



## Faith Lutheran Church

3501 E. Highland Rd.

Highland, MI 48356

(248) 887-5550

FAX (248) 889-8115



If you participate in some form of social media and associate with other Christians you will undoubtedly find your “feed” peppered with postings of Biblical wisdom and encouragement. Favorite Bible verses, quotes from Christian writers, messages for lifting the spirit neatly packaged in a trendy font on a squarely cropped image. So it was really no surprise when many were recently sharing and resharing the *perfect* Bible verse as a morsel of encouragement for waiting out the dumpster-fire of 2020.

“This too shall pass.”

Some biblical wisdom that says hang in there a little longer. A measure of hope that things will be better again.

Funny thing, though – that’s not really in the Bible. Unless yours has extra chapters and books like Mark 17, or the book of Hesitations. Maybe that’s where “God helps those who help themselves” the [instructions for deploying Holy Hand Grenades](#), or (and this will really throw you!) “the lion will lay down with the lamb” can be found and highlighted.

I’ve not yet found the best way to gently disabuse someone of their favorite-scripture-that’s-not-really-from-the-mouth-of-God. I will often try asking for the chapter and verse reference so that I can know the passage as well. But the response is usually to the tune of, “Oh I don’t remember but I have it written down at home.”

My best guess is the well-used introductory clause “and it came to pass,” found all over scripture, got adapted into *this too shall pass*. ([Take a look at Isaiah 11:6-8 and 65:25 for the likely source of the lion/lamb cohabitation](#))

*And it came to pass* is usually read as just another way of saying “and then this thing happened.” It may or may not have anything to do with the point of the telling, it’s just next in the sequence of events. But I suggest that the same comfort being sought by wanting *all this, too, to pass* is still just as present.

*And it came to pass in those days that a decree went forth from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.* That a pagan ruler wanted to top-off the state treasury hardly seems like a source of comfort or rejoicing and yet – it indirectly led to the savior of the world being born in Bethlehem in accordance with the Scripture! God, in his infinite wisdom, is yet behind all that comes to pass. I don’t always agree with it but this is why I pray “**thy** will be done”

The perspective we have as Christians is that *everything* will come to pass. Every trial, trouble, and tribulation of this year and all years, every political party, nation, and state will fall into the grave that Jesus once left. Everything you see in this world will someday be undone into nothing; its creator has said so:

*“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)*

On the face that does not seem like a comfort save for the one speaking it. His promise is that his kingdom *will* come and his will *will* be done and *those* will remain forever.

For the Christian this means that even though we face suffering and the grave, and they too *will* come, we also face a glorious resurrection through the renewal of our bodies redeemed in and through Christ our Lord. “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” (Romans 6:5)

Regardless of what happens because of elections, or viruses, or fear of your neighbor, Jesus is still Lord. And his promises are better kept than any politician.

This too shall pass...

*The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever. -Isaiah 40:8*

# **NEW OFFICERS NEEDED**

As our congregation grows and strives to fulfill our mission, we invite you to join one of the four board positions that will be available. The board works together with Pastor Moyer, the Board of Elders, Trustees, Education, Stewardship, Outreach and Music. We talk over new ideas, opportunities, facilities, outreach and ways to move the ministry toward its goals. Below are the descriptions of the board positions. We encourage each of you to prayerfully consider becoming a board member. Feel free to join our next meeting on August 20, 2020 at 7:00pm. All our meetings are open to the congregation. We would love for you to come. For more information, contact any elder or board member (Mike Stanley, Neil Hornbacher, Tom Lombardo, Timothy Mars, Bill Kiley, Tom Tesolin, Gary Tino, Guy York, Dean Ayers, Tom Buckthorpe, Sherry Hanovich and Bill Erfourth).

## ***Congregational President:***

The term of office of the Congregational President shall be for one year and the incumbent shall not hold that office for more than three consecutive terms without a lapse of one year minimum.

The Congregational President shall:

Preside over all meetings of the Voters' Assembly.

Make decisions according to parliamentary rules.

Hold their vote and have the choice of casting the deciding vote in case the votes are equally divided.

Decide all questions of order.

Have the responsibility of ensuring that all resolutions are executed by the proper officers of boards according to the wishes of the Voters' Assembly.

Be an ex-officio member of all standing boards and committees, with the exception of the Board of Elders, and shall attend personally or designate the Congregational Vice-President of the congregation to attend meetings of boards and committees whenever necessary and advisable.

Appoint an audit committee as deemed appropriate.

Be a signer of all church accounts and debt instruments.

Be an active member of the Planning Task Force.

