

7086 124 Street  
Surrey BC V3W 3W8  
Phone: (604) 594-4033  
Fax: (604) 594-4071  
Email: office@faithlutheran.ca  
Web: faithlutheran.ca

## From Pastor's Desk—Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel

### *The Advent of our Lord*

The church of Christ moves on! Year after year we are reminded of the coming of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. This year has not been different. For 52 Sundays in the church calendar, the Lord has come to us - powerfully, miraculously, graciously and extraordinarily - imparting Himself to us through His Word and Sacraments. The corporate fellowship of believers has been nurtured, enriched and capacitated in faith to move on securely to our final destiny in the everlasting blessedness with our Victorious Bridegroom.

The church has faced challenges in proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations. As a little boat, it has been tossed here and there by many dangers and deadly waves. Waves of persecution and martyrdom, of false teachers and falsehoods. Satan, the father of lies and deceiver, will continue to set up stumbling blocks and barriers to keep people away from the blessed new life in Christ and the eternal salvation. False teachers in our fallen world and society will continue to deceive and impede people's access to the Source of Life, the grace of God. Individuals will continue to pursue, lure and poison themselves and others with destructive ideologies. The Apostle Paul advises: "Our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Eph 6:12). Jesus warns and comforts us by saying: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

Despite all this, the church moves on. This is the church's call - to work for the salvation and the wellbeing of people here and in eternity. This is the Lord's blessing for all! Christ has come to bring us life and life to its fullest! His Advent now means forgiveness of

sins, salvation and life eternal to all who listen to His voice and believe in Him as Saviour and follow Him in faith.

He made this possible through His suffering and death for all people on the cross. With His resurrection He brought us new life and immortality. There is no condemnation anymore to those who are in Christ. When He returns at the end of ages, He will publicly call us His own, as He has purchased us and marked us as His beloved children.

During this Advent and Christmas, share the love of Jesus with a friend, join a worship service, comfort with the love of God someone who is lonely or mourning the loss of a loved one. Or if you are still away from the love of Christ, confused, in doubt about His love and your salvation, this is an invitation for you to return to Christ - and in this way have the best Advent of your life here and in eternity. Jesus is ready and eagerly awaiting for you!

Christ came down  
that we may have HOPE!  
Christ came down  
that we may have PEACE!  
Christ came down t  
hat we may have JOY!  
Christ came down that we may  
have LOVE!

### Worship Times

#### Sunday Schedule:



Sunday School -- 9:30 AM  
Chinese ----- 9:45 AM  
Bible Study ---- 10:00 AM  
Hispanic----- 10:00 AM  
English ----- 11:00 AM  
Korean ----- 1:00 PM  
Oromo ----- 3:00 PM  
Christmas Eve.....5:00 PM  
Christmas Day.....11:00 AM

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Faith in Action



## LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor Neitzel has compiled a short order for lighting the advent candles, which we will be using at Faith Lutheran for the first time. The liturgical order has Scripture readings for each Sunday, and related to each candle of the wreath:

1. **Hope** – The Prophets' Candle
2. **Peace** – Bethlehem's Candle
3. **Joy** – The Shepherds' Candle
4. **Love** – The Angels' Candle
5. Christmas Eve – Christ Candle and all others
6. Christmas Day – Christ Candle and all others



Special this year is that volunteer families with young children will assist in lighting the Advent candles and do the readings, meditation and prayers together, each family. The families are: Stewart, Osei, Ai/Xu and Sebhatleab/Mengstab.

The order for lighting the candles done by each family:

1. Light the Altar candles
2. Light the first candle of the wreath (and so subsequently on each Advent Sunday)
3. Reading from God's Word
4. Brief meditation on the Scripture read
5. Prayer
6. Song by the entire congregation – "Christ Came Down that we may have Hope...Peace...Joy... Love.

The order for lighting the Advent wreath's candles may be used in a family or group setting as well. It provides special occasion to read God's promises of the Messiah and the fulfillment in the coming of Jesus to save us.

Copy of the order for lighting the Advent wreath's candles is available at Faith's office. We would like to encourage families, Faith members and friends to use it.

