



Faith Lutheran Church

Newsletter *December 2024*

A Message from Pastor Chris

May God's blessings of hope, peace, joy and love be upon you as we enter the Advent season!

This year the season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. Advent is a preparatory and contemplative season in which we are invited to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming light of Christ entering the world at Christmas. Advent also overlaps with a hectic pre-Christmas season, a time laden with the stresses of a busy schedule, holiday shopping, and numerous



gatherings, all amid the press of deepening winter and seasonal darkness. While the religious observance of Advent and Christmas may seem to have little remaining relationship to the civil and retail Christmas season, both afford us the opportunity to gather with family and friends, to practice the gifts of generosity and hospitality, and to express our love and care for our family, friends and the community around us. This year, with the first Sunday in Advent falling on the first day in December, commercially available Advent calendars will

also parallel the church season of Advent, helping us to observe the countdown until our celebration of Christmas.

As we begin Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary, we follow Luke's Gospel account and we are invited to prepare ourselves for the second coming of Christ in the fullness of time. We hear the annunciation of the arrival of Jesus through both John the Baptist as well as through Mary's song, the Magnificat. These gospel readings invite us into a time of anticipation, to look forward to the fulfillment of God's promises in the future even as we celebrate what has already been fulfilled in days long gone by, to make room in our Advent and Christmas celebrations for the anticipation of Christ who will come again.



(continued on page 2)

A Message from Pastor Chris (continued from page 1)



Our Christmas Hamper Committee has been hard at work preparing 26 hampers for members of the wider community. In order to meet this goal, we will need both your financial support as well as your time and talents. Help is needed to both pack the hampers as well as delivering them. Please look for sign-up sheets in the church Narthex (foyer) in the coming weeks.

Please join us on November 30th at 5:00 pm for a time for food, fellowship and music as we gather for an Advent Dinner! We will gather for dinner, sing some advent songs, and make a Christmas craft that will be donated to the residents of River Park Gardens Personal Care Home. We hope to see you there!



Members of the congregation are also invited to share their gift of singing and holiday cheer in a time of Caroling at River Park Gardens Personal Care Home. We will be gathering at River Park Gardens at 6:00 pm on December 9th to sing to residents and staff as we wander through the halls spreading the joy of the season.

Stay for a time of Coffee and Chaos following our Sunday Worship Service on December 15th. Our Christian Education Committee has planned activities and a time of fellowship for all generations.

(continued on page 3)



Faith Lutheran Church *Newsletter*

This newsletter helps us achieve our vision: *Faith Lutheran, reflecting God's grace, is seeking to reach out and serve people, primarily in southeast Winnipeg; to become a community of belonging and hope, built on caring and nurturing relationships, and spiritual direction and growth.*

Published periodically, *The Faith Lutheran Church Newsletter* provides spiritual reflection, helps build community, fosters caring and nurturing relationships, and promotes opportunities for fellowship and celebration. The newsletter encourages ways to support our community missions, and provides updates on how we are working towards achieving our vision.

We welcome your contributions, which may be edited for length or style. You can reach us at:

officeadmin@faithlc.ca

(204) 253-1491

Faith Lutheran Church, 1411 Dakota Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2N 1V8

A Message from Pastor Chris (continued from page 2)



Faith will be hosting a Blue Christmas Service on December 19th at 7:00 pm for all who are feeling the effects of grief and loss during the holiday season. While Advent and Christmas are for many of us seasons of joyful celebration with family and friends, we recognize that this time can be deeply challenging to those who have suffered the pain of loss. As we near the longest night of the year we will gather to light candles in remembrance of the losses which we are grieving and to remind us of the light of Christ which shall not be overcome by darkness.

Our Christmas Season begins with our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, which will be held at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm on December 24th. We will gather again at 10:00 am on Christmas Day for a Service of Holy Communion. Our final Worship Service of the Christmas season will take place on December 29th when we will gather for a Service of Lessons and Carols.



If you are looking for devotions during this Advent and Christmas season, consider taking a look at Lutherans Connect online daily devotions. These will be accessible through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/lutherans.connect/> You can also have them sent to you by email by sending a request to lutheransconnect@gmail.com.

We pray that you will be able to take part in some or all these opportunities to mark this coming Advent and Christmas seasons with us! May the light of Christ bless you and those you loves as we close the year 2024 and look forward to a Happy New Year!



