



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CASTRO VALLEY STAFF

The Church Office Phone Number is (510) 582-0818.

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FAITH AT WORK

The monthly publication of Faith Lutheran Church of Castro Valley.

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Faith at Work past issues are archived on our website: www.flccv.org

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Mission Statement

Faith Lutheran Church is a community of faith centered in the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to share the message of God's love with one another, our community, and the world.

FROM THE PASTOR

Recently, I heard a report on KQED public radio about how gratitude lists powerfully overcome our human tendency to focus on the negative. This negativity is sometimes called “gap thinking,” as contrasted with “gain thinking” (see crystalhallphd.com who explains these terms). Yes, we face reality as life is, and we decide to focus on what’s going well (aka “gain thinking”). We look for the ways that God can use us, lighting up our brain with joy!

So, I invite you — all of us together, this Advent season — to write daily “Gratitude for God” lists, starting today.

Here’s how:

1. Decide on when is a good time for your Advent practice (morning or before bed, on lunch break?).
2. Decide how you’d like to keep your list (online, on social media, privately in a diary at home, list on the fridge?).
3. Add in any other devotions in your home practice.
4. Each day of Advent, write down 5 things/people/experiences you are grateful to God for in your gratitude list.

By Christmas, you’ll have a wonderful list that gives you hope. Plus, you will have let God light up your brain with joy!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Barbara

NEW MEMBERS

will be received on December 17th @11 am service. Worship is also @ 9:15am that day.

NEW LIVE-STREAMERS WELCOME

Would you like to join our Livestream Team? Contact VP of Mission Ben Monroe or Pastor Barbara. Giving Sunday is December 17th! Please consider your pledge for the new year.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US CHRISTMAS 2023!

December 17th Christmas Concert by Cole Stanford @2:30pm

December 24th 10 am 4th Sunday of Advent service
5pm & 9pm Candlelight Christmas Eve services

December 31 Christmas Hymn Sing

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Join us for potluck dinners at 6-7pm in Jensen Hall on December 6th and January 10th.

One Service Sundays

Special holiday services will be at 10 am on Sunday December 24th (4th Sunday of Advent) and December 31st (New Year’s Eve). Christmas Eve services are 5pm and 9pm on the evening of December 24th.

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY OUTREACH

Clients	359
Bags	622
#members	1370

members: total number of people (adults, children, seniors)

Amazing work done by all of our volunteers this month and we made many families happy and fed - the Pantry is blessed to have so many of you willing to give your time and effort to our clients.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Boy Scouts who worked on putting bags in our clients cars and for putting back food into the sheds! And, if any of you happen to see about 40 safety vests in the Pantry, please let me know - those belong to the Boy Scouts.

I'm hoping to do a nice get together sometime in January to thank you (and all the other volunteers) for your time.

As we come into December and the holiday season, I want to thank each and every one of you for your enduring spirit to make the lives of our clients better. Especially during the holidays, many of our clients live on a slim budget and the food they receive from us allows them to stretch their money to help pay for other necessities.

Food Pantry Facilitator
Gail Kiyomura

EMBRACING THE POWER OF GIVING AT FAITH LUTHERAN OF CASTRO VALLEY

1st Sunday of Advent 2023

Dear Faith Lutheran Family,

I hope this letter finds you basking in the warmth of our wonderful community at Faith Lutheran of Castro Valley. It's with immense joy that I reach out to you today, fueled by the spirit of hope and togetherness that defines our church family.

As we navigate the journey of faith together, I want to celebrate the incredible impact each one of you makes through your contributions. Your generosity has been the heartbeat of our shared experiences, and now, I invite you to turn up the volume!

Picture this: a vibrant community where our worship experiences reach new heights, and our outreach programs expand to touch even more lives. This vision isn't just a dream – it's a tangible reality we can create together by boosting our financial support.

So, let's crank up the enthusiasm and join hands in a renewed commitment to giving. Your support doesn't just fund programs; it transforms them into beacons of hope and compassion. Together, we're not just a church; we're a force for positive change in and around Castro Valley and beyond.

As we embark on this exciting journey of increased giving, remember that every dollar is a step towards a brighter future for our church and the wider community. Your generosity is the key to unlocking new possibilities and creating a legacy that resonates for generations. Thank you for being the heart and soul of Faith Lutheran of Castro Valley. Your dedication is the melody that makes our church family sing!

