



FOCUS ON FAITH WEEKLY

✦ FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ✦ GREENFIELD INDIANA ✦

This Week at Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday Dec. 1	Monday Dec. 2	Tuesday Dec. 3	Word Day Dec. 4	Thursday Dec. 5	Friday Dec. 6	Saturday Dec. 7
First Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Divine Service 11:00 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study	<i>Preschool</i> <i>Pastor's Family Day</i>	<i>Preschool</i> NO Private Confession & Absolution with Pastor (Pastor Away)	<i>Preschool</i> 9:30 pm Bible Study 11:00 pm Matins 5:00 pm 6th & 7th Gd. Jr. Catechesis 6:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm 7th & 8th Gd. Jr. Catechesis 7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer	<i>Preschool</i> <i>Dance in CLC from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm</i>	<i>Preschool</i>	2:00 pm Women's Christmas Gathering with Friends

Weekly Divine Service: Sunday 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Study: Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Private Confession and Holy Absolution with Pastor is available on Tuesdays from 5:00-7:00 pm or by appointment

Pastor Wm. Daniel O'Connor email: pastorwdo@faithgreenfield.org

Administrative Assistant e-mail: secretary@faithgreenfield.org Focus on Faith Deadline: 9 am Thursday

Office Hours: 9:00 am—1:00 pm Monday through Friday

FROM LUTHER

“This, then, is what our dear Lord Jesus Christ meant to show by His entrance into Jerusalem, so that we might truly understand Him and His kingdom. On the left hand, as it were, we still live here in the kingdom of this world, but always on the right hand we reach forward and upward to His kingdom everlasting in the world to come. It was for that future life that we were baptized. May God grant us His grace so that we may joyously welcome and accept this King and remain with Him forever. Amen!” (quoted from Luther’s House Postil, from a sermon on John 12:12-19)

Quarterly Voters Meeting

The final voter’s meeting for 2024 will be held on Sunday, December 8th at 11:00 am. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at that time.

Brian Atkins
317-435-0842

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

John of Damascus, Theologian and Hymnwriter (December 4) – John (ca. 675–749) is known as the great compiler and summarizer of the orthodox faith and the last great Greek theologian. Born in Damascus, John gave up an influential position in the Islamic court to devote himself to the Christian faith. He wrote defenses of the orthodox faith against contemporary heresies. In addition, he was a gifted hymn writer (“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”) and contributed to the liturgy of the Byzantine churches. His greatest work was the *Fount of Wisdom*, which was a massive compendium of truth from previous Christian theologians, covering practically every conceivable doctrinal topic. John’s summary of the orthodox faith left a lasting stamp on both the Eastern and Western churches.

Collect: O Lord, through Your servant John of Damascus, You proclaimed with power the mysteries of the truth faith. Confirm our faith, so that we may confess Jesus to be true God and true man, singing the praises of the risen Lord, so that by the power of the resurrection we may also attain to the joys of eternal life.

Nicholas of Myra, Pastor (December 6) – Of the many saints commemorated by the Christian Church, Nicholas (d. A.D. 342) is one of the best known. Very little is known historically of him, although there was a Church of Saint Nicholas in Constantinople as early as the sixth century. Research has affirmed that there was a Bishop by the name of Nicholas in the city of Myra in Lycia (part of Turkey today) in the fourth century. From that coastal location, legends about Nicholas have traveled throughout time and space. He is associated with charitable giving in many countries around the world, and is portrayed as the rescuer of sailors, the protector of children, and the friend of people in distress or need. In commemoration of “Sinte Klaas” (Dutch for Saint Nicholas; Santa Claus in English), December 6 is a day for giving and receiving gifts in many parts of Europe.

Collect: Almighty God, You bestowed upon Your servant Nicholas of Myra the perpetual gift of charity. Grant Your Church the grace to deal in generosity and love with children, and with all who are poor and distressed, and to plead the cause of those who have no helper, especially those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief.

Ambrose of Milan, Pastor and Hymnwriter

(December 7) – Born in Trier in A.D. 340, Ambrose was one of the four great Latin Doctors of the Church (with Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great). He was a prolific author of hymns, the most common of which is *Veni, Redemptor gentium* (“Savior of the Nations, Come”). His name is also associated with Ambrosian Chant, the style of chanting the ancient liturgy that took hold in the province of Milan. While serving as a civil governor, Ambrose sought to bring peace among Christians in Milan who were divided into quarreling factions. When a new Bishop was to be elected in 374, Ambrose addressed the crowd, and someone cried out: “Ambrose, Bishop!” The entire gathering gave their support. This acclaim of Ambrose, a 34-year-old catechumen, led to his Baptism on December 7, after which he was consecrated Bishop of Milan.

