krayner/Gerry Gneckow
12/17		Ed Stern/Bob Janisko
12/18	HC	Bill Fick & Bud Riedel/Henry Striegl
12/24	HC	Tom Gottschalk & Bob Janisko/Bill Kavouras
12/25	HC	Gerry Gneckow & Bill Fick/Bud Riedel
12/31	HC	Bob Janisko & Ed Stern/Tom Gottschalk

Message From

The President's Corner:



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

These words will be repeated many times in the next month. Hopefully, when these words are used, people will think of the Birth of our Savior so many years ago and not only of the festivities and worldly gifts of the Season. This time of the year is truly festive, not only in the everyday world, but also in the Church's Calendar. Starting with Advent and leading to Christmas and the Blessed Birth of Jesus, we can truly celebrate. The coming of our Lord is the greatest gift that we ever could have received.

Now in keeping with the true meaning of Christmas, let me say—

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



DECEMBER 9:30 SERVICE USHERS



Willie & Karen LaCroix

Bill Kavouras

Henry Striegl

Pete Forte

A Blessed Christmas to all our friends at Faith and their families. This is a special time of the year to remember who we are and thank God for all He has given us as Christians. A very Happy New Year to all of you.

CONGREGATION MEETING

DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2011

LOCATION: CHURCH SANCTUARY

TIME: FOLLOWING THE 9:30 SERVICE

ISSUES

2012 BUDGET

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2012

Open Council Positions:

President

Financial Secretary

Board of Education Chair Person

Board of Outreach Chair Person

Assistant Treasurer

Trustees

UPDATE OF CONGREGATION RETREAT MEETING

BOARD OF ELDER'S MEMBER REVIEW

NOTES FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Outreach Committee has almost completed our new hand out for visitors. We also have new Business Cards. We are looking forward to a new year and more outreach items such as sponsoring a soccer team. Schedule for these events will be given out so you may join the cheer the children on. Looking at new ways to reach out to the community. Our thanks to all that participated in making these things happen. None of this could happen without their support. You are much appreciated.

Thank you.. Carol Steans

Happy Anniversary



- 12/1 Jim & Carolyn Arias
- 12/4 Bill & Judy Grosze
- 12/8 Kevin & Ellen Belfry
- 12/12 Richard & Bonnie Pruefer
- 12/21 Wayne & Juanita JaBaay
- 12/27 Larry & Hilda Weaver
- 12/31 Steve & Norlene Trice

Christmas Poinsettias may be \$10.00 as previous year, . .but...please remember that we order only 15, so be there and ready to sign up for your adornment to our altar this Christmas. See Joyce Engelbrecht for more information.



ALTAR GUILD

DEC - Jane VanOrden & Joan Feasley



Suggestion Box

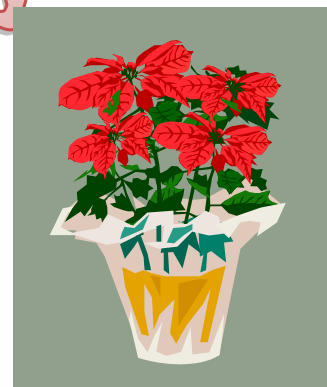
Your Suggestions!!

Please take notice, there is a new Suggestion Box located on the wall between the Main Exit Doors. This now gives you the opportunity to suggest Ideas to further enhance the atmosphere, here at Faith. Please be positive with your comments.

Happy Birthday

- 12/1 Anna Marie Studicka
- 12/2 Norm Schmidt
- 12/5 Ann Nelson
- 12/6 Carol Steans
- 12/7 Dennis Jones
- 12/10 Al Merck
- 12/14 Phyllis Jodis
- 12/14 Henry Striegl
- 12/18 Clara Maurer

- 12/21 Marcia Jacobek
- 12/22 Sandy Adabody
- 12/22 Don Schultz
- 12/23 Judy Fischer
- 12/28 Dutch Jongkindt
- 12/29 Carol Clayton
- 12/31 Audrey Strutt



LADIES OF FAITH—NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

The FIFTEENTH ANNUAL FAITH LOF BAZAAR is FINI! An approximate total of funds in the amount of \$2,500, plus \$200. from Thrivent Financial For Lutherans and whatever is sold over the next two weeks to our parishioners or guests will provide the monies for our two seminarians...DAN HAUGEN and PHILLIP STOHLMAN, our several different charities, and any needs that arise.

Because of local, state, and national economics, we did not anticipate such blessings...**BUT THE LORD ENDURED AND PROVIDED.** Endured and provided was also matched by the ladies...4 days of doing, going, coming, sales planning and presentations was an effort of will, an effort of striving, and a conclusion of success. THANKS AND GOD BLESS! Also, our local advertising in the Chronicle, by our LOF ADVERTISER contact, Dee Kavouras, was a good vehicle for this project.

