



FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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New York 11791

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Pastor Rebecca Sheridan

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Church Secretary:

Linda Boccafolo

Piano/Organist:

Travis Bloom

Congregational Council:

Lydia Kaboolian

President

Carl Juul-Nielsen

Vice President

Lulu Miliceno-Domathoti

Treasurer

Linda Boccafolo

Secretary

Ruth Minkoff

Financial Secretary

Fred Diekmann

Richard Lin

Betty Schmale

Jeanne Sofia

Stewardship Committee

Lydia Kaboolian

Evelyn Meyers

Ruth Minkoff

Lulu Miliceno-Domathoti

Prayer Chain:

Lydia Kaboolian

Property Committee:

Neal Burns

Fred Diekmann

Carl Juul-Nielsen

Sunday School:

Linda Boccafolo

Pamela Freitag

Lulu Miliceno-Domathoti

Janet Phelan

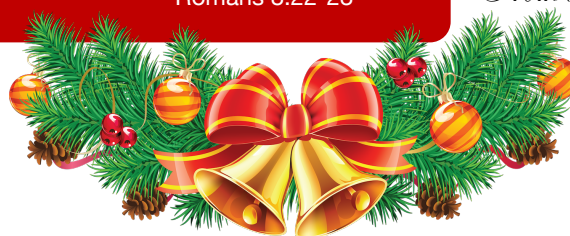
Richard Sheridan

Faith Opens Doors

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
~ Romans 8:22-23



From the Pastor's Desk



The above verses are not your usual Christmas scripture passage, and this is not your usual Christmas season newsletter article! In his letter to the Romans, Paul talks about God birthing something new through our faith in Christ even as we await our final redemption. It reminds me of one of my favorite lines in "O Little Town of Bethlehem": "O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today." What a powerful reminder that each Christmas we do not simply retell the story of a special baby boy being born in Bethlehem 2000+ years ago, but that Christ continues to live through us now.

At our Church Council retreat in October this year, we asked what might be born in us to help further Faith's mission to preach, teach, and share God's love in Christ into the future. Through prayer, discussion, and Bible study, we discerned three priorities for the coming year:

- 1) More diversity in our worshippers – which includes age, ethnic, and gender diversity
- 2) More youth activities – which includes youth-led worship, Bible studies, and fun events
- 3) Community outreach, both to newcomers to our immediate vicinity and service projects in the larger Long Island community

It is exciting to see already how our work on these priorities might come to fruition, and what God might do with us in 2023. In this season of celebrating Christ being born as a human who lived among us, let's remember that the church is the body of Christ. That means we need you, a member of his body, to help us carry out our work in his name! Please let me know if any of these areas sparks your curiosity and interest. We'd love your support and prayers! Merry Christmas, dear church!

Mission Statement

***We preach, teach, and
share God's love in Christ***



Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Stewardship

It is an old Chinese custom that near the end of the year a man would make every effort to pay all of his past debts, in order that he might begin the New Year with a clean slate, owing no one.



To us, “near the end of the year” means the Christmas season, and it is more often than not a time of running up new bills rather than paying old ones. We buy toys for the children; gifts for friends and relatives. We often invest in a major purchase for the family, a flat-screen TV or a larger refrigerator, and take on new payments for another 24 to 36 months. This is our custom in the season of giving.

We give to those we love to express our love, on the birthday of the one who taught us what love is all about. But, too often, gift giving becomes an end in itself, a custom without meaning, a distraction, a Santa Claus thing, and we lose sight of Love with a capital L. We forget about God! The end of the year is an excellent time to re-appraise our giving to God.



Why not adopt the old Chinese custom? Let us assume our obligation to re-pay God, in light of all that God has given us. And, in the spirit of our Lord's birthday, let us see what gift of self we can give out of our love. We know by now what our annual income is or will be, as well as how much we have

given to God, both through the church and through worthy charities.

