

Faith United Methodist Church
204 Horn Street
Brillion, WI 54110-1508

Return Service Requested

December



Dated Material – Please Expedite!



Rev. Dr. Wesley Jacob, Pastor

Faith United Methodist Church

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Church Office Hours:

Monday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Thursday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Friday - Closed





THE ETERNAL SON AND THE EARTHLY CHILD

“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Dear Faith Church Family,

As we enter this Advent season, my heart overflows with gratitude for what God is doing in our church. Advent is a time of anticipation, reflection, and joy as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God’s love revealed in the incarnation of His Son. It is my prayer that we approach this season not merely as an annual tradition, but as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the profound truths of the gospel and to rekindle our devotion to the One who came to save us.

The Son Eternal and the Child Born

Isaiah 9:6 proclaims, *“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.”* Let us pause to reflect on the precision and beauty of this prophetic declaration. Notice the distinction: the *child is born*, but the *Son is given*. The Son, as the eternal Word of God (John 1:1), did not come into existence at His birth; He has always existed. Augustine of Hippo reminds us, *“The Son of God became the Son of Man so that the sons of men might become sons of God.”*¹ The child born in Bethlehem entered into our time and space, yet the Son, who eternally dwells with the Father, was given to us as the ultimate gift of love.

The incarnation is a profound mystery. The eternal Son stepped into time, taking on flesh, to reconcile humanity to God. As Paul writes, *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law”* (Galatians 4:4–5). This is the heart of Christmas: eternity breaking into time to bring salvation.

The Journey of Emptiness

Christmas is about more than a baby in a manger- it is about divine self-emptying for our sake. The apostle Paul describes this in Philippians 2:6–8: *“Though He was in the form of God, [He] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”*

GK Chesterton captured this paradox beautifully: *“The hands that had made the stars and the galaxies were too small to reach the heads of the cattle.”*² In becoming flesh, Jesus humbled Himself, leaving the glory of heaven for the manger, the manger for the cross, the cross for the tomb, and ultimately, the tomb for the throne. Each step of His journey left behind blessings for us- His people.

This Advent, let us remember that Jesus came into the world with the cross in view. He was *born to die* so that we might live. John Stott profoundly stated, *“The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man.”*³ Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb of God, entered our broken world to bear the punishment for our sins on the cross.

The Empty Christmas

Christmas, in its truest sense, is about emptiness. Consider these images:

- An Empty Throne, as the Son of God left heaven to dwell among us.
- An Empty Manger, as the child grew and began His mission.
- An Empty Cross, because He paid the price for our sins.
- An Empty Tomb, proclaiming His victory over death.



Because of these empty spaces, our hearts can be filled with the fullness of His grace (John 1:16). As Malcolm Muggeridge once reflected, *“The coming of Jesus into the world is the most stupendous event in human history.”*⁴ Indeed, His journey from the throne to the tomb and back again is the foundation of our faith and the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan.

Hope Fulfilled in Christ

Advent reminds us that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, guiding us in wisdom; our Mighty God, sustaining us in power; our Everlasting Father, comforting us with His love; and our Prince of Peace, reconciling us to God. The peace He brings is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of restored relationship with God. Origen aptly observed, *“He became what we are, so that He might make us what He is.”*⁵

The gospel is good news not just for a season but for eternity. Jesus’s birth, death, and resurrection assure us that we can live forgiven and, through His resurrection, live forever (Romans 6:4). This is why an “empty” Christmas is so profoundly fulfilling.



A Call to Worship

As we light the candles of Advent, let us reflect on the light of Christ, which shines into the darkness of our world (John 1:5). Let us prepare our hearts to receive Him anew, worshiping Him not only as the baby in the manger but as the risen and reigning King. Justin Martyr declared, *“He was made man, that we might be made divine.”*⁶ May this truth inspire us to live in the light of His love and share His message of hope with others.

A Blessing for the Advent Season

Faith Church, as we await the celebration of Christ’s birth and His promised return, may we be filled with His peace and joy. Let us marvel at the mystery of the incarnation and rejoice in the gift of salvation.

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

With love in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Wesley Jacob



Endnotes

1. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991), 7.
2. G.K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1925), 114.
3. John Stott, *The Cross of Christ* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006), 61.
4. Malcolm Muggeridge, *Jesus Rediscovered* (New York: Doubleday, 1969), 45.
5. Origen, *On First Principles*, trans. G.W. Butterworth (Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1973), 73.
6. Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*, trans. Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson, in *Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 1*, ed. Philip Schaff (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1950), 88.



