



*A Newsletter from the Worshipping Communities of*

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**1032 Prissel Street**  
**715-672-8107**  
Pastor Bethany's  
Office Hours:  
Tues & Thurs. @ Faith 9AM-3PM  
Fridays @ Rock Creek 9-Noon



**Rock Creek Lutheran Church**  
**N1101 810th Street**  
**715-875-4571**  
Pastor Bethany's Contact Info:  
Cell: 402-520-5504  
Parsonage: 715-875-4634  
Email: [frclcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:frclcpastor@gmail.com)



*from Pastor Bethany*



Even as we prepare to enter into Advent, waiting to celebrate Christ's birth, we remember that Christ is also already Immanuel, God with us. This is good news for a world that can not bear to wait for a Savior to come but clings to the promise that he is already here among us. As we begin a new church year with the start of Advent and await Christmas celebrations we do so with Christ in our midst. Jesus urges us by example to meet our neighbor's needs during this season of giving. We are able to be with them in their need because God is with us in ours.



Practice a time of reflecting this Advent season through reading or listening to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual set of daily devotions written by members of Faith and Rock Creek spanning nine decades of faithfulness. The 26 writers share personal stories paired with a thematic scripture reading around the weekly themes of see, remember, promise and joy. You can read the daily devotions on the church Facebook page or call Rock Creek voicemail at 715-875-4571 to listen to them beginning the first day of Advent, Sunday, November 28th.

## **Join us for worship the week of Christmas!**

Candlelight worship on December 24<sup>th</sup> + Lessons and Carols on December 26<sup>th</sup>





Starting December 12<sup>th</sup> everyone is invited to participate in an ornament exchange. Each congregation will have an indoor tree decorated. Bring an ornament to Faith or Rock Creek and exchange it for another one. This will be a fun way to share a small gift with one another. The exchange will go through December 26<sup>th</sup>.



Eau Claire Children's Theatre presents  
the holiday classic



# Scrooge!

*The Musical*

**December**

**The Oxford**

16th 7:30 pm  
17th 7:30 pm  
18th 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm  
19th 1:30 pm

By Leslie Bricusse

Sponsored by





Tickets on sale now at [ecct.org](http://ecct.org) or 715.839.8877

A special invitation from Pastor Bethany:

In 1989, ECCT performed their first ever musical, Scrooge. It was my first musical too with my mom, dad, brother and I performing in it together. Now, 32 years later; my kids, my dad and I are all performing in it again with ECCT! We invite you to buy a ticket and come see three generations of family on stage in this festive show! You will see my dad as Scrooge, Lillian as Belinda Cratchit, Maria as Jenny, Aaron as a street urchin and me as Mrs. Cratchit.



FaithLift Confirmation December learning nights will be held at Rock Creek December 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. These are for students and their caring adults as we conclude our Keep Calm and Sip Scripture Bible Study.

## **Advent Food Drive**

Support the Durand food pantry by filling a bag with non-perishable food items throughout the month of December. Then bring your filled bags to either church. Collected items will be delivered to the food pantry just after the New Year.



- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans



Vanessa Sedlmayr is collecting information and a photo about each church member at Faith to create a slideshow to play prior to worship. This will be a fun way to get to know each other better. Paper copies are in the narthex at Faith for people who prefer that format. Otherwise, here is a link to a Google form.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkWesySP6jIWRCUAIaZWialK - PG2X7SHN-yEq1h5x6YVnsw/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkWesySP6jIWRCUAIaZWialK - PG2X7SHN-yEq1h5x6YVnsw/viewform?usp=sf_link)



## **STAR WORD Stories**

Do you remember the Star Word you received in January at Epiphany? Have you carried it with you throughout the year? Do you have a story to share about how you lived it out or learned from it? Are you willing to share? Whether you want to step up to the mic or write it down please consider sharing your story at Epiphany worship on Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup> before another year of star words are handed out. Let Pastor Bethany know if you have a story to share!



## Holy Humor

"Then our mouth  
was  
filled with  
laughter,  
and our tongue  
with  
shouts of joy!"  
Psalm 126:2



On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> members of Faith are invited to stay after worship for festive food and decorating the church building for Christmas. All ages are encouraged to participate. If you have questions please contact Linda Talford or Tiffany Webb. Deck the halls with your church family!

### **Pastoral availability between Christmas and New Year**

Pastor Bethany will be using the rest of her vacation time for the year from Monday, December 27-Thursday December 30. This will be a staycation so she will be available if needed for pastoral care (end of life care / funerals / etc.) If you call or email for any other reason during that time plan to hear back from her in the New Year. May you also take time to enjoy family as 2021 draws to a close.