## BIRTHDAYS



### DECEMBER

25 – Jesus, our Saviour, Lord and King  
2 – Kayden Larson  
3 – Trish Kube  
5 – Lynn Scott  
7 – Tim Delcourt  
9 – Onkar Bhangu  
14 – Jonathan Mountain  
16 – Kelly Mountain  
23 – Katherine Johnson  
24 – Korey Dwyer  
25 – Keith Erickson  
28 – Nicole Simpson

### JANUARY

1 – Debora Thiech (Hoth)  
1- George Thiech  
6 – Joyce Asubonteng (Osei)  
12 – George Ander  
17 – Carolyn Coates  
17 – Ian Stewart  
18 – Joshua Kim  
28 – Chris Pallot



### FEBRUARY

10 – Young Kim  
11- Wendy Delcourt  
13 – Amanda Cook  
17 – Georg Jendrossek  
19 – Laura Cartlidge  
19 – Jason An (Jaehyun)  
21 – Felix Osei  
25 – Alistair Stewart  
27 – Andrew MacAdam

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1**

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION



Pastor Neitzel wrote a short booklet to help families join for Scripture reading, devotion and prayer regularly. We would like to encourage all Faith families and members to use God's Word daily, beyond the short time at church. Bible reading, meditation and prayer is a treasure that helps us in our Christian walk with Jesus. As we can't live without the daily bread, so we can't live without the Word of God either for eternity. Leading our children and family members to Jesus or in their faith journey is our duty as parents.

Jesus says: "Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14.

To all, Jesus says: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35.

Copy of the booklet 'The Family Altar' is available at Faith's office.

## PICNIC WITH IAN STEWART AND FAMILY

Pastor and Maria Neitzel had a blessed picnic with Ian and his family at Crescent Beach this summer. It was a special moment to share a meal together and also to encourage our young family in their walk with Jesus together with their children. We talked about the booklet on the "Home Altar", written by pastor Neitzel. May the Lord bless the Stewart family!



## **INSTALLATION OF PASTOR MERGERSA DENU AS LCC'S MISSIONARY AT LARGE FOR OROMO PEOPLE IN VANCOUVER AND LOWER MAINLAND**



On September 15 took place at Faith Lutheran Church the Installation of Pastor Mergersa Denu as LCC's missionary at large for the Greater Vancouver and Lower Mainland region. The Oromos worship at Faith, with an average attendance of 40. They have around 27 children, 17 in Sunday School and 10 in Confirmation class. Pastors Mark Chiang from Killarney Park Lutheran and Neitzel from Faith are helping in teaching the children. We pray that the Lord bless Pastor Mergersa's congregation, his missionary outreach and his children education program.

## **BC CHURCH WORKERS CONFERENCE**



On September 30 to October 03, 38 church workers (pastors and deacons, teachers) participated in the Church Workers Conference in Sorrento, Kamloops, BC. It was a time of worship, devotion, singing, relaxation and conversation about challenges for the church and mission in our country lately.

We thank God for all who were able to attend.



**GROWING IN GODS' WORD,  
SHARING GOD'S SON,  
SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE**



**LWML CANADA SUNDAY OCTOBER 6, 2024**

We were so glad to celebrate Lutheran Women's Missionary League Canada's special Sunday. Our members were greeters and readers, and we announced that Faith is celebrating 60 years as an LWML Society. We have 9 regular members and 3 supportive and, since COVID, we meet online on the second Tuesday of every month for prayer, Bible study, a business meeting and planning. Our society is a member of the Fraser Valley LWMLC Zone, which is made up of 6 societies in the region.

Our members contribute to our own special Mission Projects every month, including Sowing Seeds Preschool, Surrey Food Bank, Downtown East Side, Edmonton Seminary Food Bank, Lutheran Hour Ministries, our Sunday School, our three Compassion Canada children, Lutheran Bible Translators, the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, and BC Mission Boat Association.

We sent a Zone delegate to the National Convention in London Ontario in July and supported their mission outreach plans with our donations of Mites (every little bit helps us to reach our goal of funding the National Mission Project selections). At the Convention, 16 projects were approved for our support for the next three years totaling \$251,200!! Submitted by Jo-Anne MacAdam



We praise and the our Lord God for the mission and service of mercy that our faithful ladies offer to the Lord and to the work of His kingdom.

