



THE Messenger

Vol. 22, No. 3

A Newsletter of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Antioch, Illinois

December 2021



DRESS YOURSELF WITH PATIENCE



It was 21 degrees below zero that February morning Jerome's son decided to enter this world. Jerome held his son and then lovingly embraced the child's mother. He then soon left so his wife could get some much-needed rest. On his way out the door he promised he would bring her a big box of her favorite chocolates when he returned.

Jerome was still exhausted when he made the frigid journey back to the hospital. He also completely forgot about the chocolates.

As soon as he entered the room and saw the disappointed look on his wife's face, he realized his enormous failure. He immediately began apologizing profusely and his wife forgave him. He knew from their long, invested relationship that her God-given

patience was what allowed her to overlook his offenses (this wasn't even close to the first time).

That's exactly what Solomon had in mind when he wrote: "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense" (Proverbs 19:11).

It is a truly human, sinful thing to store up offenses, wrapping them up tight in feelings of resentment. It is the godly, glorious thing to forgive every one of them.

God is hurt deeply every time we offend him by ignoring one of his commandments. He has the right to condemn us for any, say nothing of our many, offenses. Instead, God loved us and sent his Son, Jesus into our world to be our Savior.

Knowing how God has forgiven us for our many offenses makes us willing to forgive those who offend us. We hear often at this time of the year of "that Christmas feeling" which many muse they wish would last throughout the year. They may even quote the Christmas Angel speaking to the Bethlehem shepherds about "peace on earth and good will toward men."

But at the heart of "that Christmas feeling" is the forgiveness of a God who loved and forgave us for everything despite our giving him no good reason for that kindness. In fact, the Bible draws a straight line between God's patience and God's grace. If God didn't show us patience every day of our lives none of us would ever know his eternal grace.

In joy our friend Jerome went straight back out into the arctic air to procure some chocolates. He wanted his wife to know just how much he appreciated her forgiveness.

We hope you visit with us soon. The more we learn together about God's love and forgiveness, the more we can grow in our wisdom, and our patience with one another.

FAITH...



EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
24300 W. Grass Lake Road
(at HWY 59) Antioch
847-395-1660

LUTHERAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(Pre-K through Grade 8)
1275 Main Street Antioch
847-395-1660

Worship Services Saturday at 5:30 PM
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:45 AM

Sunday School weekly at 9:30 AM

Adult Studies Sundays 9:30 AM & Wednesdays 7:00 PM

Visit us online...
www.faithantioch.org

or on the radio!
WFEL 99.9 FM

CHRISTMAS 4 KIDS

Is this coming Saturday - December 4!

December has arrived! Do you think you may need some 'kids free' time to accomplish some 'secret' December shopping? Do some wrapping away from little, wondering eyes? Or will a little quiet time for some baking or decorating be helpful? Or simply a little quiet? Again this December folks at Faith are happy to give you a hand!

We'd be happy to keep your kids busy for a few hours this coming Saturday, December 4. Our annual **Christmas 4 Kids** activity day is for children currently three years old through those enrolled in fourth grade. Please also let friends and neighbors know about this FREE opportunity.

You can register in advance on-line, at church or in the office at our school campus. Same day **registration** on December 4 begins at **8:30 AM**, but if you've pre-registered ahead of time you can drop the kiddos off just a

little bit before 9:00 AM. We'll keep them busy with crafts, music, story time, skits and games until you return to pick them up at **11:45 AM**. At 11:45 AM there will be a 15 minute devotion/program in which the children will present a sample of what they learned about Jesus and the events of the first Christmas.

Sounds fun, doesn't it? For both you and for the kids? Find more details on our Faith website or by calling Pastor Ungemach at 847-293-6101. Hope to see you there!

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday Morning December 19

Each Christmas Eve, millions around the world tune their radios to hear a truly glorious service: The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols from King's College, Cambridge, England. As one of the great traditions of the Christmas season Lessons & Carols is also sung by church choirs large and small in every part of the English-speaking world. Faith, Antioch will once again host a Lessons & Carols service this year.