Ambrose was a strong defender of the faith. He convinced the Roman Emperor: Gratian, in 379, to forbid the Arian heresy in the West. At Ambrose’s urging, Gratian’s successor: Theodosius, also publicly opposed Arianism.

Ambrose died on Good Friday, April 4, 397. As a courageous doctor and musician, he upheld the truth of God’s Word.

Collect: O God, You gave Your servant Ambrose grace to proclaim the Gospel with eloquence and power. As Bishop of the great congregation of Milan, he fearlessly bore reproach for the honor of Your Name. Mercifully grant to all bishops and pastors such excellence in preaching, and fidelity in ministering Your Word, that Your people shall be partakers of the divine nature.

STEWARDSHIP

December 1 — First Sunday in Advent

Luke 19:31 — “If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’”

Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it,” and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life (in our homes, in the church and in the communities we live in). In each calling we have good work to do, which comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

MARY MARTHA GUILD

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 7, at 2:00 pm**, and begin inviting your friends for our annual **Christmas Gathering of Friends**. **The theme this year is A NATIVITY WALK**. Your help is needed with the program and also food and set up. See the sign up sheet in November for your assistance or contact Emily Rogers for program needs.

It has been a busy fall and we are thankful to see God’s blessings of bountiful crop harvests for the farmers, beautiful weather, and changing colorful leaves. We look forward to seeing you at all of our activities in the next few months. And **don’t forget your mites**. Your boxes can be brought in and set on the table in the Narthex at any time.

Thank you for your donations and your service.

Emily Rogers
765-621-2131
Mary Martha/LWML President

Worship Anew!

December 1 — First Sunday in Advent

Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18; and Antiphon from Zechariah 9:9; Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 19:28-40

“Your Coming King”

Sermon Text: Zechariah 9:9

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation. He came once in humility to die and rise. He comes now to bless, to forgive, to make you His own, and to give you a share of His life and royalty. He comes to establish His reign, not on earth, but in the hearts of men and women, turning hearts in faith toward Him and to the Father.

Love INC Christmas 2024

New this year for Christmas: Christmas Blessing Baskets. You can bless a Love INC family by providing a Christmas Blessing Basket. A Christmas Blessing Basket is a collection of gifts, food, and other items given to families as an extra blessing during the holidays. We distribute baskets to our Neighbors who are actively working toward their goals. The items can be in a laundry basket, tote, reuseable laundry bag, etc. **Drop baskets off at the Love INC office no later than December 13.**

Be creative in filling a “basket” and feel free to have a theme. Some items to consider, but not limited to are:

- Family Bible, devotional, Bible storybooks
- Games, books, activity books
- Craft items/kits
- Baking items
- Pampering items, personal care items
- Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, other specialty drinks
- Nuts, candies, other sweets
- Blankets, hats, scarves, socks
- Gift Cards for gas, groceries, restaurant, entertainment
- Seasonal Decorations

APPLICATIONS FOR LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Applications are open for the 2025-2026 school year. Visit LHSI.org for more information!

LHS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us this Christmas season for our annual **LHS Christmas Concert** taking place on **December 13 at 7:00 pm** in the Ruth Lilly Auditorium.

KFUO RADIO

For churches outside the St. Louis area for the week of December 1:

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org and the KFUO Radio app! Find us on social: @**KFUOradio** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kfuo), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kfuo), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfuo).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO (AM 850) and KFUO.org: Sharper Iron airs a new series called “The Fifth Evangelist” (weekdays at 8:00 am, CT), going through the book of Isaiah. On Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 am, CT), we enter into Holy Week, taking a look at chapters 12-14 in John’s Gospel. Join us live on Sunday and Wednesday (1:00 and 7:00 pm, CT), as we bring back a special 100th anniversary edition of JOY!, a one-hour program of sacred music for the Advent season.

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global movement that encourages people to give back to their communities, often through donations, volunteering, or acts of kindness, following the holiday shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It’s a day to celebrate generosity and make a meaningful impact in the lives of those in need.

You can support Love INC on Giving Tuesday, **December 3**, by donating funds to sustain essential services like the clearinghouse, gap ministries, and Faith and Finances or by volunteering time to directly support neighbors in need.

You can also visit Love INC’s Amazon and Walmart wish lists to donate specific items or select Love INC as your charity of choice for community rewards, ensuring a portion of their purchases goes toward supporting local programs.

Every contribution helps provide resources and life skills to individuals and families in Greater Hancock County.