Looking forward...1) **RED SOCK MONEY**, preferably due by Dec. 1 for poor local kids. After listening to our Nov speaker, Deborah Rossfeld, Exec. Dir. of CUB, who advised the LOF that kids would like bikes, used or otherwise, **Our RED SOCK GAL**, MARLENE NORDQUIST, NEEDS TO START SHOPPING. ..What A MERRY CHRISTMAS DREAM...I even remember my desire for those wheels. WHEE! If you don't have a **RED SOCK** IT won't matter. Just make your contribution to MARLENE NORDQUIST...THANKS.



2) CHRISTMAS LUNCH MONEY DUE SOON ALSO. Citrus Hills Golf Club, Tues Dec 13, Cocktails NOON, Lunch 1:00PM...Make your choice, Chicken, Beef or Fish \$13.50. Advise Dee Kavouras or Gerry Peterson---527-9390 Dee, Gerry 503-2125. The GARDEN ROOM IS lovely and the service is really good. **A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AT FAITH, A N D**, of course,

A MOST BLESSED AND SPIRIT-FILLED DAY!

ELLEN DAVEY

For the LOF

PS: A Postscript that should have been at the **"FIRST AND FOREMOST."**

Without the cooperation of the TRUSTEE GROUP....PLUS the gentlemen volunteers that rearranged the interior of the LOF activity, put up the Christmas Tree and were generally polite and helpful ----THE LOF THANKS YOU ALL MIGHTILY !!!!!!!

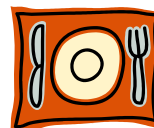


SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE LOF AND FAITH CHURCH CONGREGATION

Please remember during your shopping: JANUARY 2012 is **OUR HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE CHURCH.**

For your information, the requirements at this time are for **PAPER PRODUCTS ONLY**, (hand towel, paper plates, T-paper, napkins, etc, **AND**, plastic flatware.)

Please consider a Birthday Gift to FAITH.
Our most sincere ...THANK YOU ALL !
Ladies of Faith



Dear Family & Friends,

Half time in the Dallas Cowboy's game and I thought it was about time that I brought you up to date on our lives since mid-October. I know I have been promising many of you an "update" but today really is the first time that we have taken a breather... although Pat is dusting furniture as I write. I had forgotten just how dusty the DFW area can be especially with all the highway construction north of the airport. Keller, Texas is part of the Dallas-Fort Worth metro-plex and lies just inside the Tarrant County line (Fort Worth). When you travel north and west from the DFW airport, you pass through portions of Grapevine and Southlake before arriving in Keller. You wouldn't know you were in Keller unless you happened to notice the city limit sign or the change in the city name located on most street signs. It seems like all the cities just run together... although each has their individual characteristics and local hot spots. Shortly after we arrived we transferred our church membership from Faith Lutheran to Messiah Lutheran. Messiah worships about 350 and has 130+ in Sunday school. The church supports both a preschool and a K-8 elementary/middle school. But I get ahead of myself...

Our daughter Kim flew in from Dallas Saturday October 8th. The moving company packers (4) arrived Monday October 10th and were able to pack most of the house before leaving that night. Tuesday, October 11th, our son Jon flew in from Grand Blanc, Michigan, and we closed on the Florida home. That evening, Kim and Jon spent the night with Chris, Michelle, Cody and Connor and we slept for the last time in our Florida beds. The moving company loaders arrived Wednesday October 12th and the truck pulled out around 6:30 that evening. We collapsed at the home of our dear friends Jim and Jane where we drank a bottle (or two) of wine, had hot showers, and a welcome night's sleep. Thursday October 13th Chris and Michelle drove us to the Tampa airport, ate lunch with us and we caught the 4 p.m. flight to Dallas. Meanwhile, after the truck was loaded, Kim and Jon began the 17 hour straight through drive in Pat's car with Jake (dog) to Keller, Texas (we had sold the van before leaving Florida). They arrived at Kim's house around noon--about 5 hours before we arrived on our flight from Tampa.

At last, I got my **first** view of the house Pat, Kim and family had picked out to be our new home. Kim and Robert, bless their hearts, had done a marvelous job of prepping the house before we arrived: Carpets cleaned, new dining room chandelier hung, numerous burned out light bulbs replaced, locks changed, cleaning supplies/toilet paper/paper towels stocked in pantry, arranged to have some kitchen & bath wall paper borders removed & walls painted to match, painted the dining room, and called in a pest control company to spray while the house was empty. So, what I saw was not quite the same house they bought but what I saw was: Home Sweet Home!