Blue Christmas
A Service of Light
for those feeling grief and loss
this holiday season

Dec. 19, 7:00 pm

Join us in person or online
@faithlcwinnipeg



Lessons & Carols
Sunday, Dec. 29
10:00 am



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services*

December 24

3:30 pm & 5:30 pm

Join us in person
or online @faithlcwinnipeg



Joy to the World!

Christmas Day

Service of Holy Communion

10:00 am December 25

Memory Tree

During Advent, we invite you to hang an ornament on the Christmas Tree in the entrance of the sanctuary in memory of a loved one. (These ornaments can be picked up after Christmas.)



Coffee and Chaos: learning and exploring in community

The Christian Education Committee is excited to invite the whole Faith Family to learn and play with us as we kick off the season of Advent with our first “Coffee and Chaos.” After worship on Sunday, December 15, plan to stay for a little bit of extra fellowship and activity for all ages. There will be a variety of activities to enjoy, from contributing to a community Advent wreath to singing Advent and Christmas hymns to making a unique ornament—while not missing out on coffee and treats. There will also be some supervised games and movement activities for those who learn with their whole selves! We can’t wait for you to join us for a chaotic time of fun and community.

Christmas Eve altar flowers

Families wishing to place flowers on the altar for the Christmas Eve services can do so by designating offering donations of \$25 to “Christmas Flowers” on or before December 16th. Please include a note indicating if the flowers are placed in memory of someone, or in thanksgiving for someone/thing.

(Please do not bring flowers/plants due to allergies.)



Annual caroling event at River Park Gardens

Meet inside the front entrance of 735 St. Anne’s Road.

Start at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. on Monday, December 9th.

We will be singing familiar carols as we walk the halls and bring Christmas joy to the residents. Song books will be provided. All ages are welcome.



Greetings from our Council Chair

Greetings Faith Family. As the fall settles in and transitions to winter again, I think about all that is to come. Winter. Christmas. Snow. Get together with my family. Snow. Did I say that already?

Now that 2024 is almost finished, I reflect on the things that we have accomplished on council. We have signed a new lease for the daycare at Faith. We have welcomed the Minds in Motion, a program which helps people living with Alzheimer's, into our building for another season. But maybe most importantly, we have begun the process of visioning for the future of Faith.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. And, I'd like to leave you with a reminder that our annual general meeting will be coming up shortly into the new year on February 9th. Hopefully I will see many of you there.



Chris Buffie, Council Chair

December Monthly Appeal: Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Give Gifts from the Heart this Christmas!

Canadian Lutheran World Relief's new Gifts from the Heart catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Copies are available in the Narthex, or you can shop online at clwr.org/GFTH.



Treasurer's report

Hello Faith family,

It is hard to believe that we are in November, this year has gone by so fast. Mother Nature was kind to us this year, the snow arrived on November 25th.

Faith's income is tracking close to budget. Our expenses are in a favorable position, with a few more months left in 2024.

If you have any questions, contact the church office.

Income		
Budget Jan-Oct 2024	Actuals Jan-Oct 2024	Difference
\$239,183	\$241,000	\$1,817

Expenses		
Budget Jan-Oct 2024	Actuals Jan-Oct 2024	Difference
\$334,526	\$301,728	-\$32,798

Ways to give

- Mail in post-dated cheques or contact our Office Administrator, Cathy, to arrange to drop them off at the office.
- Contact Cathy to set up Electronic Funds Transfer or Pre-Authorized Remittance.
- Donate through our website <https://www.faihlc.ca/> by clicking OFFERING
- Donate via Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/18521>



Bill Byers, Treasurer

Secretary's report

Here are some highlights from Church Council's meetings:

- **Faith Children's Centre:** A new updated lease has been signed between the Daycare and Faith Lutheran Church. The old lease expired at the end of September. Faith has a new member on the daycare board – Tara Petkau.
- **40th Anniversary of Faith being at current location:** Thank you to the committee and all the volunteers who planned and worked on this celebration.
- **Upcoming Advent Events:** Several events are being hosted by different committees of the church.
 - **Youth Christmas Fundraiser on** November 17 and 24 for poinsettias, wreaths and gift cards from Shelmerdine Nursery, designated for youth attending the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering next year.
 - **Advent Dinner** will be held Saturday, November 30 at 5:00 pm at the church.
 - **Coffee and Chaos, a Christian Education Event,** will be held on December 15 following the service.
- **IT Committee:** They are in the process of updating all church computers to Windows 11.
- **Council Book Study:** As part of the council meeting, we have begun reading and discussing the book "Fishing Tips – How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith" by Rev. Dr. John Pentland.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 6:30 pm in the Blue Room.



