



Faith Lutheran Church

*Receiving and Sharing the Love of Christ
December 2025 Newsletter*

Dear Friends in Christ,

A few years ago, there were articles in the December issue of The Lutheran Witness about the birth of Jesus. Several authors tried to show the historical significance of dating Christmas. We have celebrated Christmas on December 25 since 336 AD when the Emperor Constantine fixed that date. As I read these articles, I could hear my mother's voice saying, "If I wanted you to know, I would have told you." The Bible is pretty clear about the death of Christ taking place on the Friday before the Passover Sabbath. The Bible sets specific dates very clearly in some things, but when it comes to the birth of the Christ, we are told that it took place while shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks and at a time when Caesar Augustus had issued a decree that a census should be taken while Quirinius was governing Syria that everyone was to return to their own town to be registered.

I suppose we could debate whether that took place in December or September or some other time, but it isn't the most significant message of this thing that has come to pass. No matter when it happened, the GREAT NEWS IS that it DID HAPPEN! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Immanuel has come. The promise is being fulfilled in this place and this time. To us a Son is given, to us a Child is born who is called, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. This is the seed of the women who would come to crush the head of the serpent, David's Son who would ascend to His throne and His reign and rule would be everlasting.

I hear people talk about Christmas as being a magical time of the year. When I hear about magic, I think deception, a slight of hand and false perceptions. There are a lot of things that can distract us as we celebrate Christmas. For some it is all about the presents and Santa Claus. For others, it may be about family, baked goodies, humanitarian activities to help our neighbors and the needy amongst us. Some suggest that Christmas is for kids. All these things may enhance our celebration of Christmas, but the heart of Christmas is about a God who loved us so much that He gave us His one and only Son to suffer and die in our place for all of our sins so that we may be His through all eternity.

It is our joy and privilege to share the Good News of His birth again in the Christmas story. May the hearts and minds of people who have been estranged to our heavenly Father's love be turned again to the hope and the joy that is ours in the gift of His Son in all that we say and do in this season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

In His Service,
Rev. Jeffrey A. Lee



WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!

Please join us in December for Sunday School and Worship.
Sunday School for All Ages is at 9:00am followed by worship at 10:15am.

Adult Bible Class meets in the sanctuary with Rev. Lee.
Children and Youth classes meet in the family center.
Junior High & High School -- Room Nine
Elementary (grades 4-6) -- Room Six
Early Childhood (grades K – 3) -- Kinder Room
Young Adult Bible Study meets Fridays from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in Room 9 of the FFC.
(Young Adults will break between TSU fall & spring semesters.)

*This
is
My Son*

The Sunday School Christmas Program has been scheduled for December 14 at 5:00pm. Children will rehearse during Sunday School through December 7, with a dress rehearsal on December 13 at 10:00am.

Mission of the Month:



Help spread the joy of Christmas to children in our community.

STOP by the Angel Tree and select a tag. Please sign out the tag(s) that you select to help with tracking.

SHOP for the gift on the tag.

RETURN your wrapped gift (with tag attached) to the Angel Tree by December 18. Call the office if you have any issues.

Thank You for supporting this ministry!

Complete instructions and sign ups can be found on the podium next to the Angel Tree.



Stephen Ministry

*For he will not much remember the days of his life because
God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.*
Ecclesiastes 5:20

Isn't this a wonderful scripture to ponder as we celebrate our blessed Jesus' birth? This was part of the *Portals of Prayer* devotion for November 25, 2025. "When the busyness of our lives is grounded in God's business of showing grace and mercy, we will have an occupation that will always be worth its time and effort."

As we journey and grow together, may we have an attitude of gratitude so that there's no time for worrying and complaining. May we all be filled with Joy and Peace in His presence.

Blessings,
Sherre West and your Stephen Ministry Team



**Calling all singers for
Christmas Caroling!!
December 20 at 4:00pm**

Bring your family and your **fa la la la la's**, or come by yourself to spread some Christmas cheer! If you know of a shut-in that might enjoy a visit, please contact Christine, or leave a message with Lisa in the church office.

Christmas Love Offerings

Elders are collecting freewill love offerings for Faith's staff now through Sunday, December 7. Gifts will be given during the Church Christmas Program on Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 pm.

*You're Invited to
the Sunday School
Christmas Program
on Sunday,
December 14, at
5:00pm in the
sanctuary.*

Join us for worship this season as follows:

Midweek Advent Services

December 3, 10, & 17 at 6:45pm
(potluck supper at 6:00pm)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 6:00pm



“Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be
for all people.” Luke 2:10

Happy Advent season! I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving, and now we can focus on celebrating the coming of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. The angel's message was good news not just for the shepherds but "for all people."

Please join us Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 in the Family Center as we prepare our hearts to celebrate His coming. Our theme this year is "Christmas Carols." You will have the opportunity to view all the beautiful tables prepared by our hostesses and guess which carol it represents. Some will be easy, and some will not.

While we're enjoying the beautiful tables and candlelight, we remember that there are many who are not able to do so. Our mission focus this month is on Lutheran Braille Workers. This ministry provides braille and large-print Bibles and other materials to those who are blind or visually impaired. St. Paul in Ft. Worth has a braille center where you can join others to help create braille Bibles. It's an amazing experience. Let me know if you would like to participate in this project.

Thank you for your donations to the mite box last month. Your donations help fund this and other mission projects.

Thank you also to all who donated, worked, and shopped at our booth at the Holiday Market last month. We made \$411 to use toward future projects.

