

THIS WEEK AT LIVING FAITH

SUNDAY, December 26 *First Sunday of Christmas*

9:30 am - Worship, Sanctuary

10:45 am - Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

4:30 pm - ELCA Cluster Community Meal

MONDAY, December 27

Church Office Closed

9:00-11:00 am - Quilters, Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm - Overeaters Anonymous Meeting, Parlor

TUESDAY, December 28

1:00-3:00 pm - FaithWorks Food Pantry ("Drive-Up Pantry")

WEDNESDAY, December 29

7:30-8:30 am - Kiwanis, Fellowship Hall

7:30 pm - Belle City Brassworks, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, December 30

5:00 pm - Overeaters Anonymous Meeting, Parlor

5:00-7:00 pm - FaithWorks Food Pantry ("Drive-Up Pantry")

FRIDAY, December 31

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, January 1

Happy New Year!

SUNDAY, January 2 *Second Sunday of Christmas*

9:30 am - Worship & Godly Play/JAM, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

10:45 am - Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

4:30 pm - ELCA Cluster Community Meal

Living Faith Staff E-mail Addresses



Pastor Justin Kierzek prjustin@livingfaithracine.org

Candy Hernandez candy@livingfaithracine.org

Diane Thygeson diane@livingfaithracine.org

OFFICE HOURS Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9am-2:30pm
Wednesday, Friday: 7:00am-1:00pm
Located at: 2915 Wright Avenue, Racine

Weekly Journey deadline: Tuesdays at Noon

February Journey deadline: January 20

Articles and photos may be sent to: diane@livingfaithracine.org

The Weekly **JOURNEY**

December 26, 2021

First Sunday of Christmas

A Christmas Message from Bishop Erickson

"We are called to ponder myst'ry and await the coming Christ, to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life. God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth, while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth." (Unexpected and Mysterious, ELW #258)

If you're anything like me and my wife, you may have spent some time in recent months binge-watching a few TV shows or movies on Netflix or another streaming platform. One pattern that seems to be repeated in a variety of these stories is the ebb and flow between times of peace and joy and times of conflict and tension. It often gets to the point where whenever the main character(s) seem to have their problems resolved and they finally get to enjoy life, I think to myself, "this can't last; something bad is coming." And, sure enough, they make a bad decision, the enemy whom they had thought they had vanquished resurfaces, or a twist of luck or fate throws them right back into chaos and fear.

Sound familiar? Our real-life plot twists have followed this pattern, causing us to pivot between hope and despair. COVID numbers rise and fall, causing us to resume practices we thought we had left behind; the headlines related to political tensions, violence around the world and in our streets, and the suffering and damage caused by violent weather patterns are mixed with stories of resilience, generosity, and love. I am also aware that there are countless private struggles that don't make the headlines, stories filled with pain and brokenness and courage and hope.

We may long for the "happily-ever-after" endings that Hollywood promises, and as people of faith, we may even want to believe that this is what God promises us in Jesus. And yet, the twists and turns continue, and the peace and tranquility we seek seems all too fleeting. I do not believe that God is holding out on us, waiting

to fulfill our dreams until we get our act together. As the hymn reminds us, "God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth." This is the Good News of this season: Immanuel, God is with us. Not to fix things for us, but to be with us, right here, right now, in the midst of all the ebbs and flows of life.

Regardless of what might be happening around us, or to us, or in us, God invites us to turn toward the light of the coming Christ child, together, trusting that hope will guide us, and love will hold us.

In Christ, Bishop Paul Erickson



Name Tags are Back in Style!

Please wear your name tags to help Pastor Justin and his family get to know who we are. If you still need to make a name tag, there are supplies at both entrances. Like "Cheers," it's great to be in a place "Where everybody knows your name!"

The FaithWorks Food Pantry Needs YOU!

We are looking for volunteers to stock shelves, assemble boxes, bag produce, carry boxes to cars and drive. Give Margaret (262-939-7086) or June (262-672-1526) a call with questions.



Join the Tech Team!



We're looking for Tech Team members to learn our Live Streaming system! To join, please give Chuck Frahm a call at 262-886-5810.

Readings for the Week of December 26

Sun. 12/26	Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31	John 21:20-25	Psalm 116:12-19
Mon. 12/27	Proverbs 8:32-36	John 21:19b-24	Psalm 148
Tues. 12/28	Isaiah 54:1-13	Revelation 21:1-7	Psalm 148
Wed. 12/29	1 Chronicles 28:1-10	1 Corinthians 3:10-17	Psalm 147:12-20
Thu. 12/30	2 Chronicles 1:7-13	Mark 13:32-37	Psalm 147:12-20
Fri. 12/31	1 Kings 3:5-14	John 8:12-19	Psalm 147:12-20
Sat. 1/1	Numbers 6:22-27	Luke 2:15-21	Psalm 8

Living Faith Offering/Giving Analysis

	Actual	Budget	Shortfall
Dec. 19, 2021	3,808.00	6,820.00	(3,012.00)

Offering Envelopes

Just a heads up that our 2022 offering envelopes (like seemingly everything else) are on back order. We've been told they should be delivered in another 4-6 weeks. We will keep you posted!

182	January 2, 2022	182
Living Faith Lutheran Church		
Regular Giving \$ _____		
Building/Maintenance/Debt Reduction \$ _____		
Name _____		

Let's Get Moving!



Dates: 2022 Winter Break - January
 Session 1: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2
 Session 2: March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6
Time: 11:00am - 12 Noon
Location: Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$10.00 for each 5 week session

Worship/Activity Bags

If your little ones need a little something to do during the service, please feel free to grab a Worship/Activity Bag located in the Narthex, under the Welcome Table.

Please return at the end of the service.



Altar Flowers



Honor a special occasion or place flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one. Living Faith is working with Flowers by Eileen, who will provide an arrangement for as little as \$25.00. Call the church office or fill out the long yellow sheet to sign up.

Did You Get Your Scrip Today?



Did you know that if another 10 people buy just ONE \$25 gas card each month, the monthly Scrip donation coming to Living Faith would increase by \$120? That's another \$1,440 a year to support our ministries! Did **you** get **your** SCRIP today? See Dick or Karin Langlois before or after worship to get your Scrip!