We take the opportunity to invite all women, to join this blessed journey in following Jesus and His mission wherever He leads. Especially our new immigrant ladies and all ethnic fellowships, it would be a blessing to make melody to the Lord as one in Him – in faith, worship and action.

You may speak with Jo-Anne or the Pastor for more information on our mission and projects.



## THANKSGIVING AT FAITH LUTHERAN, SURREY



On Sunday, October 13, Faith Lutheran celebrated Thanksgiving in a special worship. We thanked, praised and blessed our Lord for the fruits of His Creation and for His Providence to our lives and to the world. We live in a country of freedom and peace. We pray that the Lord continue to bless our beloved country. Especially, that He cause His Word to fructify and produce abundantly in peoples' lives – for their salvation, fellowship in the church and finally inherit life everlasting with Him. Thank you, Jim Smale, for providing the fruits of the earth to embellish the altar of the Lord.

## THE ERICKSON'S FAMILY THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION



The Ericksons had a special Thanksgiving Celebration at their home in Surrey and gathered their entire family of four generations. We thank and praise the Lord for the family and for their faithfulness in Christ and to each other.



## DAILY WALKS WITH BELOVED KEITH ERICKSON



It has been a real joy to walk with Keith around our neighbourhood almost every morning. Sometimes it's raining, or too cold, or we are not up to it. But mostly, Keith wants to walk. It takes about 50 minutes to one hour walk. Sometimes it is a silent prayer walk, especially from my side, when Keith feels too tired on the walk. We chat a lot. Your ears must be itching, for we update ourselves each day on same subjects, for it is so easy for us to forget. Each day we get to start our updates all over again. But keep walking! Thank you, Keith. Happy big 27<sup>th</sup> of December birthday!

## FAITH LWML EXTEND THE MERCY OF JESUS TO A FAMILY IN NEED



A few months ago Faith LWML became aware of a friend of Wendy's, Nancy and her husband John, who have been struggling after John's stroke this year which has left him unable to work. This has put an incredible strain on them both financially and emotionally!

Sometimes mission work starts right in your own communities. The ladies of Faith LWML took up a collection and Wendy presented them with a HUGE box of fresh fruits and veggies, a gift card for Walmart and some cash! The gift was decorated with Fall themed decorations! Nancy and John were so touched by the generosity of love, prayers and support for them!

What a JOY it was to GIVE rather than receive that day! God is so good and what a wonderful way to share all the gifts God gives us each and every day!

Please pray for this wonderful couple as Nancy is his primary caregiver and as John continues to recover, his journey will be a long one!

We are planning to prepare another gift for them to make their Christmas a brighter one!



### REFORMATION JOINT SERVICE

#### Scriptural foundations

**Scripture Alone**

**Grace Alone**

**Faith Alone**

**Christ Alone**



On October 27, Faith Lutheran Church and the Fellowships celebrated Reformation in a joint service. All Scripture readings, hymns, songs and prayers focused on the Scriptural foundations proclaimed by Martin Luther and the Reformers. They are: Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone and Christ Alone for the life and salvation of all people. The worship was followed by a potluck shared with some of the Fellowships at Faith. Faith's Fellowships are: English, Chinese, Koreans, Oromos and Spanish. We thank and praise our Lord for keeping us faithful and joint in the true Biblical faith lived and proclaimed by the Church of the Reformation.



Martin Luther created the colourful “Luther’s Rose” to explain the core biblical teaching about our salvation. It has been used to teach people about God’s plan of salvation for all. Here is how he explains the symbolism of the ‘Rose’:

Grace and Peace in Christ! Since you ask whether my seal has come out correctly, I shall answer most amiably and tell you of those thoughts which now come to my mind about my seal as a symbol of my theology.

There is first to be a cross, black, and placed in a heart, which should be of its natural color (red), to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saved us. For if one believes from the heart, he will be justified. [**“For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”** —[Romans 10:10](#)] Even though it is a black cross, which mortifies and which also should hurt us, yet it leaves the heart in its natural color and does not ruin nature...that is, the cross does not kill, but keeps man alive. For the just shall live by faith, by faith in the Savior. [**“This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, ‘It is through faith that a righteous person has life.’”** —[Romans 1:17](#)]

Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In a word, it places the believer into a white joyful rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy as the world gives. [**“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn’t like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”** —[John 14:27](#)].