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Giving Sunday on December 17th, at both services (9:15 & 11 am). We'll be welcoming our newest members that day, as well as committing our pledges to giving for 2024.

Blessings,

Ben Monroe
VP of Missions



Christmas
CONCERT
by **Cole Stanford**

DEC 17 SUNDAY
STARTS @ 2:30PM
Suggested Donation:\$20
Santa Hats Welcome!



Faith Lutheran Church
20080 Redwood Rd
Castro Valley
www.flccv.org
(510) 582-0818

Advent Offerings for Mission Support



This year, we are donating to our Sierra Pacific Synod, to support our shared ministries & to celebrate our new Bishop Jeff Johnson.

Suggested donation is **\$20.00**. Recognition will be given in the Christmas Eve Bulletin for donations given in honor or memory of loved ones. You can also donate at flccv.org.

Please mail this form with your donation to Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Deadline to submit donations is Monday, December 18th.

Thank you!

Please type or print – thank you

Please make checks payable to: **Faith Lutheran Church.**

Make Donations online at:

<https://flccv.org/?q=content/giving>

Contributed by: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Please check box below:

\$20.00 \$40.00 other _____

Remember to Stop and THINK because You're a Christian

What does it mean for us to text, email, post on social media and even talk with others in a loving way? Remember to stop and T.H.I.N.K. which means:

- **T= Is it true?** Is the information you are sharing true? Has it been posted by a reliable and reputable news source? If you are posting an opinion, does your opinion appropriately represent the values and mission of Faith Lutheran Church?
 - **H= Is it helpful?** Does the information you are sharing help further the mission and values of Faith Lutheran Church?
 - **I= Is it inspiring?** Does the information you are posting inspire, inform, and/or improve Faith Lutheran Church's community engagement on social media?
 - **N= Is it necessary?** Is the information you are posting necessary, or is it better left unsaid? In other words, be aware of the content and be careful not to spam the social media and web presence of Faith Lutheran Church with unnecessary information.
 - **K= Is it kind?** What is your motivation for communicating, and are you aware of how your message is coming across?
- **Martin Luther's Explanation of the 8th Commandment.** A helpful guideline for online engagement is Martin Luther's explanation of the 8th Commandment. Luther writes: "The Eighth Commandment. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.' What is this? Answer: We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light." (Trans. Timothy J. Wengert, Augsburg Fortress, 1996).

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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Margot Zarezka
Joan Pickle, friend of Bonnie Nentwig
Jean Holien
Larry Malcolm, brother-in-law of Jean Holien
Bev, friend of Kirsten Severson
Chris Kitting
Carleen Cary
Ernestine, friend of Carleen Cary
Warren Combs, Laura Seppala's brother
Nancy Holien Malcolm
Lori Jensen, niece of Jean Holien
Dave Rowe's family mourning his passing on
Kirsten Severson
Sue Abdelatif - Seth Holien's mother-in-law
Travis & Patrick, nephews of Carleen Cary
Wayne Nelson
Joyce Lucchesi
Stacy Green
Bill & Joyce Lewis
Craig Hanson, brother of Julie Davis
Isaac Gold
Karen Stein
Richard Vivo
Craig Hanson
Pastor Craig Minich recovering at home
Virginia Degner
Ashley Tapparo
Justin Camacho
Dottie Newacheck
Connie Zipton
Pedro Figueroa, Orlando's father
Janelle, friend of Kiersten
Julie Davis on home hospice care
Wendy Brooke, Perri Gallagher's sister
Florence Soldahl
Glenda Saylor

Howard Ferrel
Felipe and Franchesca
Sharon Joy, Libby Hendrickson's mom
Laura Nordendahl
Ray Holstead, father of Ed
Gordon Fraser, husband of Katherine Korda
Patricia Kinsel battling cancer and mourning the loss of her son, Jim Kinsel
Orlando Figueroa's family mourning the passing of his cousin's daughter Bella Grace
Joseph Family
Carleen Cary and family on the passing of her sister Claudia Rego
Earle and Candy mourning the passing of their son, Kevin
Nelson Family mourning the passing of Don Nelson
Shaw Family mourning the passing of Doris Shaw

*We pray for those serving in the
Military, and their families:*

Ashley Ogden	Kevin Lois
Alex Barta	Aidan Monroe
Jessica Barta	Brokk Nyswonger
Rev Chris Conklin	Samuel Reed
Joshua Weideling	Bryson Rovetta
Hannah Lois	

