



November - December 2025

Dear Family of Faith,

In a few weeks, we will reach the end of the church year and begin again with Advent. The season of Advent has its roots in the 4th and 5th centuries, when it began as a season of preparation for the baptism of new converts. Like Lent, Advent was 40 days. Over time, the season’s focus shifted to preparation for Christ’s return, and by the middle ages the season was shortened to the four-Sunday observance we have now. And though we still focus on preparing for Christ’s return, our modern practices lean toward preparing to celebrate Christ’s first coming rather than his second.

One of our treasured Advent traditions is the lighting of the Advent wreath. The circle of the wreath represents eternity, and the greenery represents hope and new life in Christ. As another candle is lighted on the wreath each week, the light of the wreath increases bit by bit, reflecting the coming of the light of Christ into our dark world.

Some traditions hold that each candle has a name or a theme. I’ll break them down for you here so you can think about them as you light the candles on your own Advent wreath. And if you don’t have a wreath, you can simply arrange four candles to be lighted throughout the season.

The first Sunday in Advent: Hope. The readings on the first Sunday in Advent focus on the return of Christ to rule the church and restore all things. Our Old Testament reading for that Sunday says:

He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)

We are encouraged to “wake from sleep” because “salvation is nearer to us now than when we first became believers” (Romans 13:11). As you light the first candle, reflect on what you are waiting for from the Lord. What will Jesus make right for you when he returns? How can you keep the eyes of your heart open wide to see Him?

The second Sunday in Advent: Peace. Although the Gospel reading for this Sunday is John the Baptist’s call for repentance and preparing the way for

Christ, Isaiah’s prophecy speaks of the peace that Christ will bring:

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

We all long for peace—in our world, in our town, in our families. As you light the first two candles of your Advent wreath, contemplate how you can foster peace in your own sphere of influence. It might be as easy as responding with a positive word to negativity you hear or receive. If something is troubling you or worrying you, ask God to give you Christ’s peace.

The third Sunday in Advent: Joy. This Sunday was traditionally called “gaudete” Sunday, the Latin word for “rejoice.” It marks a lightening and brightening of the season as we draw closer to Christmas. More candles are lighted than not lighted; Christ is drawing nearer! Many Advent wreaths (including the one in our sanctuary) use a pink candle for this Sunday to mark this theme of joy and light.

Some of the scripture readings for the day reflect this theme of joy. The reading from Isaiah says

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting. (Isaiah 35:1-2)

When Jesus returns, God will renew all of creation so that the earth itself will rejoice at what God will do.

As you light the three candles on your own Advent wreath, think of what brings you joy. At this point in the holiday season, we are tired of holiday advertising and “hype.” We are ready to rest in the true joy that only God can give us.

The fourth Sunday in Advent: Love. On this Sunday, the readings focus on the birth of Jesus. And what greater expression of love can there be than for God to become a human being, of the same flesh and blood as us? As you light all four candles on your Advent wreath, consider also the love of Mary, who said “let it be with me as you have said” when the angel told her that she would become the mother of God’s own Son. And remember the love of Joseph, who did not abandon his pregnant fiancée, but who instead guarded and cared for her and her child.

I pray that Advent will be a season of renewal, hope, and joy for you.

In Christ’s love, Pastor Lisa

TEAM AND GROUP NEWS



WELCA Circle #1: WELCA Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, November 11 at noon in the fellowship hall for lunch, a devotion, and to wrap gifts for our Christmas family. All women of the church are invited to attend.

WELCA Circle #2: WELCA Circle 2 will meet in the fellowship hall on Thursday, November 13 at 6:30 PM. We will be painting door hangers for the holiday season. All women of the church are invited to attend. Hope to see you then!

LMIM: Lutheran Men will meet again on Tuesday, November 11 at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy a meal and plan our Christmas banquet, to be held on Tuesday, December 9.



CARING CART: Thanks to everyone who has helped us fill up the Caring Cart each month! At the end of each month the items are divided and sent to Mission of Hope and the Christian Ministry Center. For your convenience, a smaller basket is available at the back of the sanctuary for your donations. Thanks for helping with this worthy project!

November: Grits, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup.
December: Socks for men, women, and children.

