

# FAITH at WORK

December 2025

Dear People of God at Faith Lutheran,

Advent season is here. The first candle has been lit, and we wait, and watch, and be ready. Ready for what? Ready for who? For the coming of Christ our Savior, our Teacher, our Brother.

Advent is a time of being ready for this Divine One who continuously reaches out to us, calling, inviting, revealing, loving. Advent begins a new cycle of hearing the God speak through our Scriptures, as well as through music, friends, and other means. It is not beyond God to even use what we might question as a reliable source of God's voice.

Sometimes I hear God's voice in the robin's call, or my dog's welcome home wags, or a card from a loved one. God speaks to us in all kinds of ways, and enlightens us with grace unbound. Recently I was watching "Mary Poppins." It was the first movie I ever saw in a theater. As I watched, I began to see how, maybe I have been Mary Poppins in the Interim ministry I have been called to serve. The Holy Spirit blows the winds that carry me to the place where my ministry can serve God's people. The difference between me and Mary Poppins is that I do not come with all the answers or solutions to the transitions at hand. And I learn much from the congregations I serve as I work with them during these changing times. God speaks, the Lord Jesus speaks, the Holy Spirit speaks and we hear together the call to follow, to mission, to trust.

The children, Jane and Michael, wanted Mary to stay forever, but she said she would only stay until the wind changes direction. At her leaving the children's parents began to have a new relationship with them, something closer and engaged. They no longer needed a nanny. The family grew together.

In the season of Advent, and in this time of change, we are sensing that the winds are changing direction. That means my work is finished among you and it is time for me to leave. Now you enter into a new chapter, a new time in your ministry, this time with Pr Cindy and Good Shepherd, our siblings in Christ Jesus. This builds the Kingdom of God here in Albany, and especially as you begin to envision the mission God is calling both congregations.

Thank you for these 21 months together. You are now part of my spiritual DNA, and I will hold you in my heart and prayers as you begin this new time. It is Advent for you, anticipating the ways God will speak to you, invite you to engage with Good Shepherd and the Albany community in new ways. In this new reality for you is God, who has been faithful in 75 years. God has always been with you and will continue to be.

As Christmas draws near, we remember the only God, Who came in the vulnerability of flesh and blood, Who loves beyond measure, and is always with us.

*"I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord...because of all that the Lord has done for us...For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old." Isaiah 63:7-9*

Blessed Advent and Christmas to you all,

Pr Dorthy Nielsen

## Faith Lutheran Church

930 Queen Ave SW, Albany OR  
97321

email: [faithalbany@proaxis.com](mailto:faithalbany@proaxis.com)



## From Church Council

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Faith,

Here we go—Christmas season is upon us. Thank you to everyone that was able to make the congregational meeting in November. We will be having another 2 meetings in January to approve changes to our Constitution. Some updates came down from ELCA and some others will be addressed at the same time.

Please look for announcements about our Advent schedule, we will be doing Christmas Eve Service with Good Shepard over there and I believe it is at 8:00 pm.

We should have all the updates we have been making to the Cornerstone building by December 1st and hopefully will find a tenant by the end of the year. I will make an announcement when we are done and invite everyone over to see how it looks when we are finished. A BIG shout out to Terry Virnig, Jon Aaberg and John Berg along with myself for the time put in to get it ready.

As we head into winter and the holidays the FISH food pantry is in need of more canned meat products if you are so inclined to help out. We have our FISH basket in the parking lot entry way to place items in. Also, Good Shepard has a small food pantry if you like to donate to them.

Don't forget those around us as we head into the winter months to check our neighbors and those you sit next to in the pews on Sundays.

As always please reach out to me with questions.

Blessings,  
Gordy Gamet



## “Shared Lutheran Ministries of Albany”

If you were at the congregational meeting on November 16 you know that we voted unanimously to contract with Good Shepard Lutheran Church to share Cindy Robles as our minister. Pastor Cindy will perform all the duties of a pastor including a weekly church service, providing pastoral care, offer Christian education opportunities, and be involved with the local community in outreach and ministry. As part of this contract FLC will pay 30% of her salary and benefits. Pastor Cindy will start on January 1, 2026. Let's welcome her with open arms, this is an exciting time for our church!

This will be my last monthly entry regarding our blending for now. The council expects that other changes are coming and when that happens the president will keep everyone updated.

—Submitted by Mary Sabatka Gamet

## Away In A Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord, Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and  
Stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.



Faith Lutheran Church		2025
STAFF		
Interim Pastor	Pastor Dorthy Nielsen	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Hart's Janitorial	
CHURCH COUNCIL		
President	Gordy Gamet	
Vice President	Terry Virnig	
Secretary	Mary Sabatka Gamet	
Treasurer	Janice Lee Virnig	
Financial Secretary	Alice Weber	
Education/Youth	Vacant	
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen	
Fellowship & Social	Peggy Preston	
Property Management	Terry Virnig (Acting)	
Stewardship & Resources	Vacant	
Worship & Music	George Hunt	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	



Financials as of 11/21/2025

Undesignated Income: \$3,431.97  
 Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$5,416.66  
 Net Undesignated Income: (1,984.69)  
 Total Expenses: \$9874.15  
 Total Net Income: (3,232.18)

# Church Announcements and Events

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## Contact Pr. Cindy Robles for Emergency Pastoral Care

If you have a need for emergency pastoral care, please contact Pr. Cindy at 563-845-8221.