### ***Congregational Vice-President:***

The term of office for the Congregational Vice-President shall be one year and the incumbent shall not hold that office for more than three consecutive terms without a lapse of at least one year.

The Congregational Vice President shall:

Perform the duties of the office of the Congregational President in his absence.  
Succeed to the office of the Congregational President in the event of a vacancy and for the remainder of the term.

Preside at all meetings of the Church Council.

Be an ex-officio member of any standing boards and committees as delegated by the Congregational President and shall attend their meetings.

Be an active member of the Planning Task Force.

### ***Congregational Secretary:***

The term of office for the Congregational Secretary shall be one year and he/she shall not hold that office for more than three consecutive terms without an elapse of time.

The Congregational Secretary shall:

Keep accurate minutes of the Voters' Assembly and Church Council meetings for the permanent records of the congregation.

Retain copies of monthly reports of all church organizations.

Keep a roll of all the voting members of the congregation and all Church Council members, shall call the roll at meetings of the Voters' Assembly and Church Council, and shall keep a record of attendance at such meetings.

Conduct all official correspondence of the Voters' Assembly and of the Church Council, as directed.

Keep a master copy of the constitution and record all changes.

Be a signer on all asset accounts of the congregation, as well as any ancillary accounts by other organizations within Faith Lutheran Church.

Be an active member of the Planning Task Force.

### ***Congregational Treasurer:***

The term of office of the Congregational Treasurer shall be for two years and he/she shall not hold that office for more than two consecutive terms.

The Congregational Treasurer shall:

Pay all bills authorized by the Congregation. He/she shall not handle any cash or checks, but rather direct all such exchanges to go directly to the Board of Trustees for counting, processing, and depositing in the bank.

Keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of the congregation in books, which shall remain the property of the congregation.

Make available the financial books and records which may be audited by an Audit Committee appointed by the Congregation President.

Submit a written report to each Voter's Assembly meeting, regularly scheduled.  
Such report shall show actual receipts and disbursements compared with the budgeted amounts.

Close the books of the Church by January 31st of the following year.

# Minutes from Faith Lutheran Church Voters Meeting

October 15, 2020

**In attendance**—Dean Ayers, Tom and Chris Buckthorpe, Pastor Moyer, Sherry Hanovich, Bill Kiley, Sharon Vogel, Mike Stanley, Bill Erfourth, Guy York, Cindy and Tom Tesolin

The Voters Assembly was called to order by President, Dean Ayers at 7:09 p.m. Tom started the meeting with our Opening Prayer.

Pastor gave a devotion from Romans 12.

Previous meeting minutes were read by Sherry Hanovich. Chris motioned to accept minutes, Bill Kiley seconded and all approved.

**Pastors Report** – Pastor reported with the loosening of restrictions in Nursing Homes, he's able to increase his visitations. He thanked the elders and Outreach for also reaching out to congregating members. He is working on Christmas and Advent services. There will be a children's program, the theme is the Jesse Tree. Looking ahead, at next year's District Convention they will be electing a new District President. We will need to elect delegates from our congregation.

**Board of Elders** – Mike Stanley reported for the board. Gerry Lightfoot wrote a note to the Board of Elders requesting a release from Faith Lutheran to All Saints Church. A motion was made and approved for Gerry's release. More members are coming back for services. The Elders will monitor closely and determine if a third service should be added. The Elders reviewed their budget for 2021, and approved it. The Elders approved the purchase of Christmas service books. The Elders have been discussing the best way to support social distancing during the Christmas season. Candles will not be used in the Christmas Eve services.

**Trustees** – Dean reported for the Trustees. Steve Tino would like to thank everyone that came out for the work bee. They had a great turn out. They were able to empty the shed of items no longer needed. The electrician replaced all the lights above the altar. Each light has 8-watt LED bulbs that should last 8 to 10 years. The upper parking lot project will be started in the next two weeks. The electrical pole will be removed once the lot has been completed. Our insurance company sent us moisture sensors to detect leaks. If a leak is detected, Steve will receive a text.

**Treasurers Report** – Bill Erfourth presented the September Treasurers report. The decline in donations was discussed. Chris motioned to accept the report, Mike seconded, and all approved.

**Steven Ministry** – Guy reports that the leadership group continues to meet bi-weekly. The start-up of training has been postponed.

**Member Release** – Sharon motioned Gerry Lightfoot's request for release, Chris seconded and all approved.

**Old Business** – Chris reported that 65 people have signed up for Pumpkin Festival. They can pick up their pumpkins on Sunday, decorate them at home and bring them to Pumpkin Fest. People are looking forward to this event. Some of our youth are decorating their cars also. There will be a bonfire afterwards.