Melissa Ulrich, Secretary

SHOUT OUT

An update on our Youth Ministry - Director of Youth Ministry

Hello everyone, I hope that everyone is staying warm as the weather is getting colder these days. Friendly reminder that, our events are for youth in grades 7-12 and youth are always welcome to bring along friends. The more the merrier! This youth group is open to all!

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who supported our Shelmerdine fundraiser for the CLAY gathering that's coming up in August 2025. We are so excited to be able to attend the gathering this year! If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, wreath, or door swag there is still time! The last day to place orders is Friday December 6th and all orders are placed online this year through Shelmerdine's fundraiser website.

<https://fundraisers.shelmerdine.com/shop-fundraisers/> . Don't forgot to add Faith Lutheran Youth Group as your fundraiser group as you check out with your order.

All Shelmerdine orders will be available for pick up at Faith Lutheran Church on Friday December 13th from 3:30-6:30 pm. If this time does not work for you, please contact myself, youth director, as soon as possible to figure out an alternative plan.

We have some fun and festive events coming up in December. We will be joining the MNO Synod's ADVENT- ure event on Sunday December 8th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. at the Fire Circle in Indigenous People's Garden, at the Leaf. This event will be mainly outside so please dress accordingly. The cost of this event is \$10 per person. We will have time for fellowship as well as some advent reflection and a meaningful exploration of nature. We would love to have you join us!

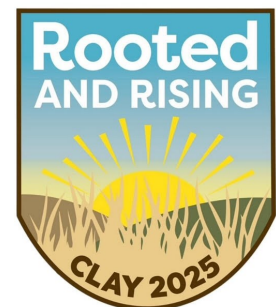
We will also gather at St Mark's Lutheran Church (600 Cambridge Street) Saturday December 14th from 7:00- 10:00pm. We will be decorating cookies and will also have the opportunity to make cards for those that matter to us and the community. At this event we will be thinking about the Christmas season and how giving works. We would love to have you join us!

On Sunday December 15th, the Christian Education Committee is running our first multigenerational learning moment event. This is taking place after worship around 11:15 to 12:00. We will be doing a craft and running some activities and games. We are looking for youth volunteers to help with running the games. If youth that are helping could come before worship at 9:45 that would be greatly appreciated.

After this we will take a brief break, and events will restart in January with some volunteering and other fun events! Keep an eye out for fundraising opportunities announcements from me, Soup and Bread in March/ April and other things such as gift card sales and more.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at youth@faithlc.ca if you would like to join our youth group or have any questions! We would love to expand our group to anyone that is interested!

Thank you.



Community Missions

Christmas Hampers

Our 2024 Christmas Hamper campaign is under way and we are providing 26 hampers to families in our community. Names for the hampers have come from the Christmas Cheer Board and from our congregation. These families include 52 children that we will be buying gifts for.

Last year our congregation was very generous with financial donations for the hampers and we are hoping you will support us generously this year. As we all know, the price of food has risen significantly and we expect that food and presents for these hampers will cost us more this year.

We will also require help to wrap presents and to deliver hampers. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Hampers will be delivered on Saturday December 14th. We will meet in the Blue Room at 9:30am and hope to deliver the hampers between 10:00 and 11:00 am.

Prayerfully consider your financial donations and your time to help make our campaign successful and to bring Christmas Cheer to our hamper families.



Helping Babies Get A Healthy Start - January Special Appeal

Starting in January and February, we will once again be collecting items for baby layettes that we donate to Healthy Start, a program that provides information, support and resources to low income and Newcomer families who are pregnant and have children under 1 year of age. This will be our 11th year supporting this program that holds weekly groups in 9 locations throughout Winnipeg. The following is a list of items that we are collecting. A collection box will be placed in the narthex for your donations.