All Sr High youth from both congregations are invited to Rock Creek on Sunday, January 16 at 12:30PM for pizza, dessert and conversation about youth group opportunities. What will the future hold? Local service projects, mission trips, retreats? Come be part of the planning and make youth group the experience you need to grow in your faith. If you have questions contact Riane Hayden, Olivia Strand or Tanner Webb.



Reminder that on **Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup>** worship times will switch for the two congregations. Rock Creek will worship at 8:30AM with Sunday School remaining at 9:30AM and Faith will worship at 10:30AM with Sunday School also at 10:30AM. Radio and Facebook worship will remain at 10:30AM.

Luther Park Bible Camp...



...Our Partnership with Holy Play

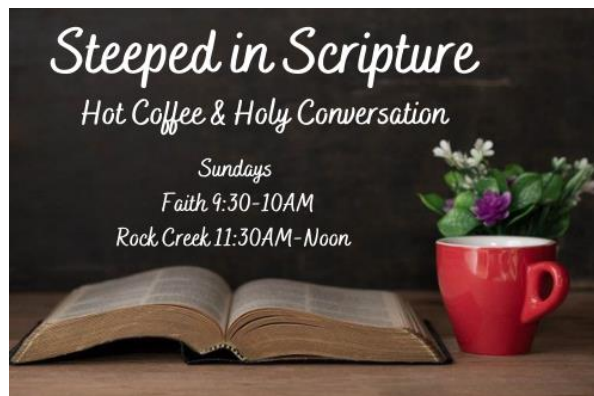
### Give the Gift of Camp for Christmas!

If you are looking for a Christmas gift that will keep on giving beyond the unwrapping consider helping your child or grandchild pay for a week at Luther Park. This sacred ground is a beautiful place to grow in faith. Summer 2022 registration is now open and gift certificates are available at [LutherPark.org](http://LutherPark.org).



### Keep On Serving!

It is a one of my greatest joys when I find a God's Work Our Hands photo in my inbox. Continue serving in our community! Do a service project. Snap a photo with your sign. Send the photo to Pastor Bethany at [frclcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:frclcpastor@gmail.com) or via text at 402-520-5504. Give thanks to God for being freed by grace to serve your neighbor! Know that photo evidence of your service inspires others!



Join Pastor Bethany to give Bible study a whirl during a special Advent study!



## ELCA Good Gifts



As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

### 1. Choose your gift

Visit [www.goodgifts.elca.org](http://www.goodgifts.elca.org)

Browse and choose the gifts that mean the most to you, or choose gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. You may also give via phone.

Phone: 800-638-3522

### 2. Get a card

If your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one, it's easy to tell him or her about it. Give online and you may personalize free, printed cards to be sent directly to your loved ones. You may also select to send the cards to yourself, print them at home, or have them delivered via email. Select your card options during checkout. *Note: These options are available only when you give online.*

### 3. Where your money goes

The items are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by our partners – meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support they need and none of what they don't. Your donation will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that we do. More than 85 percent of your gifts directly support our programs. Less than 15 percent is used for administration and fundraising.

Faith Members:

We are collecting information about each church member to create a slideshow to play prior to church. This will be a fun way to get to know each other better. Paper copies are in the back of Faith Lutheran Church for people who prefer that format.

Please reach out to Vanessa Sedlmayr with any questions [vsedlmayr@gmail.com](mailto:vsedlmayr@gmail.com)  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkWesySP6jIWRCUaiAZWiaIK-PG2X7SHN-yEq1h5x6YVnsw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkWesySP6jIWRCUaiAZWiaIK-PG2X7SHN-yEq1h5x6YVnsw/viewform?usp=sf_link) **Rock Creek Council Meeting Minutes—September 1, 2021**

**Those present:** Steve Dahl, Becky Richardson, Cindi Coon, Dave Coon, Val Wagner, Sue Dahl, Jill Bauer, Ashley Dorschner, Pastor Bethany Walker, and Julie. **Absent:** Carma Koller, Dustin Nelson, Riane Hayden

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

Pastor Bethany opened the meeting with devotion

**Pastor's Report**—reviewed, see attached.

**Secretary's Report**—reviewed August report. Motion by Becky to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave, motioned passed, all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report**— August report was reviewed. Motion by Sue to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ashley, motioned passed, all in favor.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Education**— Jill reported Sunday School will be 9:30-10:15 year-round. SS will start 9/12/21 with about 11 kids. Christmas program will be December 19.
- **Youth Group/Confirmation**—Pastor reports confirmation classes will start September 15. Pastor Bethany would like to have a group for the National Youth Gathering.