**New Business** – We have a need for a video technician. A person that can advise and handle our video needs. If you know of someone, please contact the church office. As we were closing our meeting Mr. Cavanaugh and a scout joined our meeting and requested the use of the building from 6:45 pm – 8:30 pm on Thursdays. They will adhere to our Covid precautions. A motion was made and we approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by Dean. Tom closed the meeting with our closing prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: November 19 at 7:00 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Sherry Hanovich, Recording Secretary



**This is what was shared at church in October by the Elder speaker.  
We thought you would enjoy reading it.**

Making a Lutheran into a “cheerful giver” has never been an easy task. For better or usually for worse, throughout its history the church has tried every conceivable method imaginable to make “cheerful givers” out of its members. In this quest, it would seem that the words stewardship, give and tithe would go hand in hand. And all too often, good old Lutheran coercion and guilt were looked upon as good, right and beneficial parts of a stewardship program.

In fact, it wasn't too many years ago that churches published the Church Annual Report which was dreaded by many and looked upon with pride by some. This report gave much more information than the budget and financial standing of the church. It listed each name and what that person gave during the past year. If an individual did not tithe, maybe a good, right and beneficial dose of shame would move that person toward being a “cheerful giver.”

Today, stewardship has been raised to the level of a science. Quietly, the methodology of marketing techniques, demographics, psychological impact, bottom line emphasis and successful fund raising have made their way into the church. Need to build a new church? Just hire a professional fund raiser. Is it time to take on a new project? Just form a professional development department or group. Yet, through it all, achieving the tithe is still as elusive as the Holy Grail.

It is far easier to compromise the Gospel than to teach it when it comes to giving. It is easy to tell people legalistically that to achieve the proper amount of love in their hearts and to have the correct amount of sanctification they must give ten percent. But true stewardship comes only from God's grace. In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul emphasized this point: “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in *mercy*, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.”

Martin Luther wrote, “Since compulsion is abolished in the New Testament, it is not necessary to tithe. Yet, I say that this sort of arrangement would still be a fine one if we agreed among ourselves to observe it.” In these words, Luther captures what so often is diluted or totally missing when stewardship, giving and tithing are presented. As Christians, we live under the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not under the Law, just as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians: “. . . know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

We are heart-motivated givers, because Christ and His love are at the center of our lives. Love does not have mathematical standards or rates or limits. The Law does not and cannot bind it. With unbounded love, by the power of the Gospel, we accept a higher challenge in giving, for we are imitators of Christ according to the Apostle Paul's instructions to the Ephesians: “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” By this power of the Gospel, in Christ's love, we agree that tithing is good. In response to God's love for us, though, we cheerfully give, letting love set the percentage.

# Living Faith Stewardship Campaign

## Applying Biblical Teachings

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1).

By God’s grace, we have been given the benefit of Christ’s resurrection. Through Word and Sacrament, we have been justified sanctified and shall in this body be glorified. Therefore, we seek those things which are not of this world, but those things which are of heaven, where Jesus the Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

We do not seek the things of this world, for just as we “have been raised with Christ,” we have died also. The Apostle Paul also writes in his letter to the Colossians, “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3). What does a dead person know of or care about his money, investments and possessions? The answer is, “Nothing.” How can a dead person use his money, investments and possessions? The answer is, “He cannot.” As Solomon explained in Ecclesiastes 2:21, “For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.”

But the apostle’s writing goes further. A dead person cannot fulfill the requirements of the ceremonial law of any form of religion that requires the use of money, possessions, talents, etc. How many times can a dead person be required to attend church? How many Bible verses can a dead person be required to memorize? How much service may a dead person be required to do? How many tithes can a dead person give?

The answer to all of these questions is the same: None! When one sets requirements for any reason by applying human wisdom and understanding, then that person is perverting the Gospel message. That person has failed in understanding the Gospel, for he or she is operating, serving and giving in the realm of the dead. This is the warning the Apostle Paul was giving in his letter to the Colossians.

We are children of the first resurrection. By water and the Word, we have been raised with Christ to a new life, having our hearts set on things above. Though physically we may look the same, we are not. We have been raised to a spiritual life, which in this world is invisible, for it is hidden in Christ. This life already has power and victory over sin, physical death and the power of the devil. This life, with its heart set on things above, operates with the intangible things it has in Christ.

What does this mean? We are a Gospel-led people. We have been given the victory of Christ. We have put on Christ. We are imitators of Christ. In Christ, we are a competent people who need not be told by others what our decisions must be. We do God’s will, for in this victory of the resurrection, we have the freedom to do what God desires.