- Newborn or size 1 diapers.
- Baby washcloths
- Size 0-3 month onesies
- Size 3 month sweaters and hats
- Size 0-3 month cotton sleepers
- Flannelette receiving blankets



Community Missions

Sleep in Heavenly Peace



Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a volunteer organization that with the help of monetary donations and the giving of time from people, make beds for children that don't have a bed of their own to sleep in. With group builds of 25-35 volunteers they can make up to 30 beds in approx. 4 hours. Then a team from SHP will install these beds to the people in need. All tools and materials will be provided. Experienced or no experience in building. All are welcome to help people in need.

A new date for SHP bed build is on **Saturday April 12th, 2025 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

The SHP organization Winnipeg branch is happy to announce they have an indoor facility at Bowman Industrial Park in Elmwood. This enables us to have our group build without worrying about bad weather.

A sign up date will be put up closer to the date with specific details.



Refugee update: Helping reunite families

Refugee Sponsorship helps reunite families with relatives affected by war and discrimination, mainly in Africa. In partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), we file applications with Immigration Canada on behalf of the families.

It is Faith's and CLWR's responsibility to ensure the newcomers are properly settled.

This means we guarantee the success of the resettlement for one year financially, through in-kind household donations and assisting the newcomers in obtaining proper documents, education, and jobs.

Most of this has been done by the families here in Winnipeg but we will call on people at Faith if anything is needed.

This past year, seventeen people we sponsored joined their families here in Winnipeg and Calgary. All are doing well and settling into Canadian life. We are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of three teenagers who lost their parents in a political demonstration. Also expected before the end of the year is a mother and her two children.

Community Missions

How your donations and support are helping the homeless in our community

On a recent weekday we dropped off trays of freshly made shepherd's pie for those experiencing homelessness in our community, along with several large bags filled with warm winter clothing, blankets, towels and toiletries donated by people at Faith.

The team at Street Links has asked that we extend a huge *Thank You* to those who regularly help prepare warm, nutritious meals; knit warm blankets and hats, and generously fill our donations bin. These items are *so* appreciated by people who are trying to rebuild their lives. As well, the support team at Street Links views this as validation of the work they do in the community.

At 604 St. Mary's Road for another year

The City has recently confirmed that Street Links can remain in their current location at 604 St. Mary's Road – the former St. Vital City Hall building -- for at least another year, through November 2025.

Street Links has since relocated its support team there, while creating a safe space and a transitional bed pilot program for homeless people discharged from various city hospitals. The search continues for a permanent home for Street Links.

Street Links' Outreach team

Street Links' Outreach Team responds to City 311 encampment calls, inquiries from citizens and the business community.

They provide immediate, often life-saving support to individuals grappling with homelessness, mental health issues, and various personal obstacles. They work closely with mental health professionals to ensure that each person has a tailored plan that comprehensively addresses their immediate needs.

Some key statistics about Street Links in our community:

- On average, Street Links houses 2 individuals every weekday with projections to exceed 600 placements by March 31, 2025
- 986 individuals have transitioned from encampments to stable housing in the past 36 months
- Of those housed, 15% have successfully completed recovery programs and are actively living substance-free
- The housing-first approach has led to a significant reduction in the risk of overdose deaths among their clients



The Street Links location at 604 St. Mary's Road features a giant mandala, which conveys the message that homelessness reflects diverse ethnicities and can be found in every corner of our city; and that each person deserves what many of us often take for granted—a safe and secure place to call home.

Women of Faith



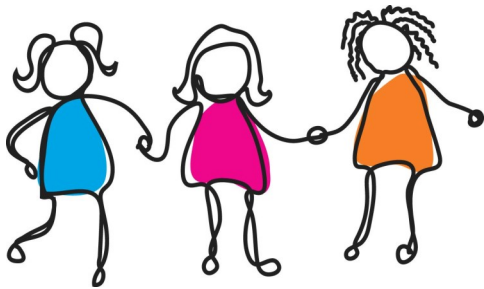
Please join us for Bible Study on December 7th, 2024 at 10:00 am.

We are doing a Bible Study called Receiving grace: a study of Ephesians

Our first Bible Study in the New Year will be Saturday January 4th, 2025 at 10:00am

We will be picking a new study in December so please stay tuned to see what it will be.

If you are looking to study the Bible and hoping to meet some enchanting women for fellowship and friendship, we may be the small group you are seeking. We usually meet the first Saturday of the month unless it is during a holiday weekend.



