

**Faith This Week for
December 30, 2019 - January 5, 2020**



On Christmas Eve, we welcomed an overflow crowd to worship at Faith--members of the Faith and Homestead churches, families, friends, and many new neighbors who aren't part (yet) of either congregation! It was a beautiful day and evening as we celebrated the birth of Jesus! Several people came to bring

the gift of childrens' socks and decorate cupcakes at the Birthday party for Jesus, and during Christmas Eve worship, we collected a generous offering of more than \$500 that will be given from Faith Church and Homestead church to help people in need. We are truly working together to serve others in Jesus' name!

Yesterday, we lit the Christ candle again and sang Christmas Carols all through worship! We celebrated the birth of Jesus--Emmanuel--God is with us. Look around you. Pay attention. God has been born into the world! Into this world that we live in! You and I get to decide what to do. God is with us. Are we with God?

Thank you to those who helped with the service and meal celebrating the life of Dave Anderson, who was a regular visitor to Clothed in Faith. Many of the 71 blankets collected in his memory were displayed during the service.

This coming Sunday, January 5th is **Epiphany**--giving Sunday! **Epiphany** means "the light shines forth" or "the light is made manifest." It's an opportunity for the church to celebrate the Light that shines in the darkness, and a chance to bring our own gifts and to make commitments to God by pledging to serve God with our lives, just as the Wise Ones did so long ago. We'll share Communion together, and when we come to the table, we'll bring our offerings and our pledges for the new year (*a pledge letter and pledge sheet is attached to this email, and there will be some available on Sunday*).

Announcements!



Faith Church is becoming a Loaves and Fishes Site

on **Wednesday, January 1st**--NEW YEAR'S DAY from

5:30-6:30pm, we'll begin hosting a community meal in cooperation with the Loaves and Fishes organization. This is in place of our

"regular" Wednesday night meal, though EVERYONE is still welcome to come and eat supper together as usual. Opening up this meal to the entire community is a way for us

to work together with other churches, organizations, schools and businesses in making sure that *all* are cared for and fed in light of the recent closure of the Family Fresh grocery store. If you'd like to come and eat, please join us between 5:30-6:30pm (and to be clear--this meal is for ALL to come and eat together, so please, come and eat. This is a place for gathering, for community, as well as for the meal that will be served.

If you'd like to help in some way with set up/cooking/clean up/greeting and more, a link to sign up is here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a5ab2fa1fa7-faith1>

All can help by spreading the news about the meal and clothes closet by word of mouth, email, and social media!

We are quickly seeing how the community is coming together to help, as the first two weeks are filled with volunteers in the kitchen and greeters--many of whom are individuals from other churches and businesses. People of Faith, we have an opportunity to serve, and to be served. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! This community meal will be served FREE to all (no free-will offering*, as the meal costs are being supported by Loaves and Fishes).

If you have questions, or would like to learn more about Loaves and Fishes or the meals we'll be serving each Wednesday, follow this link: <http://www.loavesandfishesmn.org/> or talk with Pastor Karen, Scott Evenson or Missions Chair, Dee Parker. KSTP tv did a story that included coverage of Faith Church this past weekend. A link to the story is here: <https://tinyurl.com/s2ulsav>

The Clothed in Faith clothes closet will also be open from 5:30-7pm now on Wednesdays (in addition to our regular 11:30-2:30pm time). If you would like to volunteer your time helping people to find free clothing, please contact Kathy Gunderson (651) 463-2663 or maggiepc@frontier.com, who will be organizing that schedule.

*Any offerings toward the meal may be donated to either Faith Church, toward increase building use or to Loaves and Fishes to support the costs of the meal, but there will not be a basket out for collections. For some, this will be an opportunity to increase your weekly offerings to Faith Church as you plan for your 2020 pledge. If you gave \$1 or \$2 or \$5 or more to Wednesday meals in the past, an idea would be to now add that amount to your weekly offering in church. God is providing unique and wonderful ways for us to grow at Faith and reach the community!

2019 Giving Statements* (through Dec 1st) were mailed out. **Remember, if you give in cash be sure to put it in an envelope marked with your name (if you'd like to receive a year end statement for tax purposes).*

Thank you, for the generosity you share in so many ways!

