



Faith News

WELCOME

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace everyone as a whole person, with questions, doubts, complexities and all. We are moved by God's grace to welcome all who have ever felt marginalized, no matter your gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, or faith background. We welcome you as we worship, learn, and share Christ's love together.



Meals at the Manger

Will continue throughout the month of December.

Bring Non-Perishable Food Items to Worship Services beginning December 8th through December 29th (including Christmas Eve) to place at the Manger at Faith Lutheran Church to benefit The FISH of Roseburg.

Most Needed Items: Canned fruit, canned vegetables, tuna, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, mac & cheese, chili, baby food, baby formula and baby diapers.

The Helping Hands committee has volunteered to match \$1000 for 1000 pounds of food collected.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2023 @ 7pm.

This will be a candlelight service with Holy Communion.

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From Pastor Janine

Happy New Year!

I like the fact that churches are a little bit weird. I like that our liturgical New Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent each year, instead of waiting with the rest of the world for the ball to drop on New Year's Eve. We get to march to our own drummer. And so instead of marking the new year with champagne toasts and grandiose resolutions that rarely make it through the week, we light a candle and remind one another that whether we are ready or not, Jesus comes to us...and he is the one who truly makes everything new. Yes, our new year begins with Advent and it is all about Jesus who comes to us, just as we are, and loves us into new beginnings.

Jesus who comes before we have our life together...when we've failed at keeping all those rosy resolutions, when we've disappointed people we love, when we're struggling with our own personal demons of depression and grief and addiction.

Jesus who comes into our lives that are not what we expected or hoped for...in circumstances that we would not have chosen...when our dreams have been shattered.

Jesus who comes to us in unexpected pregnancies (like Mary's), in dead end jobs (like the shepherds), and in the midst of the horrors of political violence (like Herod's murder of the children).

Jesus who comes into this world and into our lives to announce that God is here...with us...right now. And that God loves us...just as we are. And that nothing, nothing in this whole wide world, nothing in our hearts or minds, could ever shake God's hold on us. Not even death.

From Pastor Janine continued

Yes, that's how we begin a new year in church....not with our so often unfulfilled promises and rosy resolutions about the ways we will make our lives better...but rather, with the reminder that Jesus is the fulfillment of *all* God's promises. And Jesus keeps showing up. He keeps coming -- again and again and again. What a wonderfully weird thing it is to be the church and to have countless new beginnings in Christ.

We are blessed this Advent with the new beginning of our ministry together. May we look for Jesus who will keep showing up in our midst in this new year and all the years ahead.

In Christ,
Rev. Janine

Pastors Janine and Matt's installation ceremony will be on January 14, 2024 at 2:00pm. Please mark your calendar with this special date.

Embracing Diversity

In January Embracing Diversity has invited a guest speaker from FARA (Faith, Family, and Relationship Advocates) for our first of four *Donuts For Diversity* events. Mark your calendar now!

This will be held on **Saturday, January 13, at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall**. Our goal is to share the variety of agencies who assist our community and the services they provide. The community will be invited to this event. There will be more information closer to the event

Embracing Diversity Team has an ongoing "Gracism" book discussion at 11:00am, after Sunday morning's services. This a great way to gain understanding of our communities struggles with treating each other equally. All are welcome, the book is not needed to join the conversation.

Hope to see you there.

Calendar Highlights

Advent and Christmas at Faith

December 3st 2023 Advent Devotion Book available.

December 7th Christmas Tree set-up.

December 10th Tree decorating after the morning's services.

December 11th Gifts for Angel Tree Kids due to church.

December 17th Foster Care kids, & adopted families gifts due to the church.
Meals at the Manger Food Drive for the FISH of Roseburg continues.

December 24th We will have usual morning service and continue the celebration of the Birth of our Lord.

7:00pm Christmas Eve Festive Candlelight Service with Holy Communion at 7:00p.m.
Meals at the Manger Food Drive for the FISH of Roseburg continues.



December 31st Lessons and Carols service. We will continue the celebration of the Birth of our Lord. **Meals at the Manger Food Drive** for the FISH of Roseburg concludes. Bring your leftover holiday cookies, candies and fruitcake for a "Leftover Dessert Potluck."