Birthdays



Willow Bastian	12/1	Bob Loofboro	12/7	Nolan Calaway	12/22
Kathy Calonder	12/1	Quenten Schwartz	12/8	Isaac Sinkula	12/22
Darien Riemer	12/1	Madylin Gulley	12/9	Chloe Edinger	12/25
Blake Hermans	12/2	Rachael Cunningham	12/10	Carol Volkmar	12/25
Darron Lattomus	12/3	Mark VanHandel	12/11	Brent Levash	12/26
Christopher Gallagher	12/4	Dylan Welch	12/12	Debbie Theobald	12/28
Emily Horn	12/4	Serena Vasko	12/17	Vivian Hermans	12/29
Lily Horn	12/5	Brianna Lemke	12/20	Hailey Kalies	12/29
Diane (Speedy) Ott	12/5	Elwood Fischer	12/21	Sharon Fischer	12/31
Masyn Kamke	12/7			Carol Matzke	12/31



Anniversaries

Bob & Bev Loofboro	12/23
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Those Who Serve Us

1st Sunday of Advent

Communion Service, Dec. 1

Opening Church - Alex & Megan Ourada
 Communion Steward - Judy Ott
 Greeters - Dianne Behnke
 Acolytes - Logan Woolgar & Parent
 Song Leader - Kathy Brockmann & Alissa Popp
 Children's Message - Darron Lattomus
 Counters - Team 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 8

Opening Church - Steve & Dawn Michael
 Greeters - Clarence Harms
 Acolytes - Sharon Kresl & Lynn Gauger
 Counters - Team 5

3rd Sunday of Advent, Adult Choir,

Food Pantry Sunday, Dec. 15

Opening Church - Alissa Popp
 Greeters - Dennis & Sue Rusch
 Acolytes - Cindy VanHandel
 Liturgist - Kathy Brockmann
 Song Leader - Kathy Brockmann & Alissa Popp
 Children's Message - Kathy Brockmann
 Counters - Team 6

4th Sunday of Advent

Worship Service, Dec. 22

Opening Church - Lynn Gauger
 Greeters - Lynn Gauger
 Acolytes - Reagan & Rylee Woodard
 Liturgist - Mitchell VanHandel
 Song Leader - Amy Riemer-Hermans
 Children's Message - Darron Lattomus
 Counters - Team 1

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24

Greeters - Bob & Judy Stebane

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24

Greeters - VanHandel Family

Casual Sunday, Dec. 29

Opening Church - Dennis & Jean Kiekhaefer
 Greeters - Ken & Kay Behnke
 Acolytes - Jack & Vivian Hermans
 Children's Message -
 Counters - Team 2



Christmas Poinsettias



Craig Behnke	In Honor of the Rukamp Family
Florence Behnke	In Memory of James Behnke and In Honor of My Family
Jerry & Joyce Behnke	In Honor of Olivia and Teagan Rukamp
Terri Belanger	In Memory of Warren and Sandy Belanger
Jill Blauert	In Memory of Dad and Mom Keuer
Dan & Barb Boettcher	In Honor of Olivia and Teagan Rukamp
Kathy Brockmann	In Memory of Werner & Ruth Brockmann and In Memory of Sister-Peggy and Brother-Bruce
Paul & Kathy Calonder	In Memory of Zach Calonder and in Honor of Our Children and Grandchildren
Keith & Joie Cunningham	In Memory of Our Grandparents and In Honor of Our Parents
Lynn Gauger	In Memory of dad, Thomas Krieglstein and In Honor of Jesus
John & Jennifer Gulley	In Honor of Ken & Kay Behnke and In Honor of Delaney & Madylin
Earl & Joan Herring	In Honor of Our Family
Dennis & Jean Kiekhaefer	In Memory of Lester A. & Elaine Krueger, Dawn Marsicek, Walter & Verona Kiekhaefer, and Dick Kiekhaefer
Owen, Hannah, Addison, and Grayson Kiekhaefer	In Honor of Dennis & Jean Kiekhaefer
Don & Debbie Kocourek	In Memory All Our Loved Ones in Heaven and In Honor of Children & Grandchildren
J'ette Kraus	In Memory of Randy, Parents, Grandparents, and Dawn & Jerry
Jim & Sharon Kresl	In Memory of Our Parents and Darcie Budd
The Lattomus Family	In Memory of Betty Stebane
Jerry & Tracey Levash	In Memory of Our Fathers and In Honor of our Family and Our Mothers
Roger & Carol Matzke	In Honor of Our Families
Steve & Dawn Michael	In Memory of Don & Ginny Michael
Bev Riemer	In Memory of Terry Riemer and In Honor of Grandkids
Justin & Brittany Rukamp	In Honor of Our Daughters, Olivia and Teagan Rukamp and In Honor of All the Children in NICU and PICU at AFCH
Shirley Schwartz	In Memory of Harland & Pam and In Honor of My Family
Gail Steeber	In Memory of Tim Steeber, In Memory of Reuben & Dorothy Boettcher and Paul & Beatrice Steeber, and In Honor of My Family
The Stodola Family	In Memory of Henry and Josephine Brannon, In Memory of Kelly Reszczynski, and In Honor of JoAnn Dewalt
Mike & Holly Vasko	In Honor of Our Children & Parents
Carol Volkmar	In Honor of My Family
Reegan and Rylee Woodard	In Memory of Tim Steeber, In Memory of Lonnie Woodard, and In Honor of Gail Steeber



