

A Newsletter from the Worshipping Communities of

Faith
Lutheran
Church

1032 Prissel St
Durand WI 54736
715-672-8107
Pastor Bethany's
Office Hours:
Thurs. at Faith 9-Noon



Rock Creek
Lutheran
Church

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715-875-4571
Pastor Bethany's
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*Grace
& PEACE*



From Pastor Bethany

O Come,



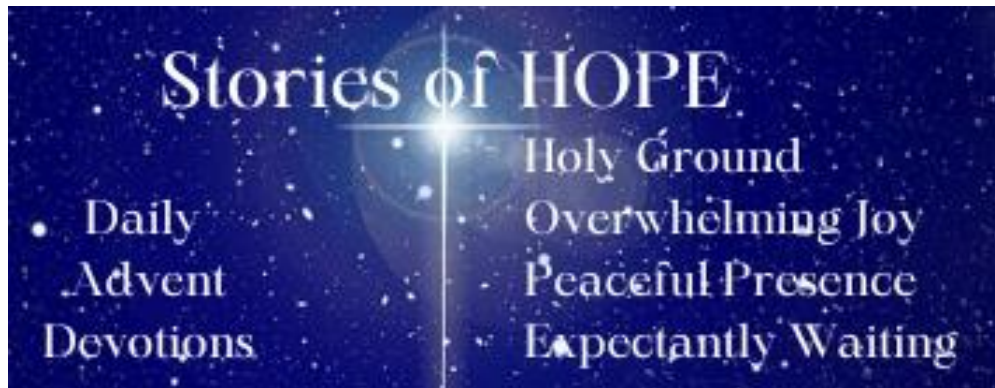
O Come,



Emmanuel



2023 marks the 800th anniversary of the Crèche. Crèche is a display of the scene at Jesus' birth, more commonly known as a nativity scene. In 1223, Saint Francis of Assisi, created the tradition of the Crèche as a representation of the birth of Jesus Christ to be displayed from Advent through Epiphany. Many of you probably have a nativity scene displayed in your home this time of year. Pictured on the left are my girls discovering our nativity scene under the Christmas tree as children. Some might place their Crèche out of reach to keep it safe. However, I chose to put ours on display where my kids could touch it and be reminded that Jesus came into the world to be nearer to us. From December 26-January 7 you are invited to bring your nativity scene to the church. On Epiphany, January 7, we will create a display for the day so that people of all ages, young and old, might discover the wonder of Jesus arriving in our midst, God incarnate, Emmanuel, God with us.



Our Advent theme is HOPE. This acronym for **H**oly ground, **O**verwhelming joy, **P**eaceful presence and **E**xpectantly waiting will guide 22 writers from our congregations and community as they share stories throughout Advent. Make it a daily practice to engage with these devotions. Beginning December 3 you can read them on the church Facebook page or listen to them by calling 715-875-4571. May hope be abundant for you this Advent season!

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 3rd.



If you took a gift tag from The Giving Tree please remember to return the wrapped gifts to Faith or Rock Creek by Sunday December 17 so they can be delivered to the family in time for Christmas. Thank you for your generosity!



Sunday School
Christmas
Programs
December 17th
Faith 8:30AM
Rock Creek 10:30AM





December Schedule:

Wednesday December 6 Joint Potluck / Learning Night at Rock Creek
with Bishop Laurie visiting 5:30PM-7PM

Wednesday December 20 Cross-Generational Gathering with AAA adults
4PM Faith 5:30PM Rock Creek



Meal with the Bishop

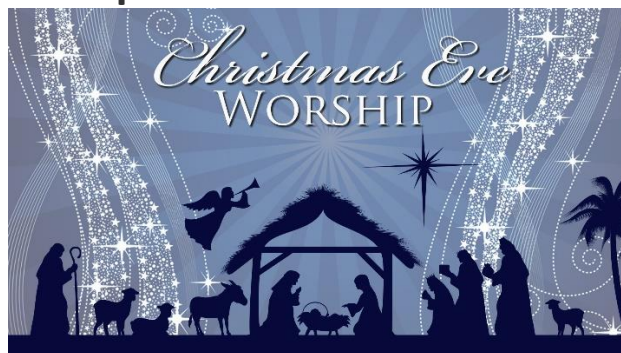
On Wednesday, December 6 we welcome our Synod Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson to Rock Creek. Both congregations are encouraged to join us. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck at 5:30PM. Then both Faith and Rock Creek Confirmation students will have a learning time with Bishop Laurie from 6-7PM.

**Thanks to all those who organized and participated in the
Holidazzle Parade!**





Worship with us on Christmas Eve!



10:30AM Advent 4 Joint Worship Service at Faith
4PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at Faith
7PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at Rock Creek

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.

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



Following worship at Rock Creek on December 10 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.

December Choir Schedule

Wednesday December 6 – Rehearsal
7PM Rock Creek
Wednesday December 13 – Party / Rehearsal
5PM Faith
Wednesday December 20 – Rehearsal
6:30PM Rock Creek
Sunday December 24 – Sing in worship
10:30AM Faith
Wednesday December 27 – No rehearsal



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. Pastor Donna Fonner will lead worship December 31st.



The Faith Dream Team Gobble Wooble Fun Run on Thanksgiving morning was a big success. 67 people came out to walk/run in support of Sunday Supper!



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 17 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 at 3:30PM we will meet at Rock Creek to go caroling and deliver cookies to our homebound members.

A yellow rectangular graphic with two black spotlights at the top corners. The spotlights shine beams of light towards the center, where the text "Sunday Supper Spotlight" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Sunday Supper Spotlight

Since we began shining a light on the need for Sunday Supper support people have generously responded. We give thanks to Rex and Linda Hoover for sponsoring the November meal. We also give thanks to Jeff and Elissa Abramson and St Mary's PCCW who will sponsor some meals in 2024. Finally, we give thanks to all those who organized and participated in the Google Wobble Fun Run which raised over \$700 for Sunday Supper. The monthly cost for Sunday Supper is approximately \$300. We continue to depend on your generosity to keep this community outreach going. If you wish to support Sunday Supper please contact Linda Talford. At the next Sunday Supper on December 31st we will be serving up a New Year's Eve party! Join us!

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