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - On January 28, 2024 we will hold our annual meeting following the morning's service. We will vote on the 2024 budget, elect council members, elect people to attend the Synod Assembly, and review the ministries of the church. Please mark your calendar to attend.

REMINDER: **Committee Reports for the Annual Report** are due in the church office by January 5, 2024. If possible, please send them via E-mail to Jackie at: office@faithroseburg.org

Outreach

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



Fellowship & Food Update ~

Now that our wonderful new Pastors are here, Fellowship and Food gatherings can be scheduled. YEAH!!! Hosts will be contacting Janine and Matt for their availability so dates and times can be established. If you have already signed up, look for the date and time of your gathering in the top right-hand corner of your sign-up sheet. If you haven't signed-up, look for a time that works for you. Please be patient; these opportunities to share fellowship and food will take place over the next several months.

Angel Tree Kids

REMINDER: the gifts for the children on the Giving Tree are due to the conference room **by December 11th**. These gifts should be wrapped with the child's name on it.



*We are happy to announce that ALL of the **Angel Tree children** have happy elf buyers for their Christmas gifts. Thank you to all that are participating in this program.*

*We are happy to announce that all of the **foster children** have happy elf buyers for their Christmas gifts. Thank you to all that are participating in this program*

*For the **Families in Need** gifts ~ please bring them to the church by December 17th so we may get them to the kiddos before Christmas.*

Thank you for your help!
Debby Russell

Council Corner

COUNCIL CORNER

We had a productive council meeting Monday night November 27, 2023. This was our first council meeting with pastors Matt and Janene Goodrich. They assured us that everything was going very well. Their formal installation is scheduled for the afternoon on January 14.

We scheduled the annual meeting for January 28.

There are three seats on the council up for election at the next annual meeting. The seats occupied by Charles Lee and Sharon Muck are up for a three-year term, and the seat occupied by Jane Hill is up for a two-year term. We welcome new blood on the council and anticipate that the church will be an exciting place in the next few years. Please search your hearts to let us know if you can serve as a Council member. The work is not physically taxing and the Church benefits from having a variety of voices on Council.

At the annual meeting we will also be adopting the church budget for the year. The council approved a draft budget presented by the budget committee. The pledge cards this fall have been showing an increase of about 15% in planned giving, and so the budget committee used that as a guide in drafting the proposed budget.

We approved the idea of installing doors between the fellowship hall and the hallway. We heat and cool the fellowship hall but it is difficult to control the temperature as the hallway is unheated. The problem is particularly noticeable during cold weather. We discussed the need for any doors to open wide enough to allow easy access. A committee is going to investigate the options for installing doors.

We have yellow painted concrete bumpers helping to mark the handicapped parking spots in the parking lot near the doors to the sanctuary. Formerly those concrete bumpers also protected a sign that identified those parking spaces.

Council Corner continued

The bumpers were not successful in protecting the sign and it was damaged and removed. Now the concrete bumpers have come to be a tripping hazard, particularly in the twilight or dark. We voted to remove the concrete bumpers and to remark the handicapped parking spots with the standardized blue and yellow paint markings.

We approved subscribing through Douglas FastNet to a managed router for wireless internet service to the church. Several council members had experience with this type of service and it should better support both the church's web page and remote service and wireless access throughout the building.

We had a vigorous discussion about returning to pre-Covid practices in the church, including holding hands across the congregation during the Lord's Prayer and kneeling at the rail for communion. In the end we took no action as there was no consensus about how people feel, post-Covid, about physical closeness in the services.