### **Old Business**

- **Church building- Monitors-** Outlets will be installed, Dave is waiting for the electrician to call back.
- **Exterior Sign**—Jerec D has one cross made. Original mason is unable to get sign done by September 19. We are reaching out to others for concrete work.
- **Back door-** tabled until next month
- **Parsonage repairs:** Garage service door needs to be replaced. Stain deck. Bathroom remodel—we will revisit after church projects are done.
- **Covid Update**—Becky made motion- recommend to wear a mask during worship but not required, second by Val. Motion passed. Update again next month.

### **New Business**

**Uff Da Dinner** planning on 10/30/21. 20x30 tent reserved. Keep food outside and to go only.

- **Anniversary Celebration-** September 19. Committee is meeting September 2.
- **Elevator-** Al Johnson will be working with project manager from the elevator company. Elevator will be arriving in 5-7 weeks.
- **Mold Asbestos** – Sue made motion to approve \$3711.00 for Sunday school rooms and hall, to remove tiles and glue. Seconded by Becky and it passed.
- **Mud Jacking-** Dave will do caulking between sidewalk and building. Dave made motion to pay for mud jacking, second by Sue and passed.
- **Gutters-** Jill made motion not to exceed \$3000 for install of gutters from Liberty. Becky seconded and it passed.
- **Tree-** Dave made motion for the tree and stump removal for \$1200.00. Seconded by Becky and it passed. Timber Ridge will be doing it after October 30.

**Next Meeting** October 6, 7:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Becky at 9:00 pm.

Submitted per notes from Val Wagner. Carma Koller, RCLC council secretary

**Rock Creek Council Meeting Minutes—October 6, 2021 Those present:** Steve Dahl, Becky Richardson, Carma Koller, Cindi Coon, Dave Coon, Val Wagner, Sue Dahl, Riane Hayden, Pastor Bethany Walker. **Absent:** Dustin Nelson, Jill Bauer, Ashley Dorschner. Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Pastor Bethany opened the meeting with devotion. Celebrating St Francis of Assisi. Story of creation.

**Pastor's Report**—reviewed, see attached. March 26 will be the synod workshop day. She encouraged council members to attend

**Secretary's Report**—reviewed September report. Motion by Becky to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue, motioned passed, all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report**— September report was reviewed. Offering from the anniversary celebration offering was split, 50% to Synod-Neighbor to Neighbor and 50% to Fort McCoy resettlement Fund (this part will be on Oct statement) Becky asked how to pay for the Asbestos and mud jacking bills. Discussion on costs, requested Steve to contact the Synod for assistance for the cost of the asbestos removal and water damages. Dave motioned to move the Uffda Funds to general checking account. Sue seconded and motion passed. Motion by Sue to approve treasurers report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Val, motioned passed, all in favor.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Education**— Pastor Bethany reported Sunday School is off to a good start. Confirmation is going well and a fun group with good discussions.
- **Youth Group/Confirmation**—Pastor Bethany reported if the youth don't attend the National Youth Gathering this year in Minneapolis, it will be held again in 2 years to get back onto the correct year for every 3 years.

### **Old Business**

- **Church building- Monitors-** Outlets will be installed, Dave is waiting for Richardson Electrician to call back.
- **Exterior Sign—** Dave mentioned we need someone to care for the sign and change the words. Discussion on what quote and announcements to have on sign. Sue will change the words with assist for what to put on it. Pastor Bethany will ask church members to put ideas in the offering plate during a worship service in the near future.
- **Back door-** Al will do once the elevator project is done.
- **Parsonage repairs:** Garage service door needs to be replaced. Stain deck. Bathroom remodel—we will revisit after church projects are done. Old desk for the parsonage is not needed. Recommend Bethany post and sell.
- **Covid Update—**Steve reports someone requested communion servers wear masks. Cindi reported she will not wear a mask. It was requested if the deacon does not want wear a mask, they should ask someone else to help with serving communion. Cases have leveled off, will still recommend masks for congregation but not require.

## New Business

**Uff Da Dinner** planning on 10/30/21 Letters went out this week. Dave would like advice/conversation with where to locate the tent for serving food. Sign up for working and food is in the narthex.