Thus, when it comes to worship, we say and do as David wrote, “I love the house where you live, O Lord, the place where your glory dwells” (Psalm 26:8). When it comes to the study of God’s Word, we say and do as Luther wrote in that we “hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” When it comes to serving God and those around us, we say and do as the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Hebrews and “do not forget to do good and to share with others” (Heb. 13:16). And when it comes to giving, we respond as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income” (1 Cor. 16:2).



*Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays in November:*

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 6 Andrea Thurm  | 22 Renae Behr       |
| 7 Doris Maxwell | 22 Tammy Egan       |
| 7 Elias Moyer   | 23 Ethan Rakestraw  |
| 10 Theo Moyer   | 24 Nancy Lombardo   |
| 12 Connie House | 27 Ashlee Eddie     |
| 20 Keith Appold | 27 Sydney Jones     |
| 22 Ben Ayers    | 28 Tess Rakestraw   |
| 22 Braden Ayers | 30 Theresa Erfourth |



*Congratulations to those celebrating anniversaries in November:*

- |                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| John & Sharma Ennis  | 11-04-1989 |
| Stan & Geri Nelson   | 11-08-1962 |
| Jack & Leah Nicholas | 11-18-1961 |
| Carl & Kathy Lemke   | 11-20-1970 |

*Congratulations to*

*Carl & Kathy Lemke*



*celebrating their 50th Wedding*

*Anniversary on November 20, 2020.*

*May God continue to bless you both with His love & care!*



Please join us for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service on **November 25 at 7:00pm.** Join us in thanking the Lord for His many blessings over the past year.

Even in a pandemic, we have much to be thankful for, especially our Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave His life for us!

“Enter His gates with Thanksgiving!”

**Sharon Vogel & the Prayer Shawl Group received this note which they would like to share with you:**

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Family and all the talented ladies making the beautiful shawls,

The love shown by all of you gives comfort and peace to both Stan and myself. It will remind us that God is there to keep all of us embraced in His love.

In His Name,  
Stan & Geri Nelson





The first annual FLY Flag Football Game, MSU vs. U of M, went great. The rain stopped and fun was had by all.

FLY would like to thank our "fans" and refs for keeping us straight.

MSU won 20-7

Our next FLY meeting is  
**Sunday, November 15th at 12:30pm**

Youth Bible Study is going well and anyone can join in at any time.



# A Great Time was had by ALL at the Church Pumpkinfest/Trunk-r-Treat



## Our Monthly Financials Surplus/Deficit

	<u>Thru September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Offerings	\$152,216.07	\$15,137.00	\$167,353.07
Expenses	\$178,063.30	\$17,162.43	\$195,225.73
Surplus/Deficit (-)	(-\$ 25,847.23)	(-\$ 2,025.43)	(-\$ 27,872.66)
Budgeted Off/Exps.	\$203,940.00	\$22,660.00	\$226,600.00

By the power of the Gospel,  
Christians give willingly  
from the heart by faith in victory.

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,  
set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated  
at the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1)



### Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be available for purchase again this year. The plants will help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve and will be available to take home following the late service.

All plants will be red with red pot covers and be in a 6.5 inch pot with 8-10 blooms. Cost is \$12.00 each. Please make check out to: Faith Lutheran Church. There will be order inserts in the service bulletins.

**Deadline to order is Sunday, November 22.**



### Decorating Party

**Saturday, November 28th**  
**beginning at 9:00 a.m.**

Make plans now to come and share a few hours of fun & fellowship as we decorate the church for the Christmas season.

The more hands we have, the more decorations we'll be able to put up.

Thanks in advance for your help!



### **Advent Theme 2020**

A holiday tradition similar to Advent calendars and wreaths, the Jesse Tree is full of symbols that tell the story of Jesus from creation to his second coming

Join your Faith family beginning Wednesday, December 2 for midweek worship as the symbols of the Jesse Tree help us believe we are part of God's Family through Jesus.

**Available later this month:** keep an eye out for a daily devotional resource that will follow along this year's theme.





### Men's B-n-B

The men of Faith will meet again for Burger & Brew, devotion and fellowship, this month.

Watch the bulletin for date and details.

### Holy Land & Oberammergau Trips Informational Meetings @ St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Pastor Hoffman from St. Stephen is sponsoring two upcoming trips in **November 2021 & May 2022.**

November 8-17, 2021 is a 10 day trip to the Holy Land

May 8-18, 2022 is an 11 day trip to Germany and will focus on Lutheran Heritage & Passion Play

On **Saturday, November 7**, a representative from Trans World Travel will be at St. Stephen to hold an informational meeting for both trips. The informational meeting for the Germany trip will begin at 9:00am, followed by an informational meeting about the trip to the Holy Land at 10:00am. Please **RSVP to 248-673-6621** if you plan to attend the meeting(s) so that we can get a head count or if you are interested in learning more but are unable to attend the meetings.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
3795 Sashabaw Rd.  
Waterford, Mi 48329

## Thank you, Veterans!



On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when "nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).