Men's Breakfast

All men in the congregation are invited to attend, (along with their friends and/or neighbours), our upcoming Men's Breakfasts on:

December 14, January 11 and February 8

Our men take turns preparing special menus of their choice, followed by interesting and timely topics for discussion.

Breakfasts are held in Blue room and commence at 8:30 am and continue until 9:30/10:00. The cost is \$5.00. Call Trevor Hayden or the church office.

On a very sad note, our Men's Breakfast Group lost one of our members; on the passing of Ernie Buhr. Ernie was one of our most supportive and contributing members and will be sadly missed. A moment of silence will be observed for Ernie, at our December meeting.



Confirmation Schedule 2024 to 2025

All classes scheduled for Sundays @ 2-3:30PM unless otherwise noted.

Faith participates in a City Wide confirmation program with pastoral and lay leadership from multiple ELCIC Lutheran Churches in metro Winnipeg, and the MNO Synod. The program is designed to begin in Grade 7 and end in Grade 9. Our goal is to help you learn more about the Christian faith, the Lutheran tradition specifically, the life of the church, and provide a place to ask questions, build community and have fun to prepare for the rite of the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation Sunday). Each year will focus either on the Bible (one year for focus on Hebrew scriptures, another for the New Testament Epistles and Gospels), and a Catechism year where we review Luther's Small Catechism, the history of the Lutheran Church and the way in which we understand ourselves as church today.

We will gather on Sunday afternoons from 2-3:30PM for two 8 week blocks. The first block will begin Sunday September 29 @ Messiah Lutheran Church and run until November 24. Our second block will begin on Sunday January 12 through to March 2nd. Our classes will rotate between congregations (schedule attached). Each week, class will be recorded and available to view for those unable to attend in person. In addition to our Sunday classes, there will be additional opportunities to connect faith and life through field trips (TBA) and the MNO Synod's WinterQuest Saturday, February 8th (location and full agenda TBD) which is considered part of the confirmation program. Confirmation materials will be presented to confirmation students at the start of the year.

Confirmation students are expected to attend classes and take on active participation in the worship life and ministry of our congregation which may include serving as a worship assistant (acolyte, lector, greeter/usher, assisting minister, communion server, livestream tech, etc.), or within one of our many groups or committees.

Confirmation Winter 2025 Schedule

All classes scheduled for Sundays @ 2-3:30PM unless otherwise noted

DATE	HOST
January 12	Sherwood Park - 7 Tudor Cres
January 19	Sherwood Park - 7 Tudor Cres
January 26	Sherwood Park - 7 Tudor Cres
February 2	Sherwood Park - 7 Tudor Cres
Saturday February 8	WinterQuest time and location TBD
February 9	St. Mark's - 600 Cambridge St.
February 16	NO CLASS (Louis Riel Day Long Weekend)
February 23	St. Mark's - 600 Cambridge St.
March 2	St. Mark's - 600 Cambridge St.

Faith Book Club Chapter 1



Faith Book Club Chapter 1 meets in the Blue Room at the church on the 4th Tuesday of the month September to June (except for December) at 7:00 p.m. We are a small group that comes together to share our love for reading. Our upcoming reading list is below. Please consider joining us, we would love to have you. Contact Bernice or the church office with any questions.

We jumped into the holiday spirit on November 23 when we helped decorate River Park Gardens for Christmas. After decorating we enjoyed lunch at Maxime's with a book exchange.



We were saddened

to hear about the

Faith Book Club Chapter 1 (continued from page 16)

Faith Book Club Chapter 1 Schedule for 2025

January 28, 2025	<i>Drive Your Plough Over the Bones of the Dead</i> by Olga Tokarczuk
February 25, 2025	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> by Bonnie Garmus
March 25, 2025	<i>The Phoenix Crown</i> by Kate Quinn and Janie Chan
April 22, 2025	<i>The Humans</i> by Matt Haig
May 27, 2025	<i>The Women</i> by Kristin Hannah

June Potluck and book selections – date to be determined

January 28, 2025 - *Drive Your Plough Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk

A funny, disturbing, murder-mystery. The story takes place in a remote village in Poland. The main character is an eccentric older woman who despises those who hunt animals. She is afflicted with a myriad of mysterious ailments and is an amateur astrologist.