**Please email updates to Prayer List to
 Angelina at
parishadministrator@flccv.org**

ALTAR GUILD

**For Altar Guild Information, please contact
Susan Nelson:
Cell: 510-918-5110**

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Susan Nelson | 20. Amelia Gallagher |
| 3. Teri Donat | 21. Wayne Nelson |
| 6. Kim Zimmer | 25. Kathy Bostrom |
| 8. David Newacheck | 28. Laura Suchanek |
| 12. Stephen Ng | 29. Lynne Moreau |
| Meara Hughes | |
| 19. Harley Penrose | |
| Zachary Suchanek | |

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Robert & Marie Pimenel	12-14
Steve & Nancy Jacobson	12-30

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Thomas Lorentzen | 26 Shirley Sell |
| 5. Kaitlin Suchanek | 30. Sarah Althoff |
| 7. Nancy Jacobson | |
| 14. Dottie Newacheck | |
| 17. Laura Seppala | |
| 18. Steve Jacobson | |
| 20. Peter Sincerny | |
| Ed Norlund | |
| 21. Chris Anderson | |

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2023						
<p>CALENDAR NOTES: 9:15am In-Person Worship Fellowship Time following both services Fellowship after both services 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Stream online on Facebook: Faith Lutheran Castro Valley and on Zoom (link emailed) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Jensen Hall)</p>	<p>Mondays: 7:30pm AA Meeting (Jensen Hall 3rd Monday)</p>	<p>Tuesdays: Noon Deadline for Bulletin information and TWAF articles 7:00pm Adult Bible Study on zoom 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesdays: 6:00pm 1st Wednesday of each Month- <i>Wonderful Wednesdays</i> (Jensen Hall) 7:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>Thursdays: 11:00am Quilters (Jensen Hall) 6:00pm Emergency food distribution (1st and 3rd Thursdays) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 722 Meeting</p>	<p>Fridays: 10:00am Watercolor Art Class (Jensen Hall)</p>	<p>Saturdays: Sanctuary—Altar Guild 11:30am Hayward Travelers-Second Saturday of every other month (Jensen Hall)</p>
	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>3 9:15am In-Person Worship 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Live Streamed 12:30pm Church of the Wild Book Study</p>			<p>6:00pm 1st Wednesday of each Month Wonderful Wednesdays (Jensen Hall)</p>	<p>6:00pm Emergency food distribution</p>		
<p>10 9:15am In-Person Worship 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Live Streamed 12:30pm Church of the Wild Book Study</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 Giving Sunday 9:15am In-Person Worship 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Streamed 12:30pm Church of the Wild Book Study 2:30pm Christmas Concert by Cole Stanford</p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24 10:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Streamed online 5pm & 9pm Christmas Eve Services</p>	<p>Christmas Day Office Closed</p>	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31 10:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Streamed online</p>						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2024						
<p>CALENDAR NOTES: 9:15am In-Person Worship Fellowship Time following both services Fellowship after both services 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Stream online on FaceBook: Faith Lutheran Castro Valley and on Zoom (link emailed) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Jensen Hall)</p>	<p>Mondays: 7:30pm AA Meeting (Jensen Hall 3rd Monday)</p>	<p>Tuesdays: Noon Deadline for Bulletin information and TWAF articles 7:00pm Adult Bible Study on zoom 7:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesdays: 6:00pm 1st Wednesday of each Month- <i>Wonderful Wednesdays</i> (Jensen Hall) 7:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>Thursdays: 11:00am Quilters (Jensen Hall) 6:00pm Emergency food distribution (1st and 3rd Thursdays) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 722 Meeting</p>	<p>Fridays: 10:00am Watercolor Art Class (Jensen Hall)</p>	<p>Saturdays: Sanctuary--Altar Guild 11:30am Hayward Travelers-Second Saturday of every other month (Jensen Hall)</p>
	<p>1 New Year's Day <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>2 Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 6:00pm Emergency food distribution</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 9:15am In-Person Worship 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Streamed 12:30pm Church of the Wild Book Study</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 6:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays (Jensen Hall)</p>	<p>10 6:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays (Jensen Hall)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9:15am In-Person Worship 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Streamed 12:30pm Church of the Wild Book Study</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 6:00pm Emergency food distribution</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 9:15am In-Person Worship 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Streamed 12:30pm Church of the Wild Book Study</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9:15am In-Person Worship 11:00am In - Person Worship Service & Live Streamed online</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			