

A Newsletter from the Worshipping Communities of

Faith
Lutheran
Church

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Pastor Bethany's
Office Hours:
Wed Faith 1-4PM



Email: frclcpastor@gmail.com

Grace
& PEACE



Rock Creek
Lutheran
Church

N1101 810th St
Mondovi WI 54755
715-875-4571
Pastor Bethany's
Contact Info:
C: 402-520-5504

**Let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts.**



Colossians 3:15

Over the past several weeks I have had this camp song going through my mind on repeat: “we can live in a peaceable kingdom the power’s in our hands and with the help of God the creator we can understand, that all of us are equal in God’s eyes, we are the same. Let there be peace, let there be peace, let there be peace.” As we enter this Advent season of waiting and watching we are reminded that the one for whom we wait and watch is Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The Good News is that Jesus is already here with us. In him we have the example of what peace looks like in relationship to others and creation. It began with God, was embodied by Jesus and continues through those who follow him empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have the capacity to bring peace to any and all situations. There can be peace on Earth in the places where we gather if we only seek it out and decide that our words and actions will reflect the Prince of Peace whom we follow. Let there be so much peace in your heart, in your mind and in your relationships this Advent and Christmas season that it overflows into the waiting world; a world that is watching us to see what it looks like in practice to follow Jesus. Let there be peace and let it begin with you.

Daily Advent Devotions

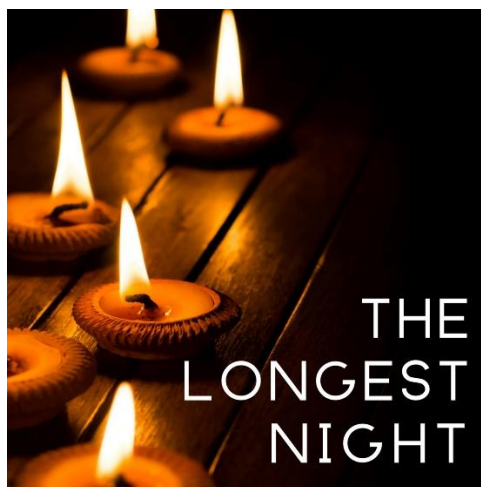


Ornament Stories

On December 1st you can begin reading a daily Advent devotion on the churches' Facebook page, written by people in our worshipping community as they reflect on a Christmas decoration that reminds them of their faith life. In past years, people of all ages have contributed to the writing making it delightfully cross-generational. As of the writing of this newsletter we are still looking for 12 more people to share a story. If you are willing to write a short devotion contact Pastor Bethany by December 8th at frclcpastor@gmail.com or via text 402-520-5504.

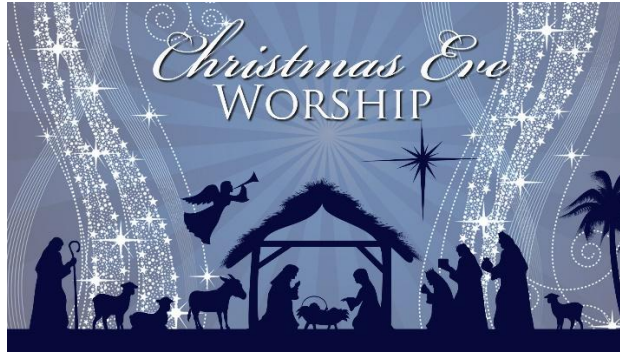
Throughout the month of December you can bring an ornament (handmade, thrifted or new) to exchange for a different one. Look for the ornament exchange trees in the narthex at Faith and Rock Creek beginning December 1st.





Come find sanctuary during the longest night of the year on Saturday, December 21st. The sanctuaries will be open for a time of silent prayer by candlelight. The Christmas trees will be lit, music will be playing and God will be with us. Many are grieving, mourning, lonely or ill this holiday season; experiencing a long night in their souls. Let us quietly gather to create space for healing and hope. This will be a self-guided experience. When you arrive you will receive a sheet with suggested prayers and reflections. Stay for as long or as short a time as you like. The sanctuary will be open at Rock Creek from 5:30-6:30PM and Faith from 7:00-8:00PM. Pastor Bethany will be at both sanctuaries to offer healing prayer at the baptismal font for anyone who desires it.

Worship with us on Christmas Eve!



4PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at Rock Creek

7PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at Faith

Share Special Music on Christmas Eve

If you have instrumental or vocal music you would like to share as special music on Christmas Eve please let Pastor Bethany know via email at

frlcpastor@gmail.com

We would love to add some extra music to our worship services!



FaithLift is switching from Learning Nights to a Season of Service during the month of December. Youth who signed up to participate in this special three-week offering will be spending their Wednesday afterschool hours serving at St Vincent De Paul Thrift Store, ringing bells for the Salvation Army and visiting residents at the Homeplace. Pray for these young people as they spread some holiday cheer in their community on behalf of our congregations!



If you have been worshipping recently at Faith or Rock Creek and feel like you have found your church home there, then it is time for you to be welcomed as a ministry partner! On Sunday, January 5 we will be formally welcoming the newest people at both worship services. If you would like to be included please reach out to Pastor Bethany via text at 402-520-5504 or via email at frlcpastor@gmail.com WELCOME!