## Men's Breakfast—8:30am

Tuesdays, Ongoing

Men's group meets for breakfast every Tuesday at 8:30am at either Sweetwater's Restaurant or Brick & Mortar Restaurant (alternating weeks). All men are welcome!

December 4 & 18 at Sweetwater's — December 11 & 25 at Brick & Mortar

## Prayer Chain:



We are asking those who are part of the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran congregants on a weekly basis and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. This can be as simple as taking a few seconds to ask God to be with those listed, lifting each one up by name. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: [pegprestonn@aol.com](mailto:pegprestonn@aol.com)

## Quilting and TOPs

Wednesdays @ 9am



Wednesday mornings are a busy time at Faith Lutheran Church. We have quilters working to create comforting quilts that are donated to bring people warmth, privacy and shelter. If you are interested in joining them, there is always plenty to do.

TOPs (stands for The Old People, though age is not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have able hands and a willing heart, the TOPs will always welcome some help.

## Food Collection for F.I.S.H. of Albany



We are collecting non-perishable food items FISH of Albany. Donations can be placed in one of the baskets in the parking lot entryway.

*\*\* Please check expiration date markings - FISH cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.*



## Mary Martha Circle

This is a Bible Study for women. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**. If you would like more information, please call: Karen Glenn at (541) 928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at (541) 967-8309.



**Advent 2025: Visio Divina at GSLC—6:30pm****Thursdays, December 4, 11 & 18**

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30, 2025. Join us on Thursday Evenings at GSLC for a time of reflection, prayer and Visio Divina. We will meet in the MPR room at 6:30 p.m. on December 4, 11, 18. We will worship around tables using the liturgy from Sanctified Art with the theme of “What do you Fear? Insisting on Hope” this Advent. We ask you to bring cookies to share and will have coffee, tea and water available.

**Christmas Eve Service at GSLC—8:00pm****Wednesday, December 24**

We will celebrate Christ’s birth with a candlelight service with communion at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on December 24, 2025 at 8:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Reception to Celebrate Pr. Dorthy Nielsen—11:30am****Sunday, December 28**

After two years of serving as Interim Minister for Faith Lutheran Church, Pastor Dorthy’s tenure will end on December 28. Join us for service at 10:30am and stay for the reception immediately following to thank her for her guidance and leadership through the transition.

<b>Worship Leaders Team 2025</b>				
<b>December</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>
Assisting Ministers	Janice	Carol O.	Shirley	George
Altar Prep	George	Jon A.	George	Jon A.
Ushers	Dick	Dick	Dick	Dick
Sound Technicians	Terry	Gordy	Jon A.	John B.

**December 2025 Worship Schedule**

**December 7 10:30am Worship**  
**December 14 10:30am Worship**  
**December 21 10:00am Worship**  
**December 24 8:00pm Candlelight Service—GSLC**  
**December 28 10:30am Worship**



# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwater's	<b>3</b> 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	<b>4</b> Janitorial Service 5:30pm - 8:30pm Fellowship Hall Rental - W/C Class 6:30pm Visio Divina-Advent Devotion at GSLC	<b>5</b> 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming	<b>8</b> 12:00pm Council Meeting at Mary & Gordy's 12:00pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 8:30am - 9:30am Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle	<b>10</b> 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	<b>11</b> 5:30pm - 8:30pm Fellowship Hall Rental - W/C Class 6:30pm Visio Divina-Advent Devotion at GSLC	<b>12</b> 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 12:30pm - 3:00pm 20th Century Book Club	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwater's 1:00pm - 2:00pm D.A.R. Meeting	<b>17</b> 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	<b>18</b> Janitorial Service 5:30pm - 8:30pm Fellowship Hall Rental - W/C Class 6:30pm Visio Divina-Advent Devotion at GSLC	<b>19</b> 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	<b>20</b> 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall)
<b>21</b> 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	<b>22</b> Church Office Closed 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 8:30am - 9:30am Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> Church Office Closed 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service at GSLC	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed-Holiday 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 11:30am Farewell Reception for Pr. Dorothy	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwater's	<b>31</b> 9:00am Quilters & TOPs			

## *Prayer List*

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***REMEMBER IN PRAYER those needing strength, guidance & healing.***

Tim Berg	Vanessa Munro	Catherine Baarsch
Noah Holman	Virginia	Peggy Preston
Gigi Douglas	Gabriel	Jim Preston
John Busher	Frank Perry	Nancy George
Julie Shaw	David	Jessica Virnig
Olivia Hunter	Mitchell Mueller	Alice Weber
Nicholas Glass	Monica Johnson	Shirley Karstens
Chuck	Keith Baarsch	Carl Wogomon

### ***REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:***

Sangsau Tran, Karen Glenn, Melba Wright, Margaret Rowland

### ***OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES:***

Family and friends of Pastor Arnie Anderson

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### **A Prayer for the Christmas Season**

Lord, in this holy season of prayer, song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you—shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.



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**Faith at Work**

**2025**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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Albany, OR 97321