Ask if the amount I have given truly represents what I think of Almighty God? Does it represent my love, my gratitude, my repentance, my acts of self-denial, my crosses and joys?



In this season of giving, we should take time to re-appraise what we have offered God this year. Let's use tithing as a measure, an acceptable standard, and determine now if our gift of love is worthy of us.

Sunday School

We welcomed Mia and Jack Fedorczak and Eloise Raba to our Sunday School in November. They are a wonderful addition to our school. The children have been learning about the life of Moses during the month of November from hiding in a basket on the river, to leading the people out of Egypt, to receiving the Ten Commandments. Each week they bring home a project that reinforces their lessons.

Everyone is excited to be getting ready for our Christmas Pageant which will be on Sunday, December 18th at 10am during the worship service. Don't forget to invite grandparents, aunts and uncles to the Pageant! We will rehearse during Sunday School time on December 4 & 11, and please be at church by 9:15am on December 18.

Nursery School

Welcome December!

What an exciting month November has been. Picture day and a visit from the Syosset Fire Department, a blessing of the food pantry with the children in chapel, our Thanksgiving breakfast with our friends and our fundraiser at Anthony Coal Fire Pizza. Thank you to everyone who dined in and or ordered out in support of Faith Nursery School.

Council Corner

- Bible Study will be moving to Thursday mornings in January.
- Faith and Good Shepherd, Plainview will be sharing Advent Worship and Suppers on November 30th, December 7th, 14th, and 21st. We will alternate churches each week.
- Travis and Friends Concert on Friday, December 16th at 7pm with a wine and cheese reception.
- The Church is purchasing an updated GoPro audio equipment to replace our old system from our Memorial Funds.
- Christmas Worship Services are Saturday, Christmas Eve at 4pm and Christmas Day at 10am in the Chapel.
- Council voted to purchase a new air conditioner unit for the church. We presently have a fund drive going to help cover the cost.
- Nursery School has 22 students enrolled with two more to come in the new year. Planning Breakfast with Santa in December.
- Giving has been consistently up. However, we are still negative \$20,000.

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Like our Facebook Page, Faith Lutheran Church at <https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheransyosset/>. Also check us out on our **website** at www.faithsyosset.org. Our YouTube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz51lc5Hy6URvNyVM-AEe0A>.

Our 10am worship services continue to be live-streamed to our Facebook page.

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For Advent, we are focusing on different people who point us to Christ:

November 27 - Isaiah

December 4 - John the Baptist

December 11 - Mary, the mother of Jesus

December 18 - Joseph (Sunday school Christmas Program)



These months are going by so fast. December is one of our biggest months. We have our tree lighting ceremony with the children, and we start practicing for our Christmas show and visit with Santa.

Everyone is so excited for Santa's visit, they already started working on their Christmas list. In addition, our Board is meeting to finalize plans for the summer, and prepare for enrollment for our 2023-2024 school year!

A lot of fun things are coming this month, stay tuned to see what Santa's elves have up their sleeves.

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We will have a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 4pm on Saturday, December 24, and a Christmas Day service at 10am on Sunday, December 25 in the chapel. We will have a special lay-led service with Christmas Lessons and Carols on Sunday, January 1 at 10am. There will be no BLESSed Chapel service at 7pm on November 27, December 25, or January 1.

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Pastor Rebecca will be out of the office December 7-9 for a continuing education retreat, and from Monday, December 26 through Thursday, January 5, 2023. Pastor Martin Nale will be on-call for pastoral care emergencies during this time. He can be reached at (516)724-7044.