A 2019/20 Giving/Pledge sheet is attached to this email to be brought with you to worship this Sunday, January 5th.

If you cannot be present in worship, please send your pledge sheet to:

Faith Church 710 8th Street Farmington, MN 55024

THANK YOU again for your contributions to our Christmas PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE for the Farmington Food Shelf!

AMAZING job, people of Faith!! Thank you for your generous donations of **93 jars** of peanut butter for the Farmington Food Shelf!!! People are already appreciating your donations, as the food shelf was EMPTY of peanut butter just before your donations were shared.

Faith This Week Calendar

(The church office is open 9am-1pm Mon-Thurs)

Monday at Faith: 12/30

Tuesday at Faith: 12/31--New Year's Eve

10:10am --"Tuesday's at 10:10" New Year's Eve prayer focus invites you to stop what you're doing for a moment to pray (by yourself or w/others): "God, I invite you to shine a light in the world through me. I know that you are with us--Emmanuel. Help me to find You in everything, and to believe in all of the possibilities you have in mind for me and for Faith Church in the coming year. Amen."

*Specific prayer requests can be sent to the Faith Prayer Team at:

prayerteam.faithumc@gmail.com Contact Ruth Phillips at 651-387-7186 *If **you** would like to join our Prayer team ministry, talk with Ruth or with Pastor Karen.*

7:00pm--NA meeting (at Faith Church)

Wednesday at Faith: 1/1--New Year's Day

Happy New Year! May you continue to know and share the blessings of Emmanuel--"God with us" in the world!

The Faith Church office is closed today, but many will be preparing for the Loaves and Fishes meal during the day.

5:30-6:30pm--Loaves and Fishes Community Meal

5:30-7:00pm--Clothed in Faith is open

6:45pm--Faith Wednesday Worship (*in chapel or sanctuary*)

Thursday at Faith: 1/2

10:45am--Trinity Terrace worship service (TT library)

Friday at Faith: 1/3

Church office is closed, but Faith is active in our lives!

Saturday at Faith: 1/4

Church office is closed, but Faith is active in our lives!

Sunday at Faith: 1/5-- *Epiphany and Giving Sunday!*

Invite friends, neighbors, and family to worship!

9:30am--**Worship** Pastor Karen, preaching

(Childcare for Infants/Toddlers available starting at 9:00am)

10:30am--**1st Sunday Brunch**--New Year's potluck!! Bring something to share, as you're able for brunch.

Coming Up Soon:

Wednesday, January 1st--NEW YEAR'S DAY

Loaves and Fishes community meal from 5:30-6:30pm.

Please join us in serving our Farmington community!

Sign up to help in some way with set up/cooking/clean up/greeting and more, a link to sign up is here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a5ab2fa1fa7-faith1> If a time slot doesn't "let" you sign up--it's likely because the spaces are full. Scroll to a date on the list that's farther out on the calendar (that works for you) and click the box that says "Sign Up" on the right side of that part of the screen. After you've clicked the box, then look to the bottom of your screen and click "Submit and Sign Up." It will guide you through the rest.

If you're having trouble with the sign up link, please call the church office--we can get you signed up to help!

**If you are ready for baptism or to join Faith church as a member, contact Pastor Karen at karen.faithumc@gmail.com.*

Our next joining date is Sunday, January 12th.

We are praying for and with you.

<i>Are you interested in being a greeter, usher, or is God calling you to lead our Faith Hospitality Team? Contact Lead Usher Bob H, or Pastor Karen to learn more...</i>	
<i>What a wonderful way to build community!</i>	
<i>Are you interested in being a teacher, helper, mentor or is God calling you to be a leader or supporter of Faith for Kids or Youth Ministries? Contact Pastor Karen to learn more...</i>	

If you would like to help out at church (shoveling, cleaning, cleaning the worship space, etc) or would like to help out once in awhile with some minor maintenance jobs and other tasks at Faith Church, please contact the church office or a member of our Trustees team to find out more.

Blessings,

Pastor Karen and Donette Firstahl, Office Administrator