Therefore, the rose is to be white, not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all angels. [**“... an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow.”** —[Matthew 28:2b-3](#) and **“She saw two white-robed angels sitting at the head and foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.”** —[John 20:12](#)].

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy. It is already a part of faith, and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest.

And around this field is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal. May Christ, our dear Lord, be with your spirit until the life to come. Amen.

[Source: Luther’s Works – American Edition – Vol. 49, pp 356-359. [www.lutheran-resources.org](http://www.lutheran-resources.org)]



## REMEMBRANCE DAY



**God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

On Sunday, November 10, Faith Lutheran celebrated Remembrance Day in a special service. We opened the serving with the Canadian Anthem and with a Remembrance Litany:

**L:** O Lord our God, we have gathered this day to offer our prayers and thanks for those who have perished as a result of conflict and the strife of war. We thank You for those who have given of themselves willingly, those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We remember those who have been victimized, innocent casualties of hatred and terror. We thank You for those who continue to place themselves in harm's way in order that peace and harmony might be achieved. Hear us, O Lord, through Your Son Jesus Christ.

**C: May your blessing, O Lord, be upon us and our country.**

**L:** Thank You, O Lord our God, for those who have fought and valiantly died that we might enjoy freedom. May their sacrifice not be in vain.

**C: May your blessing, O Lord, be upon us and our country.**

**L:** Thank You, O Lord our God, for those who have perished while engaged in the task of peacekeeping. May their sacrifice not be in vain.

**C: May your blessing, O Lord, be upon us and our country.**

**L:** Protect and defend, O Lord our God, the innocent victims of war, those who suffer as a result of conflict and strife.

**C: May your blessing, O Lord, be upon them and upon our country.**

**L:** Bless, O Lord our God, those who continue to train and prepare themselves for active duty and missions. May the sacrifices they make not be in vain.

**C: May your blessing, O Lord, be upon them and upon our country.**

**L:** All this we pray, and all this we ask, in your Holy Name, O Lord,

**C: Amen.**

## LWMLC – FRASER VALLEY ZONE FALL RENEWAL 2024



On November 23, LWMLC Fraser Valley Zone held its Fall Renewal at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Surrey. There were 69 ladies and two pastors in attendance. Ladies from the Deaf Church attended as well, which always enriches our Renewals. The theme of the Renewal was based on Psalm 98, "Sing to the Lord a New Song, for He has done marvelous things." LWML Fraser Valley Counselor, Pastor Leonardo Neitzel, led a Bible study on the theme and conducted the closing worship.

Participants had a very interactive and vibrant workshop on making Christmas cards. The workshop was led by Marjorie and Stephanie Nielsen, members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Chilliwack.



The ingathering on that day was dedicated to Surrey Food Bank. Together with the many bags of food donation the ladies raised \$502.00 in cash, which has been delivered to the Food Bank as well. We blessed the gifts of love and prayed that the Lord would multiply the donations to bless the lives of many people. We thank the Lord for the merciful hearts and hands of the givers.

The fellowship lunch was a blessing as well. Thank you to the hosting congregation and to the beloved ladies from St. Luke Lutheran.



**FRASER VALLEY ZONE LWMLC FALL RENEWAL,**  
**ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**NOVEMBER 23, 2024**



Our Zone Fall Renewal was hosted by St. Luke and Trinity of the Deaf LWMLC Societies with the theme, "Sing to the Lord a New Song." We enjoyed coffee and goodies at 9:00 a.m., followed by a short business meeting, a Christmas card craft and a Bible study with Pastor Leonardo Neitzel, who is our Fraser Valley Zone counsellor. After a delicious lunch, we gathered in the sanctuary for the worship service. We were happy to meet Rev. Albrecht who is the new pastor at Hope Lutheran, Port Coquitlam (see photo top left). Our Ingathering Project was supporting the Surrey Food Bank with grocery items and donations. 59 people attended, including two interpreters for the deaf, and 7 ladies from Faith enjoyed the program. The next Renewal in 2025 will be hosted by Hope, Port Coquitlam society and they gave a special invitation to join them in the spring.

