

- **Next Sunday** — Grace-Sleepy Eye worship services begin at 9 a.m. The Children’s Christmas service here at Faith begins at 10:45 a.m. Sunday School will precede next Sunday’s worship service; Confirmation Class is scheduled to follow next Sunday’s worship service.
- **Children’s Christmas Service - Next Sunday:** As noted above, the Grace-Sleepy Eye and Faith-New Ulm children will present a children’s Christmas service here at Faith next Sunday, December 23, during our regular morning worship hour. There will be a practice for the service here at Faith on Saturday, December 22, at 10 a.m.
- **Christmas Bags Sign-Up:** A sign-up sheet is posted here at church for those willing to help contribute to “Christmas Bags” for participants in this year’s December 22 Children’s Christmas service here at Faith. The Women of Faith will contribute the apples for this year’s bags. We are planning for approximately 35 bags. Please have all items here at church for assembly of the bags by Friday, December 20.
- **“God’s Creation” Calendars:** New 2014 “God’s Creation” calendars are being made available for \$4 apiece through the Women’s group at Grace-Sleepy Eye. If you are interested in purchasing one of these calendars, please indicate this to Pastor Libby.
- **December Church Council Meeting Minutes:** The December Church Council meeting of Faith opened with prayer. There were two men present, plus Pastor Libby. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer’s report was approved showing an opening balance of \$19,257.57 and a closing balance of \$17,952.19. The Council discussed the parsonage-rental situation. The parsonage is now vacant; a new renter will be sought. John has volunteered to take care of the majority of winter snow removal with his plow. Pastor Libby requested that \$100 of his monthly compensation for 2014 be designated for “professional expenses” for tax purposes. One of the chairs near the altar needs repairs; Gary will look into this. The meeting closed with prayer.
- **CLC News:** Salem Lutheran, Eagle Lake MN, has called the Rev. George Dumann, First Lutheran, Faulkton SD.

Our Response of Faith — December 8, 2013

Attendance: 11

Unified Budget.....	\$250.00
Total.....	\$250.00

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

26 North State Street
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073



A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession -- CLC

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Advent III

DECEMBER 15, 2013 – 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Pre-service Meditation: Ps. 146, pg. 156 Organist: Vickie Schreyer

Pastor: Opening Prayer

Hymn 64 - *Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes*

Pastor: The Invocation

People: *Amen.*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord!

People: *Who made heaven and earth.*

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

People: *And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that, by Thy grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Pastor: The Absolution

People: *Amen.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Pastor: Prayer for the Day

People: *Amen.*

1st Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia! *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. (Romans 3:21-22)* Alleluia!

People: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2nd Scripture Reading – John 3:13-18

People: *Glory be to Thee, O Lord!*

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Pastor: Here ends our 2nd Scripture reading.

People: *Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

The Apostles' Creed -- Hymnal, pg. 12

Hymn 245 - *God Loved the World So that He Gave*

The Sermon – Jeremiah 33:14-18

'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: 15 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' 17 "For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; 18 'nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.'"

“What’s in a Name - The Lord Our Righteousness”

The Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Hymn 297 - *The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace*

The Offering

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer + The Benediction

All: Amen, amen, amen!

Hymn 74 - *Once He Came in Blessing*

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Announcements

- **Saturday** — Participants in this year’s Children’s Service are asked to meet here at Faith-New Ulm at 10 a.m. to practice for the Dec. 22 Children’s service.