- **Anniversary Celebration-** shared letter from Lois Langholz. Thank you to Becky and Linda for all their work on the celebration.
- **Retreat-**Plan for next year with new council. Plan for after Easter.
- **Elevator-** Al Johnson will meet with project manager Monday 10-11-21. Elevator has been ordered and is being made.
- **Water Issues:** annual water test was good, <0.1 nitrates. Hot water continues to be rusty when it is first turned on. Discussed draining hot water tank to try and reduce the rust. Carma will talk to Jessi, Premiere Plumbing for advice.
- **Mold Asbestos –** done and paid for. **Mud Jacking-** Done. **Rain Gutters-** Liberty accepted Proposal, will be a two month wait for installation. Added Gutter Guards so the cost is > \$3000 approved at last month's meeting. Carma motioned to resend last month's motion for up to \$3000 and to increase up to \$4000. Dave seconded and it passed. Cost now is \$3241 **New flooring for basement:** discussion on cost of carpet (\$4800) or vinyl (\$6700) for just the Sunday School rooms. Discussed Epoxy. Dave and Cindy will look at a Bob and Sandy's basement and find out who did it.
- **Tree-** Timber Ridge needs to be called after November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Next Meeting** Joint Council at Faith. 11/10/21 6:00 Rock Creek Meeting, 7:00 Joint Meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Becky at 8:20 pm.

Carma Koller, RCLC council secretary



## **Faith Council Meeting Minutes—10/13/2021**

Present: Elissa A, Pastor Bethany, Nate W, Linda T, Tiffany W., Val C. Darrin H, LeAnne C. Treasurer Greg K.

Meeting called to Order 6:35

Mission/Vision statement read.

### **Pastor Bethany lead Devotions**

**Pastor's Report**— Reviewed and included

Pastor Bethany will have a spot at Trunk or Treat through Dig

Faith Council Report scheduled for October 30, rescheduled for March 2022

**Secretary's report**—reviewed; attached; Motion to approve by Linda T; second by Elissa; all approved

**Treasurer's report**—reviewed; Motion to approve by Linda T; second by Elissa. all approved

### **Committee Reports**

- **Music and Worship-**
- Ushers and readers are needed
- Communion help and set up

#### **• Property-**

- Electrical Panel- Nate W is scheduling with electrician
- TV sound needs to be reviewed with Pete and need to get back TV mounted.
- Parking Lot: Was Repacked twice in September.
- Fall Cleanup Day, a list will be posted for volunteers to assist with and mark when completed. – Linda T will be following up on a list
- Plunkett's Pest Control not seeing any evidence of inside rodents, will Continue to monitor outside areas.

- **Fundraising-** no updates at meeting time

### **Old Business-**

- Elissa and Greg are working together to get the website updated
- **No updates as of Meeting time;** Alex Boob and Ally Bignell have asked to use the basement for after school day care. They are waiting to hear back from the state for a license then the church would have to be inspected. Tentative agreement is \$400 per month donation. Pastor is checking with our insurance to make sure we are covered by renters' insurance. Alex and Ally hope to open on the first day of school.

- Church Directory- thoughts and interest, Church would pay for a picture for the wall
- Church sign Val C, Dad is working on the sign and has made updates, finishing up woodwork.

#### **New Business-**

- Council members going off in January 2020  
LeAnne Carlson, Darrin Hartung, Linda Telford, and Tiffany Webb
- Copier still not getting invoices, but the automatic payment is still being taken. Tiffany W. will get a screen shot of the meter reading for this month and share at next meeting.
- Upstairs bathroom- tiles are peeling- this will be added to the Fall Clean up list.
- LeAnne Carlson graduated from Lay school and has continuing education, Council agreed to pay ½ continuing education.

**Next Meeting: Joint Meeting Wednesday November 10, 2021**

**Joint Council Meeting November 10, 2021 @ 7:00 pm**

Motion made by LeAnn. adjourn, all in favor. Meeting adjourned 7:45

Secretary- Tiffany Webb Faith Council Meeting

#### Faith Lutheran October Financial Report

	Oct Actual	Oct Budget
<b><i>Opening Balance</i></b>	<b><i>\$21,447.31</i></b>	
<b><i>Income</i></b>		
Offering	\$4,914.00	\$5,339.80
Noisy Buckets	\$58.45	
Interest	\$2.15	\$1.00
Memorial Fund	\$125.00	
Radio Broadcast	\$450.00	\$100.00
<b><i>Total Income</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,549.60</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,899.13</i></b>
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,631.75</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,899.13</i></b>
<b><i>Ending Balance</i></b>	<b><i>\$21,365.16</i></b>	

Account	Oct. Ending Balance
Checking	\$21,365.16
Property Savings	\$1,036.80
Memorial Savings	\$3,683.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,085.09</b>

Thank you for continued support! If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 715-672-4954 or 715-279-0413 and please leave me a message if needed or e-mail me at [gknoepke@mtdfwi.com](mailto:gknoepke@mtdfwi.com)

Sincerely,

Greg Knoepke Faith Lutheran Treasurer