A Service of Lessons & Carols has been an annual tradition at King's since 1918. But its roots go back even further to the 1880s. Beginning with *Once in Royal David's City*, sixteen boy and fourteen undergraduate male voices sing carols old and new. Lectors read nine Scripture lessons tracing the history of God's plan of salvation in Christ Jesus. Since 1928, the service has been broadcast worldwide to millions of listeners every year, even during World War II when the stained glass (and heating system) was removed from the cathedral for safety reasons. Since its inception, the lessons and prayers have remained virtually unchanged.

As the creator of the Lessons & Carols service pointed out in the first program, the pattern and strength of the service resides with the lessons themselves and not with the music. "The main theme of the service is the development, through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, of the loving purpose of God in sending his Son. Carols and hymns simply guide us in our response to the word of God's promise."

Faith, Antioch has now held these holiday services for more than two

decades, becoming a yearly favorite for both congregation and our friends in the community. If you have never experienced a presentation of the Christmas message in this format, you've truly missed out!

Your friends at Faith cordially invite you to join us for this special event. We also encourage you to let your friends know! Identical services will be held the weekend before Christmas on Sunday morning December 19 at 8:00 & 10:45 AM.

Ever wondered why . . . ? Poinsettias?

In it's native Mexico, where it blooms at Christmas time, the flower is known by its native name: *Flower of the Holy Night* referencing a legend that supports the name.

Dating back to at least the 1700s, the story tells of a small boy with no gift to bring – as was local tradition – to the Christ Child's manger bed at the village church. As he trudged toward the church a bush growing at

roadside caught his eye. He decided he could at least offer the Holy Infant a branch of this bush. As he reverently knelt placing the greens before the manger other children of the village jeered and mocked his offering. Rising tearfully, he looked down once more at the branches he had offered to find that where his tears fell now bloomed a brilliant, red, star-shaped flower.

Joel R. Poinsett, US ambassador to Mexico first introduced this legendary flower to American households. In 1828 he sent a cutting to a stateside friend who interested growers in producing the exotic plant, naming it after the ambassador who so enjoyed it. Today the Poinsettia has grown to be the most popular Christmas plant in the United States and throughout much of the world (and in many more colors than only red!).

Children's Christmas Services

It is a question asked more often than you might suspect: What are these Children's Christmas services on your

You are most cordially invited to join us at Faith for...

HOLIDAY WORSHIP 2021

WEDNESDAYS December 1, 8 & 15

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER at 3:30 & 7:00 PM

2021 Theme: Come, Search for the TRUE Light!

December 1: Light for Those Living in Darkness

December 8: Light for THIS Moment We Are Living

December 15: Light That Will Truly Never End

SATURDAY December 18

SERVICE: "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT" at 5:30 PM

Presented by the Faith Lutheran Early Childhood through Grade 2

SUNDAY December 19

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS at 8:00 & 10:45 AM

SERVICE: "THE OLD, OLD STORY" at 4:00 PM

Presented by Faith Lutheran School & Sunday School Grades 3-8

FRIDAY December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP at 4:00 & 5:30 PM

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP at 10:30 PM

SATURDAY December 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL WORSHIP at 9:00 AM

FRIDAY December 31 **NEW YEARS EVE**

EVENING PRAYER at 5:30 PM

THURSDAY January 6 **FESTIVAL OF THE EPIPHANY**

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP at 7:00 PM

schedule? They are holiday services for the public in which the children of Faith ministries are the main presenters and worship leaders.

COVID kept us from holding these services last December. But this year they will be happening again and we welcome everyone to join us for these two different services on Saturday December 18 and Sunday December 19.

If your children have never experienced a service at which other children are the main worship leaders come experience it all at Faith this December!

**WFEL 99.9 FM - Your Source for
THE MUSIC OF THE SEASON**

Looking for “commercial free” traditional holiday music to help you keep the spirit of the season all December through? We have a suggestion! 99.9 FM!

Hear traditional and sacred Christmas music at various times of the day throughout December. Enjoy choral variety from a selection of artists known throughout the world. Seasonal selections increase as December progresses. **Continuous SACRED Christmas music will be offered from noon Christmas Eve through midnight of Christmas Day.** WFEL 99.9 (LP) FM Antioch is Faith’s very own radio station broadcasting locally 24 hours a day!