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Saturday Bible Study: In this season of gift-giving, do you know what your spiritual gifts are and how you could use them in your daily life? Our December Bible studies will focus on discovering and using your spiritual gifts. Join us at 10:30am in the church library or on Zoom on December 3 & 17.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86812884989?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86812884989?pwd=ZC9PWHB1TjVIRklramxGdVY4Y3BBQT09)
 pwd=ZC9PWHB1TjVIRklramxGdVY4Y3BBQT09
 Meeting ID: 868 1288 4989
 Passcode: 474102

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kHvUdGR4j>

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Faith's Council has established a running list of designated gift priorities for our church. If you would like to give a special gift in memory or in honor of someone, or simply to support our church's ministries outside of your regular offering, the current list is below:

- New Air Conditioner in sanctuary
- Nursery School upgrades

- Audio-visual live-streaming upgrades
- Fellowship Hall Lighting
- Organ Fund
- Landscaping and Biblical Garden upkeep
- Fellowship Hall Floor
- New carpeting and upholstery in church library
- Accessible restrooms

Please contact Linda Boccafola, secretary, or Pastor Rebecca for further questions.

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Don't forget! Our church is online as an option for charitable donations when you purchase orders through Amazon. For Faith to get .5% proceeds from your orders, you need to go to the following link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-1855652>. Or go to smile.amazon.com and search for Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Syosset.

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You may register to give electronically on the front page of our website or mail in your offering. Thank you for your ongoing support of Faith and its ministries!

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Coffee & Fellowship: Join us for coffee and fellowship after worship! Jeanne Sofia and Linda Boccafola are looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up each Sunday. If you are willing to make coffee, provide a baked good, or set up and clean up, please speak with them or sign up at church.

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BLESSed Chapel Service: Sundays from 7-7:30pm our family-friendly worship service in the Chapel includes a simple, interactive pattern: Bless, Listen, Eat (Holy Communion), Share, and Send. If you're unable to make it to our 10am worship service for any reason, this service is for you! Note that there will be NO 7pm service on Christmas Day (December 25) or New Year's Day (January 1).

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Baptism of Luke Henry Abbott: On October 30, we officially welcomed Luke into God's family through Holy Baptism. Luke's parents are Jennifer and Andrew Abbott.

Syosset Holiday Lighting Ceremony: The Syosset Annual Holiday Lighting Celebration is once again downtown on Sunday, December 4 starting at 3:30pm. Pastor Rebecca will join other local clergy in offering a special blessing at the event. Dress warmly!

Baptism of Valentina Castro: On November 6, we welcomed Valentina Rae Castro as one of God's newest saints through Holy Baptism. Valentina's parents are Ray and Jeanette Castro.



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Confirmation Class Service Project: On November 20, our confirmation students and their parents helped prepare Thanksgiving baskets to distribute at the Gloria Dei food pantry in Huntington Station.



TRAVIS & Friends Presents

I'll be home for Christmas Concert

Featuring

Travis Bloom and Shelton Love



Pianist



Organist



Enjoy Holiday Favorites
with a wine and cheese
reception following

Friday, December 16, 7pm

Faith Lutheran Church

231 Jackson Ave. Syosset, NY 11791

www.faithsyosset.org

Freewill Donation





December 1 — Michael & Elizabeth Sossi
 December 29 — Anthony & Loretta Tavella



December 1 — Evelyn Meyers
 December 4 — Joyce Shultz
 December 5 — Ashlynn Schneider
 December 14 — Lynn Hazel
 December 17 — Ivy Chang
 December 21 — Patrick Lin
 December 25 — Lois Caliolo