Worship Committee

- **Sunday, December 1st** - 9:00 am - Pageant Practice
10:00 am Worship - Communion Sunday 
- **Sunday, December 8th** - 9:00 am - Pageant Practice
10:00 am - Sunday School Christmas Pageant
6:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas, please join us for a special night. 
- **Sunday, December 15th** - 10:00 am Worship - Food Pantry Sunday
- **Sunday, December 22nd** - 10:00 am Service - 4th Sunday of Advent Service
- **Tuesday, December 24th** - 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Services
- **Sunday, December 29th** - 10:00 am Worship - Testimony Sunday



We are in need of greeters and ushers. If you can help us out, it would be much appreciated. Sign up in the Narthex or contact the office.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Alissa and Kathy

Faith Women

- Thank you to all who attended the Faith Women Christmas Party last month, fun was had by all!
- Faith Women will be having a bake sale on December 8, 2024. If you would like to contribute, please your baked items packaged and ready for the sale. This will be a free will donation, so please give generously.
- Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 8, 2025. We hope to see you there.



2024 Offering Envelopes

On December 8, 2024 you will find your **2025 Offering Envelopes** out in the Narthex for your taking. They will be there for you to pick-up after worship services until January 5, 2025. The offering envelopes will then be placed in your church mailbox and remain there until you pick them up. If you wish to have more or run out of your envelopes, please contact the office and we will be happy to print you more.

Candlelight Christmas Program

It's the most wonderful time of the year! This year the 12th annual Candlelight Christmas will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm. We are looking for 10 people to host tables which includes 7 people plus a host at each table. The host of the table will be responsible for inviting 7 guests (they do not need to be members of this congregation, invite your friends and family). The tablecloth will be provided for the tables and the host will provide their table with a candlelight centerpiece. Each table will also do 2-3 minutes of entertainment. This can be a song, poem, reading, or special music, something simple.



Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share as this is part of the evening. Don't worry if you don't have a table to sit at, there will be places available for you. All you have to do is sign-up on the clipboard that will be provided and enjoy the Christmas atmosphere! Please remember, the more candles we have, the better!

This is truly a special evening to relax and enjoy the Christmas season. It is a time to reflect and celebrate with friends for a joyous occasion. Please call Alissa Popp or the church office to put your name on the list. Come and enjoy our Christmas spirit of fellowship!

Sunday School Pageant



This year's Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be held during our 10:00 am worship service on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Our Sunday School practice schedule will be on December 1st, and December 8th at 9:00 am for all grade levels. Parents, please have your children at church on time so we can begin practice promptly at 9:00 am.

A very special "Thank You" in advance to all who help and make our Christmas Pageant a huge success! We can't do it without you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see Alissa Popp or Kathy Brockmann.

Christmas Eve Worship

Our Christmas Eve Worship Services will be at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24, 2024. We will have our traditional Christmas hymns and candles at both services. Please come and enjoy a blessed Christmas Eve with your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2024</h1>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1st Sunday of Advent Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:00 am Communion Worship Service 10:00 am Church Conference following service						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2nd Sunday of Advent Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:00 am Sunday School Christmas Program 10:00 am Candlelight Christmas 6:00 pm	CORR 1:00	Free Community Meal 4:30-6:00		Finance 6:00 Church Council 6:30		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3rd Sunday of Advent Food Pantry Sunday Service 10:00 am	Trustees Meeting 6:30					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:00 am No Sunday School		Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:00 pm 7:00 pm	Merry Christmas 			
29	30	31				
Testimony Sunday 10:00 am No Sunday School						