Christmas devotions and sermons, of Faith pastors and others, are also featured throughout the Christmas season until the Festival of the Epiphany on January 6 in both radio programming and also available at our church website - faithantioch.org. Enjoy!

Advent Evening Prayer on Wednesdays

Special Advent evening worship services are a way we annually prepare heart, mind and soul for the coming of the Christ. While these quiet evenings focused on the Word of our God prepare us to celebrate the Christ’s arrival in Bethlehem, we also prepare ourselves to meet him face to face on the Last Day. Until then we also meet him continually in his Word itself.

Our Wednesday gatherings this December are themed “Come, Search for the TRUE Light.” We focus on the Scriptural imagery of eternal light connected with the Messiah and his coming as our Savior and our King. We pray these meditations guide us in readying our hearts to meet our Savior in his manger, at his cross and when he returns again in all his glory.



PUZZLE

F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S
H → → → **U E L**
M ↑ **What's in a name?** ↓ **W B A R V H P Q E F L S R Z M**
V ↑ An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.
S ↓ **Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.**
R ↑
B ↑
O ↑
L ↑
Y ↑ "S_e w_ll _ _ve b ir _ _
Q ↑ to _ s_n, and _ _u a_e to
O ↑ gi_e _i_ the _ _me J _ _us,
X ↑ b_c_u _ _ he _ill s _ _e his
A ↑ _ _op_e f_o_ t _ir s_n_."
V ↑
H ↑
R ↑
T ← ← ← **START HERE** ← ← ←
A I N G F I P H S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV

Everything Good Is A Gift

Every Christmas we get stuff! That's why we call it a "gift". It's just given. It's not earned or deserved or worked for. It's not a paycheck. It's grace. James says that everything good in your life is a gift. **"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.** (James 1:17)

You and I have sinned against God. However, God has gifted us with every good thing. What grace! What a Savior!.

Pastor Mike Novotny
Time of Grace Ministries

Listen to "Time of Grace"

Monday at 9 am - Tuesday at 9 pm
Thursday at 9 am - Saturday at 9 pm



THE VOICE OF FAITH FOR THE ANTIOCH AREA

The Messenger

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
1275 Main Street
Antioch Illinois 60002

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Antioch, IL
Permit No. 64



We are located at TWO sites...

FAITH Evangelical...

Lutheran Church
24300 West Grass Lake Road
Antioch Illinois 60002
847-395-1660

Lutheran Elementary School
(Pre-k through Grade 8)
1275 Main Street
Antioch Illinois 60002
847-395-1660

Find out more about us at...

www.faithantioch.org
[facebook.com/faithantioch](https://www.facebook.com/faithantioch)
&
WFEL 99.9 FM Antioch
broadcasting locally 24 hours a day

This is a non-profit publication serving the members of Faith and residents of the surrounding communities with information on activities of the church, school and the community.



Our Mission:

The mission of every Christian and of Faith congregation is to help make more and stronger disciples by sharing with everyone the good news of Jesus Christ.

Highlighting Coming Events at FAITH of Antioch

Please note at which facility the activity will take place... our **Church Campus** on Grass Lake Road or our **Lutheran Elementary School Campus** on Main Street...

- ◆ December 1, 8, 15 Wednesday **Advent Vespers** at 3:30 & 7:00 PM (church)
- ◆ December 4 **Christmas 4 Kids** at 9:00 AM (church)
- ◆ December 18 **Christmas Service** (presented by early childhood) 5:30 PM (church)
- ◆ December 19 **Festival of Lessons & Carols** at 8:00 & 10:45 AM (church)
Christmas Service (presented by Grades 3-8) at 4:00 PM (church)
- ◆ December 24 **Christmas Eve Vespers Worship** at 4:00 & 5:30 PM (church)
Christmas Eve "Candlelight" Worship at 10:30 PM (church)
- ◆ December 25 **Christmas Day Festival Worship** at 9:00 AM (church)
- ◆ December 31 **New Years Eve Evening Prayer** at 5:30 PM (church)
- ◆ January 6 **Epiphany "Candlelight" Worship** at 7:00 PM (church)

We invite you to be with us for any of these occasions.

For questions look to our website www.faithantioch.org for more information or feel free to give Pastor Ungemach a call at 847-293-6101.