Quick Links

YouTube Channel:
<https://bit.ly/39Rp0n2>

Sunday School Zoom:
<https://bit.ly/39XnQGN>

Facebook Page:
<https://bit.ly/3vfxkq1>




Prayer Concerns

Beth Speiser,
 Steve Fritz and his family (nephew of Everett & Linda Boccafola),
 Ann Relyea (Linda Moore and Janet Phelan's aunt),
 Ed Franc,
 Helen Kaboolian (mother-in-law of Lydia Kaboolian),
 Zachary & Alexandra Thomas and their daughter,
 Eliana Melody (granddaughter of Pam Morritt Freitag),
 John (Jack) Caliolo,
 Anthony Martillo,
 Bill Schultz,
 Olivia Melia (sister-in-law of Linda & Everett Boccafola),
 Barbara Krampitz,
 Arthur Millin (brother-in-law of Lydia Kaboolian),
 Lauren, Tommy, and their daughter Emerson Wondsel
 (friends of Pam Freitag),
 Helen Glemby,
 Barbara Vlasaty (mother of Karen Lesser),
 Meredith Coleman
 Bill and Hilde Wolter
 Christina Miller (granddaughter of Eleanor Reichert)
 Daniel Voelker
 Joseph Boccafola (son of Everett & Linda Boccafola)
 Wayne and Glenn Gruber (sons of Evelyn Gruber)
 Dan Geraci and Alexis Allegra (son and daughter-in-law of Ron Geraci and Tricia Shannon)
 Richard Moore (brother-in-law of Linda Moore)
 Marianna Berkowitz (friend of Margaret Schuffenhauer)
 Sarah Barton (friend of Margaret Schuffenhauer)
 Lorraine Benson (friend of Margaret Schuffenhauer)
 Henry Mughtin (friend of Lydia Kaboolian)
 Neal Burns
 Theodore Koh (father of Jennifer Wu)
 The family of Jennifer and Bob Male (friends of Lydia Kaboolian)
 Robert Boccafola (brother-in-law of Linda Boccafola)
 Nicolae Cibotari (uncle of Lulu Domathoti)
 Jacqueline Haynick (niece of Evelyn Gruber),
 Evelyn Gruber,
 Thomas Phelan
 Pam Weiss
 Claire DeNardo (mother of Kim DeNardo)
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Levittown



December 2022

Happenings At Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			November 30	December 1	2	3
				<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7pm Twin County Chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7:30pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Bible Study
Second Sunday of Advent 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Worship & Sunday School11:30am Choir12:30pm Trinity4pm Holiday Lighting Ceremony Downtown7pm BLESSed Chapel Service7:30pm Confirmation class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7:30pm AA7:30pm LI Harmonizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7pm Boy Scout7pm Advent worship chapel at Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7pm Twin County Chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7:30pm AA	
Third Sunday of Advent 11	12	13	14	15	Travis & Friends 16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Worship & Sunday School11:00 Christmas Caroling12:30pm Trinity7pm BLESSed Chapel Service7:30pm Confirmation class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7:30pm AA7:30pm LI Harmonizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7pm Boy Scout7pm Advent worship chapel at Good Shepherd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7pm Twin County Chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7pm Travis & Friends Concert7:30pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Bible Study
Fourth Sunday of Advent 18	19	20	21	22	23	Christmas Eve 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal10am Worship & Christmas Pageant11:30 Choir12:30pm Trinity7pm BLESSed Chapel Service7:30pm Confirmation class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7:30pm AA7:30pm LI Harmonizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7pm Boy Scout7pm Advent worship chapel at Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15am Nursery School7pm Twin County Chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No School7:30pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">4pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 
Christmas 25	26	27	28	29	30	New Years Eve 31
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Worship12:30pm Trinity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No School7:30pm AA7:30pm LI Harmonizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No School7pm Boy Scout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No School7pm Twin County Chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No School7:30pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No School 

	Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers	Counters	Sunday School Teachers
December 4	Carter Bullaro	Ivy Chang	Richard Hance	Ellen Ladd Ivy Chang	Linda Boccafola
December 11	Amelia Lin	Richard Sheridan		Jeanne Sofia Iris Williams	Linda Boccafola
December 18	Ty Borra	Christmas Pageant	Neal Burns	Pam Freitag Christian Bullaro	Lulu Domathoti Linda Boccafola
December 24	Patrick Lin	Jonathan Chen	Carl Juul-Nielsen		
December 25	Claudia Weiss	Anthony Domathoti		Norma Burns Betty Schmale	No Sunday School

Altar Guild for the Month of December: Chris Diekmann