Christmas Blessings to all,
Marlene Peiser

Poinsettias

Please consider purchasing a Poinsettia to share with the church for Christmas. Bring plant by Sunday, December 21, and remember to take your plant home with you after Christmas Eve services.

Christmas Eve Meals on Wheels

I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving!
It is time to gear up for Faith's annual Christmas Meals on Wheels (MOW) event.

Feeding our Erath County MOW clients on Christmas Eve is a blessing to all involved.

There is a signup board in the Narthex.
Please consider donating food, and/or volunteering your time where you can. If you have any questions, please text or call me at

254-485-4071.

God's blessings to us all.
Cindy Franz



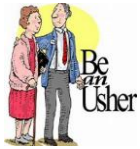
The Bulletin Board

Bulletin Folders (by Sunday)

1st Paula Hymer	3rd Sue Angerhofer
2nd Trudy Carlson	4th/5th Lynann Simpson



Serving in December:
Rosanne Keilers



December Ushers

Open
Open

Please begin thinking about serving as an usher in 2026. Lee Barlow, Head Usher, can answer questions.

Lector Schedule (by date)

12/07 Ronnie Tate	12/21 Tisha Gray
12/14 Cathy Knoll	12/28 Matt Hallgarth

Grief Support ~ Faith's grief support group meets the first Sunday of the month at Cotton Patch immediately following worship. If you have questions or thoughts, please contact Ann Soltau at 254-592-9289.



The church office will be closed
from December 24 – January 2 for
Christmas break.



~ NOTICE ~
Reuse, Reduce, Recycle

Thanks to those who have provided plastic bags for
Faith School use and aluminum cans for the youth
group. Let's keep it up!
Your humble bag folder and can crusher!

Faith Lutheran's Elders

Glen Cornman, Head Elder
Andy Burke; Will Lansmon; Richard Liedtke;
John Quade; Ronnie Tate
(Elder care lists are posted on the church bulletin board)

Church Council will not meet in December 2025.
Next meeting will be January 19, 2026, at 6pm.

Altar Flowers for December

12/07	Sheila Small
12/14	Ola Merck
12/21	Poinsettias
12/28	Open



Sign-Up hangs on the wall beside kitchen.
Questions about sharing flowers: talk
with Lisa Stroeel

FREE Notary Public Service

Cindy Stafford – (254) 592-6630



JOIN Choir!

Choir will meet on December 3,
10 & 17 following worship.



Faith's family center is open the first
& third Sundays of each month from
2pm to 4pm'ish for pickleball.
Equipment is provided. Come play!

~ Pickleball will resume in January 2026 ~



Like us on facebook at
FaithLutheranStephenville



If you have an upcoming event or photos of a recent event you want to be shared on Facebook, send to Emma Bouquet via Facebook Messenger, text, or email at emmabouquet@yahoo.com. Be sure to include all pertinent information including a description.

Church Information

3000 Senator Robert J Glasgow Loop
Stephenville, Texas 76401
254-968-2710

Website: faithlutheranstephenville.com

Email:
church.office@faithlutheranstephenville.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8:30am – 5:30pm
(closed 12:30-1:30pm for lunch)
Friday: 8:30am – 12:30pm

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY *Birthday **Anniversary Church Events School Events Building Rentals LWML Events	1 *Jimmy Merck **Dustin & Kristen Riola 5:00pm Delta Kappa Gamma~Narthex 5:30pm Faith School Board Mtng~Rm 9	2 5:30pm PFS Meeting ~Narthex 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	3 *Mickey Lantz 6:00 Midweek Advent Meal~Narthex 6:45pm Midweek Advent Worship~Sanctuary 7:45pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	4 *Robin Kimbrough 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	5 *Andy Burke MOW~Sparkman	6 8:30am Decorate for Advent by Candlelight~FFC
7 2nd Sunday in Advent *Johann Sanford 12:00pm Stephen Mstry Supervision~Rm 6 5:00pm Advent by Candlelight~FFC	8 6:00pm LWML~Room 6 6:30pm Board of Elders' Meeting~Library	9 *Ola Merck 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	10 *Angie Brock *Burl Peiser 10:30am Tate/Cornman Bible Study~Rm 6 6:00 Midweek Advent Meal~Narthex 6:45pm Midweek Advent Worship~Sanctuary 7:45pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	11 5:30pm Faith School Christmas Program	12 *Acyn Johnson MOW~Pack 6:00pm Faith School Parents' Night Out	13 *Skylar Johnson *Tori Maruska 10:00am Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
14 3rd Sunday in Advent 5:00pm Sunday School Christmas Program~Sanctuary	15	16 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	17 6:00 Midweek Advent Meal~Narthex 6:45pm Midweek Advent Worship~Sanctuary 7:45pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	18 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	19 *Don Schmidt MOW~Bruno	20 *Jeff Stroebe 4:00pm Faith Goes Caroling
21 4th Sunday in Advent 1 st Day of Winter LWML Mite Box Sunday *Kris Nehring	22 *Annie Knoedler	23 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	24 Christmas Eve *Marilyn Pack 8:30am Christmas Eve MoW ~FFC 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Srvc Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day *Terry West	26 *Cassandra Hanna MOW~Stafford	27
28 **Glen & Suzie Cornman	29 *Kallan Kimbrough	30 **Moises & Bethany Espinoza 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	31 New Year's Eve	Worship Schedule Pastor Jeffrey A. Lee 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages; No Brunch 10:15am Combined Worship Service Fridays at 6:00pm: Young Adult Bible Study~Room 9, FFC Faith School Chapel – Tuesdays at 10am		
	Church Office Closed					