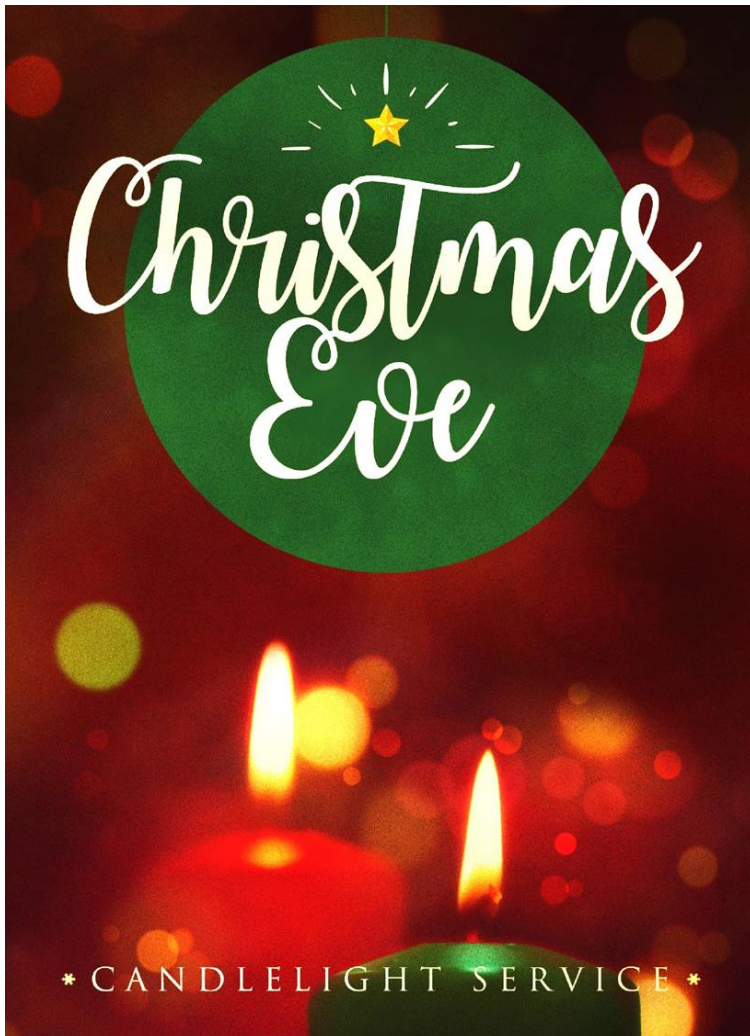
We look forward to a joyful Christmas season.

God Bless You All!

Charles Lee



Special Events



You are invited to . . .

Christmas at
Faith Lutheran Church
820 West Kenwood St., Roseburg

December 24th - Christmas Eve
7:00 pm
Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 31st
"Lessons and Carols"
9:30 am

Meals at the Manger

Bring non-perishable food (ie: canned goods, baby formula, diapers, boxed Mac & Cheese, etc.) to the church during any of these services to place at the Manger to benefit the FISH Food Pantry in Roseburg.

Faith Lutheran's Helping Hands will match \$1,000 for the first 1,000 pounds of food donated.

Invitations for this year's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service can be found on the table in the entryway of the church and also will be inserted in the bulletins. Please feel free to take some with you to invite family and friends to our Christmas Eve service.





If you would like to purchase Poinsettias for our Sanctuary for the upcoming Christmas season, please complete the form that will be available in the December bulletins and leave it in the offering (along with your payment) or bring to the church office by December 18th.
Small Plant - \$10.00,
IF larger plants are available, they will be by donation.

Feed the World coin boxes are available on the table in the entryway. Remember that if you don't have many coins, cash or a check donation is acceptable. You can find envelopes for your cash or check donation in the same basket that the empty boxes are located.



These will be collected in January 2024

Find us on these platforms:
FELC Website: www.faithroseburg.org
YouTube: Faith Lutheran Church, Roseburg
Find us on Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church ELCA
Livestream: <https://streamlabs.com/faithlutheranchurchroseburg>

Ministerial Staff

Pastor Janine Goodrich
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Pastor Matt Goodrich
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541-672-2231

Kirstin Wright, Assistant Treasurer
kidzkirs@outlook.com

Musicians

Gwen Soderberg-Chase, Pianist
Rey Wanamaker, Pianist
Crossroads Contemporary Music Group

Office Info:

The church office hours are:
Tuesday thru Friday
10am til 4pm

CHURCH COUNCIL Members

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Return Service Requested

Office Info:

The church office hours are:

Tuesday thru Friday
10am ~ 4pm.