The moving van did not arrive until the following Thursday, October 20th. So earlier in the week, Kim drove us around the area with stops at our Bank, Lowes, It's a Grind coffee shop, Kroger's super grocery and a Shell gas station—all less than 5 minutes from the house. Just around the corner from our house are a vet and groomer for Jake. Talk about convenience! The moving truck arrived around 9 a.m. and it was unloaded by 1 p.m. Because Pat and I have moved so often (this is our 14th move), we know to have only the bare minimum of the 140+ boxes brought into the house on day "1". Instead, we have the movers place the furniture more or less in their "final" resting spots, and WE bring in boxes from the garage as we have floor space and need of them in the house. I wish I had taken a picture of the garage after the moving truck puked its contents and pulled away... what a jumbled mess. We had assumed the un-loaders would stack the boxes with the content labels facing outward so we could read them. Wrong! So bad back and all we moved, turned and re-

stacked boxes so we could read all the content labels. Our next surprise... the content labels rarely matched the contents actually inside (Since the moving company packed us, we assumed their people had done this a time or two). In fairness, 3 of the 4 packers had done a credible job of packing but a generally crummy job of labeling. One packer failed on both counts. Unfortunately, he packed the garage and the kitchen. So we had yard chemicals just thrown into a box (most spilled or leaked), nails and tools in boxes with pots, pans, and kitchen items. Some boxes were labeled garage but were mostly kitchen and vice-versa.

Little by little over the past three weeks we have transformed our house into a home. Last week the Closet Factory installed a new office complete with cabinets, lateral files and a work station. That allowed us to get our computer back online and organize all our files and other office materials. Pat unpacked the kitchen and I have worked at bringing order to the garage. We have hung a few pictures and are sorting down the remaining wall hangings into "keep, donate or pitch" piles. I have contracted with a landscaper to perform a major renovation of the front and back yards (think VERY small yards) in a way that will eliminate future yard maintenance. His job will be to remove & replace some overgrown trees, install a French Drain System, replace some fencing, install an engineered wood (Trex) deck, remove all the grass from the back yard (except for a small patch for Jake) and replace it with shrubs and perennial flower beds. Over time we have been updating all our online accounts with new phone numbers and address. Last week we got our Texas Driver's licenses and plates for the car. I'm not sure to whom I have sent what, so just in case you don't have our new info:

631 Wyndham Circle
Keller, TX 76248

Home: (817) 369-4155 Mike Cell: (817) 600-0312 Pat Cell: (817) 600-9749

Mike email: mkeller631@gmail.com Pat email: pkeller631@gmail.com

So that, my dear family and friends, is what we have been up to for the past month! Time to get back to the Dallas football game, have a glass of wine and some popcorn. Know that Pat and I think of you all with fond memories and prayers for the future.

Mike

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Both Mike and Pat from all their friends at Faith.

Board of Elders

We reviewed and discussed recommendations for potential usher groups. The list of members to be removed from membership, along with the reason, was presented. This information will be given to members at the Congregational meeting in December. Elder assignments were made for all new members.

Picture of the Board were taken for our new directory. Also took individual pictures of the Elders. A bulletin board will be made for display in the Narthex with Elder assignments under each picture. The church office will update the membership list so that all deletions and additions will be reflected on the new bulletin board.

Bud Riedel, Head Elder



Men's Club Breakfast

The second Monday, December 12th at 9AM is the time for the regular men's breakfast. Don't forget to mark your calendar. We serve a great breakfast and there is a wonderful time of fellowship between us with a short message from Pastor Lane. Please save this time to spend with us at Faith.

Bill Grosze





A Blessed Christmas, 2011

Faith Lutheran Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 27 9:30AM Service 11AM S. School & Bible Class	28 8:30AM Ladies Breakfast 1PM Crafters	29 1PM Bible Study	30 5PM FIRST Advent Service 5:45PM Pot Luck 6:30PM Choir Practice	18:30/9AM Regular Work Day WE NEED YOU	2 9AM Stitch & Tie Herald's of Faith Dinner & Concert 7:30PM @ Faith	3 4PM Bell Practice 6PM Service
4 9:30AM Communion Service 11AM S. School & Bible Study 	5 No Crafts until 2012	6 1PM Bible Study 	7 5PM SE-COND Advent Service 5:45PM Pot Luck 6:30PM Choir Practice	8 8:30/9AM Regular Work Day WE NEED YOU 	9 9AM Stitch & Tie	10 4PM Bell Practice 6PM Communion Service
11 9:30AM Service Congregational Meeting after Service 2:30PM Life	12 9AM Men's Breakfast 3PM Faith in the Woods Christmas Dinner @	13 Noon Ladies of Faith Christmas Luncheon Citrus Hills Garden Club NO Bible	14 5PM LAST Advent Service 5:45PM Pot Luck 6:30PM Choir Practice	15 8:30/9AM Regular Work Day WE NEED YOU	16 9AM Stitch & Tie	17 4PM Bell Practice 6PM Service 
18 9:30AM Communion Service 11AM S. School & Bible Study 	19 8:30AM Ladies Breakfast <u>January NL articles are due today.</u>	20 1PM Bible Study	21 6PM Choir Practice	22 8:30/9AM Regular Work Day WE NEED YOU	23	24 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle-light Communion Service 
25 9:30AM Christmas Day Communion Service JAN 1, 9:30AM Communion Service	26 	27	28 6PM Choir Practice	29 8:30/9AM Regular Work Day WE NEED YOU	30	31 6:00PM New Years Eve Communion Service