LUFEST 2025

Invites your friends and join us for an unforgettable night celebrating and supporting Lutheran High School at the beautiful Biltwell Event Center. Early Bird Tickets are available at LuFest.org.

IMPACT

Camp Lutherhaven’s Winter High School Retreat is scheduled for Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, **January 17-19, 2025**.

Theme: Chasing After Wind

I have seen all things that are done under the sun; all of them meaningless, a chasing after the wind. (Ecclesiastes 1:14)

For high school students, thinking about the future is filled with lots of uncertainty. At the top of the list are jobs, careers, or professions to pursue. Of equal concern is whether marriage and children are a part of their future, or not. Then there are the less tangible pressures of focusing on being successful, intelligent, or happy, which the world wants people to make their ultimate future pursuits. All of this can be burdensome, or a “chasing after the wind,” as Ecclesiastes repeatedly reminds us. The focus of this retreat is to see how God has a direction for our lives, which He reveals to us in scripture. This is a call to stop “chasing after wind” and to approach the future fully trusting in what God desires for us.

Feel free to reach out to Camp directly if you have questions or would like more information!

THE TOGETHER PROJECT

We are making big strides in our **Together** campaign! Several projects are completed or underway. The most recent project was a Weight Room remodel, and new permanent outdoor bleachers have arrived. Will you accept the invitation to be part of **together**? Help us cross the finish line! Email kanderson@lhsi.org for more information.

CHURCH LEADERS

Council:

- Brian Atkins (Chairman)
- Chris Ebling (Vice-Chairman)
- Amy Surburg (Recording Secretary)
- Joel Leonard (Treasurer)
- Jeff Dickmander (Properties Chair)
- Tom Fitzwater (Stewardship)

Elders:

- James Froiland
- Shawn Houser
- Mark Jenkins
- Chris Ebling
- Chuck Jones

Parochial Education:

- Debbie Kuehn
- Melissa Ebling
- Susan Pearson
- Chuck Jones
- Tawney Kearns

Parish Education:

- Matthew Surburg
- David Temme
- Libby Leonard

Financial Secretary:

- Jim Arthur

Ushers and Greeters Needed

Please contact Richard Curry or Jim Arthur if interested or desire more information.

Soundboard Operators

We are looking for people to assist with operating the soundboard during the worship service. So that you know - training will be supplied to anyone interested. You can sit with a sound person during service before making any commitment. Please contact Brian Atkins (317-435-0842) if you are interested or have any questions.

PROPERTY DIRECTOR

If there are concerns, regarding the buildings and property, please contact Jeff Dickmander at (413) 522-2591.

**RECEIVING IN FAITH:
Sunday, November 24, 2024**

9:15 am Service: 85

**RESPONDING IN FATH:
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

General Fund	\$3,886.40
Memorials	572.00
LCMS.....	50.00
Total	\$4,508.40

**IN THE LORD'S SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

- Organist..... Richard Thompson
- Crucifer/AcolyteAnna Surburg
- Communion Assistants James Froiland
.....and Jeff Corlew
- Greeters Jane Dobbs and Sandy Wilson
- Ushers Richard Curry, Will Voss,
.....and Jim Arthur
- Youth Assistant..... Kevin Wilson
- Altar Guild Tami Shultz and Bev Wilson
- Jr. Altar Guild Linus Wilson
- Fellowship/Refreshments.... The Dobbs, Wilson
..... and Thompson Families

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Colleen Donlan 12/04

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Lori Yeager..... 12/01

Colleen Donlan 12/04

Barbara Burnham..... 12/06

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Tawney & Derrick Kearns (5 yrs.)..... 12/07

PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Lori Yeager (email: lori-yeager@comcast.net/ phone: (317) 431-9514 for prayer chain requests. You may also contact the office.

Please inform the church office if a prayer, baptismal birthday, anniversary or birthday was missed or incorrect this week.

Thank you.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Note: *Prayer requests will be listed for four weeks, unless longer is requested.*

Evelyn Drake

Back Surgery on December 9

Debby Thompson

Hip Replacement on December 9

Darla White (Friend of Lori Yeager)

Breast Cancer

Pattie Fitzwater

Woody Yarwood

Cancer

Deborah Walker (Evelyn Drake's Sister-in-Law)

Lung Cancer

Janice Brown (Libby Leonard's Grandmother)

Melvin Biberdorf (Brother of Laura Bearman)

Cancer

Doris Bond

Homebound

Barbara Waterman

Homebound

Woody Yarwood

Homebound

Serving our Country

Nick Arthur Zachary Archer

Noah Heiwig (friend of the Yeagers)

Lukas Fielder (the Dickmanders' nephew)