Faith's YOUTH



Faith's youth have been enjoying all the fun that fall brings. They traveled to Clinton Sease Farms at the end of September to enjoy the corn maze, rides,

games, animals and snacks. The perfect fall weather was an added bonus!



In October, a few of us gathered for a pumpkin-themed devotion and carved pumpkins for Halloween. The kids' creativity was inspiring, and everyone left with a pumpkin to display as well as a bag of treats.

The youth are hard at work on this year's Christmas program, which will be held during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, December 14 in the fellowship hall. Many thanks to Colleen Hilton and Becky Hughes for their direction—and thanks to our parents for getting the kids to practice on Sunday mornings.

We are hoping to participate in this year's Christmas parade if we can get enough volunteers to help design and build our float. Interested? Please let Pastor Lisa know as soon as you can.



Third Thursday Trivia Night!

Please join us for our third Thursday Trivia Night on November 20! Our topic will be the birth of Jesus, so brush up on your knowledge of this timely topic.

We would also love to invite folks to help with refreshments for our trivia nights. Light snacks, water, lemonade, and coffee have been provided each time. If you would like to volunteer to provide the snacks, let Pastor Lisa or Michael and Michelle Moyer



Faith's Book Club

Our first-ever Faith Book Club is now reading *Tangled Roots* by Christian author and Lexington resident Jessica Brodie. The book is available on Amazon in paperback or as an e-book.

If you'd like to join our group, there is still time! We are meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6 PM. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, prior to the November congregation council meeting.

Questions? Please contact Colleen Hilton or Pastor Lisa.

Council Corner

Your congregation council met on Tuesday, September 16 in the church office. Council heard reports from the various ministry teams, including the property team. This team reported a number of completed projects, such as a new refrigerator, remodeled kitchen island, and roof leak repair in the office building. The team also installed a new drinking fountain, new first aid kits, and an AED in the education building. Council also appointed Pam Banks to serve on the endowment board.

Council met again on Tuesday, October 21. The proposed budget for 2026 was presented by Treasurer Frances Bouknight and approved by the council. The proposed budget is included in this newsletter, and it includes a 3 percent raise for the pastor, director of music, and office administrator. Council also set Sunday, November 16th as the date of the annual congregational meeting. The meeting will begin at 10:30 and conclude at the end of the service. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Morning Bible Study

Our morning Bible study meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 in the church office. We meet to share prayer concerns and fellowship before studying the gospel reading assigned for the coming Sunday. These discussions are often lively and informative, and we welcome anyone who would like to attend. Feel free to invite friends and family members who may not be members of Faith.

Midweek Advent Worship

Advent begins this year on Sunday, November 30. Once again, we will gather on Wednesday evenings (December 3, 10, and 17) at 6:30 PM for a light supper and Holden Evening Prayer around the Manger. These simple, contemplative services invite us to find an oasis of quiet and calm in the midst of the busy holiday season as we reflect on the coming of Christ, both at Christmas and at the end of time.

If you would like to help provide a meal prior to one of the services, please sign up on the appropriate sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer. Soup and sandwiches are welcome, as are simple meals like baked spaghetti, hot dogs, and the like. Questions? Contact Pastor Lisa.

Help for the Homeless

The winter season can be very difficult for the homeless, who cannot always find a warm place to sleep. Pastor Lisa's friend Genia McCray and her husband minister to the homeless in the Columbia area. Genia shared that two homeless people died in Columbia last year during the winter. She is collecting items to help these folks survive. There is a bin in the foyer for donations.

If you are interested in helping, please consider donating any of the following:

- *Hot Hands (a 40 pk is on amazon for 25\$)
- *Winter Gloves and Stocking Caps
- *Shoes and/or socks (calf high or higher would work)
- *Lightly used Coats (large or extra large)
- *Thermals
- *Sleeping bags, single-person tents, tarps
- *Gel Fuel Cans (for heating food)
- *M/L men's boxers, M/L women's panties
- *Hygiene products such as toothpaste/brush, soap, deodorant, feminine products, wash cloths/towels.
- *Clothes (L/M women's), (L/XL men's)
- *Items for one-time gift bags can be purchased at Dollar Tree. notebooks, word search books, reusable cups with lids, snacks, flameless candles, baby wipes,
- *\$10 food gift cards (McDonald's, Hardee's, etc.)
- *Nonperishable food (if cans, need to be pop-top type)