Mark your calendars for Sunday January 5. It's Star Word (Epiphany) Sunday! This has become a much anticipated day of worship each year. All those who attend will be gifted with one word that will serve as a guide in the coming year of your faith life. If you have a story to share about your experience with your 2024 Star Word please tell Pastor Bethany so together we can witness to the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts and lives.



Following worship at Rock Creek on December 8 there will be a special congregational meeting for the purpose of distributing mission dollars from the Uff Da Dinner. Plan to join us at 11:30AM.



Pastor Bethany will be taking time off between December 25-December 31. She will be available for pastoral care as needed but responses to emails and phone calls will be made after the New Year. Worship will be lay led on Sunday, December 29. Join us for one joint lay led worship service on Sunday, December 29 at Faith at 10:30AM. This will be a Lessons and Carols Service of the Word. There will be no worship at Rock Creek that day.



ADD GOBBLE WOBBLE PHOTOS HERE WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



The Rock Creek Dream Team invites people of all ages to join us for a festive day of celebrating and spreading Christmas joy! On December 15 at 11:30AM, following the Children's Christmas Program, we will have a cookie exchange. Bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share and leave with a variety to enjoy. Then we will have an afternoon of gift wrapping for freewill donations. At 3:30PM we will leave Rock Creek to go caroling and deliver extra Christmas cookies and cheer to our homebound members.



Let the Rock Creek Dream Team wrap your Christmas gifts this year! Drop off your gifts at Rock Creek on or before December 15. You can pick them up that evening all wrapped and labeled for gift giving. Free will donations are being accepted and will support future Dream Team events.



Join us for bingo and a meal on Sunday, December 29. Throughout 2024, the Sunday Supper ministry has been generously supported month after month by individuals, organizations and families who have donated the meal cost and given of their time to set up, serve and clean up. Thanks to Rex and Linda Hoover for sponsoring the upcoming December meal. We also give thanks to all those who organized and participated in the Gobble Wobble Fun Run on Thanksgiving which raised **ADD AMOUNT HERE** for Sunday Supper. The monthly cost for Sunday Supper is approximately \$300. We will continue to depend on your generosity to keep this community outreach going in 2025. If you wish to support Sunday Supper in any way please contact Linda Talford.



**Youth Group
8th-12th Graders**

December 4 7PM Faith 5 @ Club 10
December 18 6PM Mission Trip Meeting at Faith

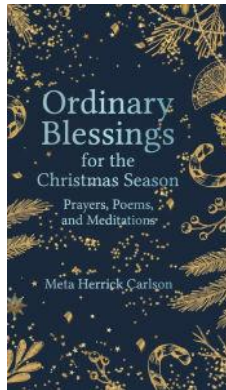
Mission Trip 2025

Before the end of the year we need to have our SR High Mission Trip Team fully formed. We will be traveling to Denver CO July 12-18, 2025. 7 spots remain. Claim yours by letting Pastor Bethany know by December 18 if you plan to attend.

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. Visit www.goodgifts.elca.org



A Recommended Read from Pastor Bethany

Sometimes, in the busier seasons of the year, we aren't looking for a whole book to read and digest. Sometimes we just need a small bite of God's goodness wrapped up in a devotional. Look no further than this beautiful book of prayers, poems and meditations entitled Ordinary Blessings for the Christmas Season by Meta Herrick Carlson. Her writing is both profound and relatable. She offers Blessings for everything from Decorating the Tree to Baby's First Christmas to the First Christmas Without Loved One to Long Car Rides and everything in between that rounds out our holiday experiences. You will be blessed in giving or receiving this book throughout the Advent and Christmas Season. It is one of my go-to books for brief pauses in the day when I long to encounter God in the midst of it all.

Add to Calendar:

Sunday December 1 Advent 1

8:30AM Worship and Sunday School at Faith

10AM Sunday School at Rock Creek

10:30AM Worship at Rock Creek

Monday December 2 9AM Quilting at Rock Creek

Tuesday December 3 1PM Pop Up Pantry Rock Falls

Wednesday December 4 4PM FaithLift Season of Service

6PM Rock Creek Council

7PM Youth Group

Sunday December 8 Advent 2

8:30AM Worship and Sunday School at Faith

10AM Sunday School at Rock Creek

10:30AM Worship at Rock Creek

11:30AM Uff Dinner Mission Money Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

4PM FaithLift Season of Service

Sunday December 15 Advent 3 Children's Christmas Programs

8:30AM Worship at Faith

10:30AM Worship at Rock Creek

11:30AM Cookie Exchange / Gift Wrapping at Rock Creek
3:30PM Caroling Party at Rock Creek
Wednesday, December 18 4PM FaithLift Season of Service
6PM Mission Trip Meeting at Faith
Saturday, December 21st Longest Night
5:30PM Rock Creek
7PM Faith
Sunday, December 22nd Advent 4
8:30AM Worship at Faith
10:30AM Worship at Rock Creek
Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve
4PM Candlelight worship Rock Creek
7PM Candlelight worship Faith
Monday, December 25 -Sunday December 31 Pastor Bethany Time Off
Sunday, December 29 10:30AM Joint worship service at Faith