Submitted by Jo-Anne MacAdam, Secretary, Fraser Valley Zone LWMLC

## BABY JOSHUA FELIX OSEI RECEIVED THE WASHING OF REBIRTH THROUGH THE WATER OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR A NEW LIFE



On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Felix and Rosemary brought their baby, Joshua to the altar of the Lord to receive holy baptism. Joshua's sisters, Rheema and Joyce joined in the baptism ceremony as well. They invited as Godparents Carolyn Coates, Andrew and Jo-Anne MacAdam, Les and Wendy Delcourt. The Oseis had visiting friends for the occasion as well. It was a blessing for the family, the church and the Kingdom of Christ, as Joshua has now become a redeemed child of God through holy baptism. With the water and the Word God inscribed (encrypted) the sign of the holy cross on Joshua's forehead and on his heart to mark him as a redeemer of the Lord. Praise and thanks to the Lord for this gift of salvation, and for having the sponsors to pray for and walk along with the family in Joshua's spiritual faith.



## REV. DR. JOHN WILCH TAKEN PEACEFULLY TO GLORY

Christ, our King, has ordained to take Rev. Dr. John R. Wilch to be with Him on Christ the King Sunday, November 24, 2024 at the age of 90. He served his Lord faithfully in various roles and places, most notably at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines.

He leaves behind his beloved wife Ruth, children Rev. Gerhard (Tingyu) and Anastasia (Wayne) Zhang, grandsons Nicholas, Immanuel and Jonathan, brother Rev. George (Jan), as well as nephews and nieces.

His Funeral will be held on Dec. 12, 2024 at 10 am at Faith Lutheran Church, 7086 124 St., Surrey, B.C. with luncheon to follow. Burial will be at 1 pm at Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery, 14850 28 Ave., Surrey, B.C.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2024

A big thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox on this, our 26<sup>th</sup> year of supporting Samaritan's Purse in this wonderful outreach project for needy children in many countries.



We are so happy that 51 boxes came back filled and ready to go to the depot at Surrey Alliance Church. Below are the friendly volunteers who greet us every year, pack the boxes into crates and ship them to the large Samaritan's Purse Warehouse in Calgary where they are then sent off to various countries. We

pray that many children and their families receiving these gifts will come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour through the lessons provided with the boxes in their own language. Please pray for the boxes and the children who will receive them!

By Jo-Anne MacAdam, OCC Coordinator, Faith LC

### **Faith's Financial update**

For the period ending September 30, 2024 we have a net gain of \$15k.

### **Figures for the period ending September 30, 2024 with comparative 2023 numbers.**

#### **FAITH'S STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup> Faith Lutheran had its Stewardship Sunday. This was a special occasion for our members to bring their pledges to the Lord regarding their offerings, gifts, talents and support to the ministry and mission of our congregation. We thank the Lord for the response of our members. We would like to encourage those who hadn't had an opportunity to do their pledges, that they may still do it. Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the sanctuary. This is what the Lord says about our offerings to the work of His kingdom: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Mt 3:10).

	2024	2023
<i>Revenue</i>		
<i>English</i>	\$79,348	
<i>Chinese</i>	\$27,990	
<i>Korean</i>	\$9,650	
<i>Hispanic</i>	\$4,226	
<i>Oromo</i>	\$6,691	
<i>Total Offerings</i>	\$127,906	\$133,831
<i>LCC Mission Subsidy</i>	\$22,666	
<i>Rentals</i>	\$61,230	
<i>Other</i>	\$8,079	
<i>Preschool</i>	\$78,759	
<i>Repair Donation</i>	\$66,420	
<i>Compassion Canada</i>	\$1,446	
<i>Total other revenue</i>	\$238,600	\$184,095
<i>Total Revenue</i>	\$366,506	\$317,926
<i>Expenses</i>		
<i>Synod Missions</i>	\$9,000	
<i>Other</i>	\$2,307	
<i>Preschool</i>	\$71,249	
<i>Admin</i>	\$8,079	
<i>Payroll</i>	\$145,309	
<i>Building</i>	\$115,150	
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$351,095	\$343,749
<i>Net gain</i>	\$15,409	-\$25,823