### **NOT ONLINE? NOT A PROBLEM!**

If you know someone who cannot access online resources let them know that on Sunday mornings an LCMS worship service is broadcast on the following channels. Check listings for exact times.

**Comcast—channel 399**

**Direct TV—channel 377**

**Over-the-air Digital Channel—18.4**



## Warming Tree

This year we will have a "Warming Tree" in the Narthex.

We will be collecting socks, gloves, handwarmers, hats & scarves.

We will accept all sizes for men, women and children.

This year our items will be given to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac.

**We will be collecting beginning in  
November—Sunday, Dec 13.**

Thanks in advance for your generous, giving hearts!

## Journey With Jesus

Outside Live Nativity

Because of the pandemic, this year will be a drive through event.



Christ Lutheran Church  
620 GM Rd., Milford  
Fri, Dec 11th—5—8pm  
Sat, Dec 12th—4—8pm



Warm drinks & cookies follow.  
This is a FREE event.

# Christmas Families

Remember those  
who are less  
fortunate



On the Sunday **before** Thanksgiving, **November 22nd**, we will have our Christmas Families board up. We hope everyone will join in participating in this annual event which gives Christmas gifts and a gift certificate for food to families in need in our local community. You will choose a gift item to purchase for a young boy or girl. Then bring the wrapped gift back to the church with the gift tag taped to the outside of the package by **December 13th** for distribution to the families.

Money donations will also be accepted and used for gift certificates for the family to buy food.

Please help us out by bringing your items in by December 13th so we can get them to the families. ☺

We have a very giving church family!  
Thank you so much for all your love and support to these families for so many years!

If you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Linda Brown at 248-887-9741 or 248-887-5550 (the church office).

May God bless each of you with His love & care!

-The Outreach Committee

# November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <b>All Saints' Sunday Communion</b>  <b>8:30</b> Worship  <b>9:45</b> Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>11:00</b> Worship</p>	2	<p>3  <b>12:00pm</b> AA  <b>8:00pm</b> AA &amp; ALANON</p> 	<p>4  <b>9:30am</b>                      Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>5  <b>6:45pm</b> Boy Scouts</p>	6	7
<p>8 <b>Communion</b>  <b>8:30</b> Worship  <b>9:45</b> Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>11:00</b> Worship  <b>12:00</b> Elders</p>	9	<p>10  <b>12:00pm</b> AA  <b>8:00pm</b> AA &amp; ALANON</p>	<p>11  <b>9:30am</b>                      Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall</p> <p></p>	<p>12  <b>6:45pm</b> Boy Scouts</p>	13	14
<p>15 <b>Communion</b>  <b>8:30</b> Worship  <b>9:45</b> Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>11:00</b> Worship  <b>12:00</b> BOCE</p>	16	<p>17  <b>12:00pm</b> AA  <b>8:00pm</b> AA &amp; ALANON</p>	<p>18  <b>9:30am</b>                      Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>19  <b>6:45pm</b> Boy Scouts  <b>7:00pm</b> Voters</p>	20	21
<p>22 <b>Communion</b>  <b>8:30</b> Worship  <b>9:45</b> S.S., Youth Bible Study, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>11:00</b> Worship  <b>Christmas Families Board and Sock Tree Up</b>  <b>3:30</b> Fellowship Hall in Use</p>	<p>23  </p>	<p>24  <b>12:00pm</b> AA  <b>8:00pm</b> AA &amp; ALANON</p>	<p>25  <b>9:30am</b>                      Women's Bible Study in FH  <b>7:00pm</b>                      Thanksgiving Eve Service</p> 	<p>26  </p>	27	28
<p>29    <b>Communion</b>  <b>8:30</b> Worship  <b>9:45</b> Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>11:00</b> Worship</p>	30		<p>                      MIDWEEK SERVICES                      ADVENT                      Please join us for our Wednesday Advent Services at  <b>7:00pm</b>  <b>Dec 2, 9 &amp; 16</b></p>			<p>                      We are Thankful to God</p>



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Website: [faithhighland.com](http://faithhighland.com)



## Counting Blessings

Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as “10 ways to lose weight by summer!” or “3 simple steps to acing that test!”

Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 blessings, or statements of gratitude, each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? Can you imagine?!

What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? “Thank you, God, for this brand new day!” “Bless my use of this day, Lord, that I might glorify you.” Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