NOVEMBER 2025

Serving each week:

	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Lector	Bob Grandy	Phyllis Davis	Hampton Taylor	David Bouknight	Judy Davis
Building Attendant	Judy Davis	Cindy Hall	Becky Smith	Tim Hall	Bob Grandy
Flowers	Becky Smith and Kathy Hall <i>in memory of their parents</i>	Eddie and Mendee Shealy	Walter & Gail Davidson <i>in memory of Jane Trotter & Wayne Davidson</i>	Tiffany Coleman <i>in honor of Emily's birthday</i>	Jack Roof <i>in memory of Terri Roof</i>
Nursery Attendant 1	Debbie Fox	Leslie Smith	Maxine McGee	Mackenzie Taylor	Becky Smith
Nursery Attendant 2	Frances Bouknight	Tiffany Coleman	Verta Eargle	Blair Taylor	Kathy Hall
AV Technician	Colleen Hilton	Cole Hughes	Cindy Hall	Addy Ruff	Kim Fox

Serving for the month:

Communion Assistant	Mendee Shealy				
Communion Bread	Nancy Caughman				
Greeters-2	David and Frances Bouknight				
Ushers-2	Bob Grandy and Michael Moyer				
Tellers-2	Mendee Shealy and Michael Moyer				
Altar Guild	Michelle Moyer and Becky Hughes				
Acolyte/Crucifer	Walker Smith and Emily Coleman				

DECEMBER 2025

Serving each week:

	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28	
Lector	Bill Ebener	Cindy Grandy	Mackenzie Taylor	Michael Moyer	
Building Attendant	Tony Hall	Ben Ruff	Donna Boozer	David Bouknight	
Flowers	Jeff & Kimi Miller <i>in memory of Lex Boozer</i>	Brian & Tamra McCormack <i>in honor of their 25th anniversary & in memory of Bruce Shealy</i>	Kitty Warner <i>in memory of Boyd and Helen Warner</i>	Watson and Verta Eargle	
Nursery Attendant 1	Gail Asbill	Courtney Shealy	Blair Taylor	Marcus Banks	
Nursery Attendant 2	Caroline Asbill	Addy Ruff	Mackenzie Taylor	Samantha Banks	
AV Technician	Julie Ruff	Ben Roof	Tyler Ramirez	Colleen Hilton	

Serving for the month:

Communion Assistant	Tony Hall				
Communion Bread	Addy Ruff				
Greeters-2	Debbie Fox and Becky Smith				
Ushers-2	Todd Banks and Tim Hall				
Tellers-2	Tony Hall and Cindy Grandy				
Altar Guild	Mendee Shealy and Verta Eargle				
Acolyte/Crucifer	James Ruff and Addy Ruff				

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Devin Hall
4 Nancy Caughman
5 Madison Hall
5 Mendee Shealy
6 Adelyn Grace Bird
9 Brad Boozer
11 William Moyer
14 Ruthie Davis
16 John Boozer
16 Cody McGee
16 Bishop Boozer Sims
17 Emily Coleman
17 Thomas D. Bird, Jr.
20 Greer Lilian Shealy
21 Brad Lybrand
23 Neal Shealy
24 James Robert Hilton
24 Jeffrey Miller
26 Jeff Burgess
29 Bob Hall

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12 Patrick and Courtney Shealy
21 Tim and Debbie Hall
25 Walter and Gail Davidson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Bowen Shaw
7 Riley Ann Fowler
9 Robert Boozer
9 Reagan Price
9 Cory Wallace
10 Max Hall
11 Al Asbill
11 Ranell Shealy
14 Vickie McGee
15 T. J. Asbill
15 Hester Grace Covington
15 Faye Caughman
16 Nancy Dustman
16 Patrick Shealy
16 Rowan Sawyer Shealy
17 Corissa Fox
18 Michael L. Smith, Jr.
18 R. Mike Taylor
20 Tammie Covington
20 Denise Warren
21 Ben P. Roof
25 Caroline Arnette Asbill
28 Pam Banks
28 Michael S. Boozer
28 Kaitlin Counts Lewis
29 Clark Shealy
30 Matthew Boozer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11 Michael and Michelle Moyer
16 Brian and Tamra McCormack
30 John and Cheryl Burgess