February 25, 2025 – *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.

Faith Book Club Chapter 2



Faith Book Club Chapter 2 meets offsite usually on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please join us for a lively book discussion and fellowship. Contact the church office for location.

The selection for December 12th is, *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple

With all his family and friends gone, one-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies. Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one. Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upside-down, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.

The selection for January 23rd, 2025, *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* by Mitch Albom

Frankie, born in a burning church, abandoned as an infant, and raised by a music teacher in a small Spanish town, until war rips his life apart. At nine years old, he is sent to America in the bottom of a boat. His only possession is an old guitar and six precious strings. His amazing journey weaves him through the musical landscape of the 1940s, '50s and '60s, with his stunning playing and singing talent affecting numerous stars (Duke Ellington, Hank Williams, Elvis Presley) until, as if predestined, he becomes a pop star himself. He makes records. He is adored. But Frankie Presto's gift is also his burden, as he realizes the power of the strings his teacher gave him, and how, through his music, he can actually affect people's lives. At the height of his popularity, tortured by his biggest mistake, he vanishes. Legend grows. Only decades later, having finally healed his heart,

does Frankie reappear just before his spectacular death—to change one last life. With the Spirit of Music as our guide, we glimpse into the lives that were changed by one man whose strings could touch the music—and the magic—in each of us.

The selection for February 27th, is *Here One Moment* by Liane Moriarty

Aside from a delay, there will be no problems. The flight will be smooth, it will land safely. Everyone who gets on the plane will get off. But almost all of them will be forever changed. Because on this ordinary, short, domestic flight, something extraordinary happens. People learn how and when they are going to die. For some, their death is far in the future—age 103!—and they laugh. But for six passengers, their predicted deaths are not far away at all. How do they know this? There were ostensibly more interesting people on the flight (the bride and groom, the jittery, possibly famous woman, the giant Hemsworth-esque guy who looks like an off-duty superhero, the frazzled, gorgeous flight attendant) but none would become as famous as “The Death Lady.” Not a single passenger or crew member will later recall noticing her board the plane. She wasn't exceptionally old or young, rude or polite. She wasn't drunk or nervous or pregnant. Her appearance and demeanor were unremarkable. But what she did on that flight was truly remarkable. A few months later, one passenger dies exactly as she predicted. Then two more passengers die, again, as she said they would. If you were told you only had a certain amount of time left to live, would you do things differently? Would you try to dodge your destiny?

Cooking for the King

We had a great fall, meeting together to cook for the community and the Urban.

We met twice this fall, in September and November, to make 240 lunches for the Urban.

Over 300 cookies were made to help with snack at their sharing circles. The Urban Ministry Manager, Rhonda Gorham, was very appreciative. A great job by all.

We were able to meet twice to cook wonderful meals for the community in October and November. The freezer looks great with over 80 meals and many soups to share for the winter months.

The team also made 6 pans of Rice Krispie treats for the daycare kids.

Thank you to everyone that helped.

This food is available for distribution to help someone in need, by contacting the Pastor or our Office Administrator (204.253.1491 x20) or any member of Cooking for the King team.

Anyone with a passion for cooking and serving is welcome to join. If you would like to know more about Cooking for the King, contact Elaine or the church office.

Present on the pictures are members of Cooking for the King team who cook and prepare meals for the community and the Urban.



Certified Food Handler Course

This fall the church offered the Certified Food Handler Training Course.

Nine members of our church took the course and are now qualified for the next 5 years. Members were from the Men's Breakfast group, the Street Links team and Cooking for the King team. Congratulations to all:

Trevor Hayden
Alfred Kailer
Beverly Brglez
Shirley Adam
Carol Cordingley
Brenda Gervais
Janice Latschislaw
Wendy MacDonald
Elaine Arsenault-Schultz

Thank you to the Christian Education, Youth and Family Committee and the Community Missions Committee that helped to make this possible.



Faith Gardens Inc.

December 2024



Sept. 28, 2024, saw the return of the band <<REWIND<< to Faith Lutheran Church for a concert in support of the Spiritual Care Program at River Park Gardens and specifically the Spiritual Care Provider, Marigold Peters.

The performance was enjoyed by all in attendance and many folks took to the dance floor as part of the event. Two standing ovations were well earned!

In a previous newsletter we mentioned that the Manager of Health Services at River Park Gardens had left, and a replacement was being sought. That process took awhile, but finally the position has been filled. We have met with Alison Anderson and have resumed our Advisory Committee meetings. We look forward to collaborating with her, her staff, and representatives of the WRHA going forward.

Marigold as well as our congregational volunteers have been busy supporting the efforts to enhance the lives of our River Park Gardens family.

Just to point out a few:

Dignity Quilt, New Christmas Tree provided by FGI, Christmas decorating by Faith Book Club, Caroling Dec. 9th., Staff appreciation support by FGI, Summer BBQ help, Church services at RPG with support of music and choir from FLC and, this year Men's Breakfast group plans to do some outside decorating to brighten things up.

Please remember to support this important ministry to River Park Gardens. Donations large or small are always accepted with gratitude. The easiest way to donate is through Canada Helps. This QR code takes you right to FGI's page.

You may also use a cheque made to:

Faith Gardens Inc.
send to:
Faith Gardens Inc.
1311 Dakota Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2N 1V8



“Reconciliation is getting to know one another”

Mary Simon, Governor General



November 2024 News from your Ministry Manager

What is the Lutheran Urban Ministry all about?

- **We distribute bagged meals three times each week** (over 1,000 / month) as well as a sit-down Wednesday Men’s Lunch/Sharing Circle. *However, the Urban is a ministry and not a soup kitchen.*
- **Food for the body is an important part of the Urban, but it is actually not our main purpose.** *The Urban is a ministry of fellowship, friendship, spiritual care, and the reassurance that we are deeply loved by our Creator.*
- I formed **our Men’s, Women’s, and co-ed sharing circles** almost eight years ago and they warm my heart to bursting every week. Our attendees are Indigenous, Caucasian settlers, Southeast Asian, Asian, African, and Caribbean - a wonderful multi-cultural diversity who bring such richness to our conversations together – lifelong Canadians, as well as newcomers. We have wonderful **Sunday afternoon worship services with communion.**

The pandemic shifted our procedures to bagged meals to go instead of sit-down meals, and this unexpected pandemic event afforded me the opportunity to continue that procedure - and hone in on our primary purpose of this partner ministry of the Manitoba Northwest Ontario Synod:

Why is spiritual and emotional support the bedrock of the Lutheran Urban Ministry?

- **Our Urban community** faces daily struggles of many different combinations: marginalization, food and/or housing insecurity, physical and/or mental health disabilities, loneliness, health worries, grief, worries about friends and/or family, the search for individual meaning of life. There’s hope and happiness too. The Urban is a ministry of presence through spiritual care, conversation, fellowship, and connection with each other. *And that connection and fellowship (and spiritual support) happens on the church sidewalk as well.*
- **Everywhere in this world we are all so much more alike than we are different. We’re all in this life together.** *At the Urban we talk together and listen to each other in our sharing circles. We talk about our introspection about life, childhood anecdotes, pondering the complexities of this existence of ours, and a lot of laughter at times as well. We invite our suburban congregation members and clergy to drop in and sit with us in our sharing circles and our worship services. This is our very own MNO Synod outreach right here in Winnipeg. We’re all mutually fed in this ministry to each other.*

To our MNO Congregation Members and Clergy: A wonderful opportunity to have fellowship with our Urban Community - please drop by anytime to our:

Sunday Worship Service: door opens at 1:00 p.m. with coffee/tea. Worship service 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Men’s Lunch/Sharing Circle every Wednesday - Downstairs at Noon

Please stop by at 12:00 p.m. Noon (*ring the doorbell*) for lunch and great fellowship and conversation!

Women’s Sharing Circle every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. (until 3:30 p.m.)

Please arrive at 2:00 p.m. (*ring the doorbell*) for coffee/tea/dessert and great fellowship and conversation!

Women’s Drop-in every Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Please drop in (*ring the doorbell*) for coffee/tea/cookies and visiting together! Kids & grandkids welcome to come with you and we have colouring and arts and crafts to keep them busy.

Co-ed Sharing Circle every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. (please arrive at 4:30 p.m.)

(*ring the doorbell*) Join us for great fellowship and conversation! And coffee/tea/dessert.

Rhonda Gorham, Ministry Manager, Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp.