

Fredsville Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

**Rev. Lee R. Gable, Pastor
32756 150th Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
319-989-2065**

**Website: fredsville@fredsvillemethodist.org
Facebook: fredsvillemethodist
Youtube: @fredsvillemethodist**



Birthdays

Madison Staker- 1
Kellie Shoemaker- 2
Bryn Petersen- 4
Kristen Staker- 4
Marvin Folkerts- 6
Kennedy Syhlman- 10
Merlin Freese- 10
Linda Nielsen- 10
Emma Staker- 10
Nora Faust- 13
Kristine Cipressi- 14
Patricia (Welter) Johnson- 14
Jean Loger- 15
Karli Lotts- 18
Trisha Weichers- 18
Cooper Bakker- 19
Duane Mueller- 20
Nicholas Reinicke- 20
Sutton Six- 21
Ryan Nuss- 22
Carlene Stage- 23
Kathryn Petersen Hinds- 24
Brenda Cooper- 25
Waylon Syhlman- 27
Steve Nielsen- 29
Kevin Pruisner- 29
Abby Brekke- 29
Kathy Folkerts- 29
Jeffrey Sandlin- 30
Doug Dall- 31
Megan Griffith- 31

Anniversaries

Larry & Jeanne Guthrie- 15
Roy & Audrey Stefan- 27
Eric & Darla Andersen- 29
Jim & Jannan Marx- 29

If we missed your special day inadvertently, please let us know so we can recognize you in the future.

Please Remember Them in Your Prayers

Dan Petersen - Undergoing treatment for lymphoma.

Leona Pruisner - For health concerns.

Tim Morgan - Meridith Sandlin's brother who is battling cancer.

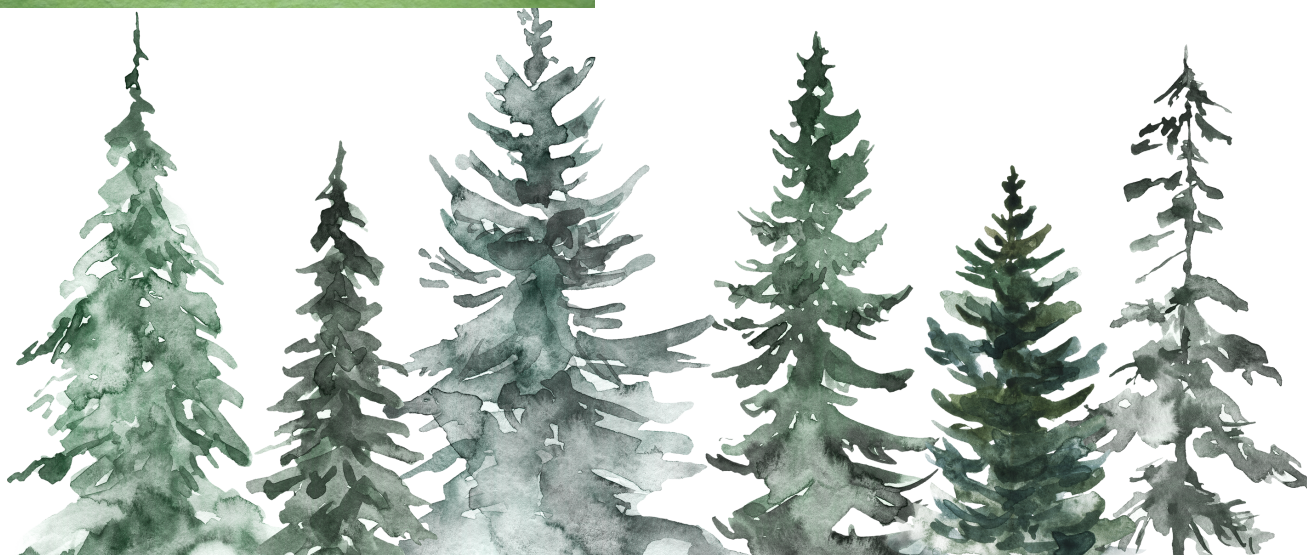
Carol Watson - Has on-going health concerns.

Marcia Andersen - Undergoing cancer treatment.

Scott Willert - (Stone mason who worked on Time Capsule) – Diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus.

Jane Christensen – On-going health concerns.

These names were received by the church from the individual or their family and have consented to have their names released to the Fredsville congregation. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office (319-989-2065) to be included in our weekly prayers or contact Pastor Lee.



Worship Readings, Prayers, and Introductions from SundayandSeasons.com

Sunday, December 3- Advent

Blue

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

- **Isaiah 64: 1-9**- Prayer that God would come with power and compassion
- **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**- Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)
- **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**- Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end
- **Mark 13:24-37**- The sudden coming of the Son of Man

Sunday, December 10- Advent

Blue

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

- **Isaiah 40:1-11**- Good news of God's coming to a people in exile
- **Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13**- Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.
(Ps. 85:13)
- **2 Peter 3:8-15a**- Waiting for and hastening the day of God
- **Mark 1:1-8**- John appears from the wilderness

Sunday, December 17- Advent

Blue

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

- **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**- Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden
- **Luke 1:46b-55**- You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly (Lk. 1:52)
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**- Kept in faith until the coming of Christ
- **John 1:6-8, 19-28**- A witness to the light

Sunday, December 24- Christmas Eve Candlelight

Blue / White

Beloved in Christ, we are gathered together on this Eve of the Nativity, to prepare our hearts for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ; to meditate upon the mystery of the Incarnation by which our nature is redeemed, and to receive with joy the message of our salvation.

Readings for the Christmas Eve Service

- **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**
- **Isaiah 7:14**
- **Luke 1:26-35-** The Story of Mary
- **Isaiah 11:1-2**
- **Matthew 1:17-24-** The Story of Joseph
- **Micah 5:2-5a**
- **Luke 2:1-7-** The Story of Jesus' Birth
- **Isaiah 10:9**
- **Luke 2:8-14-** The Story of the Shepherds
- **John 1:1-5, 14-** The Birth of the Word
- **Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18-** The Birth of Light

Sunday, December 31- New Year's Eve Devotion

White/Gold

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

- **Galatians 4:4-7-** Children and heirs of God
- **Psalms 148:1-5, 12-14-** The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)
- **Luke 2:22-40-** The presentation of the child

Pastoral Pondering ... The Nativity

Growing up one of my favorite preparations for Christmas, beyond putting up the tree and trains, was setting out our family nativity sets, indoor and outdoor. The indoor set was hand painted and always sat safely on our fireplace mantle. The outdoor nativity, had kid-sized characters. I could look the standing characters in the eye. Now, Pastor Dena and I have our own nativity traditions. The nativity sets we have are more portable. Less about the size, these nativities are uniquely hand-made. I have a couple sets made as wooden outlines, just enough detail to tell the characters apart, but plenty of room for imagination. Then we have a nativity that is made from olive wood, hand carved in the Holy Land. I like seeing nativities at the fair-trade store that reflect the Christmas story in artistic styles from around the world. Each set is unique and meaningful in different ways.

This past year we did not put our nativity set away. It stayed out continuing to remind us that the Christmas story lives among us all year. The story of Jesus' real and vulnerable presence in the world is an everyday reality. This year that has been especially intense with the violence occurring in the Holy Land. Seeing those handmade characters reminds me of the real people who they represent. Not just the holy family of Bethlehem, but the life-sized families, who search for shelter in the Holy Land and in all places rocked by violence. I pray for a day when their lives will be as peaceful and calm as beloved carols paint the first Christmas. This season will be different it must be until there is peace.

In the season of Advent, we take time to prepare for the Nativity or birth of Jesus. Our preparations and celebrations stretch throughout the weeks of Advent and beyond, as they should. It is no small event when the God of all creation comes down and moves into the neighborhood. This global neighborhood is hurting and in need of deep healing and handmade love. This season invites us to open our hearts to see the nativity anew. May we recognize the story of the nativity as it is lived out among God's people around the world as we work and pray for their peace, safety, and well-being. May we recognize the holy family in the eyes in our life-sized neighbors. May we know the Kid-sized Love of God's Kingdom that comes to earth in the baby of Bethlehem, given for you.

Happy Christmas Fredsville Family.

May the Peace of Christ be with you always...

Pastor Lee



FREDSVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

Sunday, October 29, 2023 following Worship

*** These Minutes have been approved electronically ***

Attendance: Pastor Lee Gable, Linda Nielsen, Brenda Cooper, Sue Green, Sharon Hemmen, Erin Frahm, Kelley Knutson, Meridith Sandlin, Todd Mikkelsen, Tom Verhulst. Absent: Jana Hermann

Call to Order: President Brenda Cooper

Devotions: Pastor Lee Gable read Martin Luther's Morning Prayer (from the Book of Concord).

Secretary's Report: Kelley Knutson's September 24 Minutes were approved electronically.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Nielsen

As of September 30, 2023

- General Fund: \$50,451.08
- Building Fund: \$34,681.93
- Memorial Fund: \$115,364.34

Old Business Discussed:

At our September meeting, Council asked property for more information about potential solar energy at Fredsville. A second bid for adding solar panels to the church building was received. The two bids were compared. This will go to the property committee who will gather more details before they can make a recommendation to Council.

New Business Discussed:

#1 - As part of the Call process for a pastor, congregations pay moving expenses. St Timothy Lutheran, Hudson, paid the full cost when Pastor Dena and Pastor Lee moved to Iowa in 2022. Now that Fredsville has called Pastor Lee, we will pay half of the \$8,500 moving expenses.

#2 – Dennis Kruger dba Kruger Farms's bid of leasing the Fredsville farm for \$104,625 per year for the next two years was accepted.

#3 – The Kruger family donated a Mountain Ash Tree to Fredsville that was given to them in memory of Dennis. The four confirmation students planted this tree (coordinated by Sue Green) south the parsonage garage on 10/27/23. Note: The Mountain Ash tree is a different variety of Ash tree and is not affected by the Emerald Ash Borer.

#4 – "Pie Sunday" will be November 19, during fellowship.

#5 – Fredsville will have a booth at Dike's Razzle Dazzle on Wednesday, November 29th. "Peace" will be the theme of our activity. "Peace" is a very timely theme this year. Also, it makes sense that Fredsville promote "Peace" as "Peace" is part of our congregation's name. "Fred" means peace in Danish.

#6 – Brenda Cooper encouraged all Council members to volunteer in the Sunday Worship services and to ask a youth or Confirmation student to help them. She emphasized how important it is for the Council members to be visible.

#7 – It was decided not to have a Congregational Meal after church in December.

#8 – Since Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year, we will have one worship service, Christmas Eve Candlelight at 4:30pm.

#9 – A Christmas Day Devotional video will be made and sent out for December 25.

#10 – Sunday, December 31 worship will be prerecorded as Pastor Lee, Jeff and Meridith will all be on vacation.

Pastor Report:

#1 – The “Season of Creation” including the Prayer of Directions, was a good addition to worship this fall.

#2 – The wedding of Krissy Nielsen and Dominic Cipressi was celebrated on October 14. Four funerals were held.

#3 – The Sunday School leaders are enjoying using the new Sunday School curriculum. Fifteen students are participating in Confirmation. Kim Farley is assisting Pastor Lee. Confirmation meets the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays of the month.

#4 – Pastor Lee attended the Northeastern Iowa Fall Conference and has attended many conference meetings which has allowed him to connect with other ELCA pastors.

#5 – Pastor Lee has been working hard to get information about adding Solar to Fredsville.

#6 – Pastor Lee met informally with the Dike UMC and the Stout Reformed Pastors. Ministry efforts with the House of Hope, Salvation Army, Lutheran Lakeside Camp and Lutheran Service in Iowa (LSI) are being explored.

#7 – Pastor Lee has been updating Fredsville’s digital ministry on Facebook.

#8 – Pastor Lee has been working with Treasurer Linda Nielsen to estimate the budget items for 2024.

Committee Reports:

Worship & Music – Pastor Lee, Jean Loger, Jeff & Meridith Sandlin have done some long-term planning for our worship services. The Funeral and Wedding handbook language and polices need to be updated.

Finance – Will be meeting in November to come up with a proposed budget for 2024.

Property Committee – Their next meeting will be on Monday November 6 @ 7 p.m. Solar panels for the church will be discussed.

Mutual Ministry – Will be meeting on either November 13 or November 27.

Closing Prayer: The Council Members said the Lord’s Prayer in unison.

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 26th following Worship.

Respectfully Submitted: Sue Green, Secretary

Only October Minutes are included in this newsletter as the Church Council did not meet in November. Council will meet again on December 10th.

Thank You Notes

Fredsville Family,

Thank you for providing food for the guests, it was all delicious and everyone had something to compliment on each dish.

-Tim & Lora Klipping and Andy Klipping

Fredsville Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the gifts and service you provided for us on this special day of confirmation. Thank you for everything you have done for us and for being one of the places I go to grow my faith.

-Macy Hermann

Dear Fredsville Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the teachers at Dike Elementary, thank you so much for providing the delicious meal of homemade chicken noodle soup, ham and cheese sandwiches, crackers, cookies and bottled water. It was all so good, especially after a long day of conferences & school. Your kindness is so appreciated!!

To Fredsville Church,

Thank you for putting on church every Sunday and letting us have confirmation class and to get confirmed.

-Cooper Dall

Many thanks to all for their well wishes, cards and gifts to help celebrate my 80th birthday. It truly was a great memory.

-Duane Hamilton



Kid's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 10
Fredsville Lutheran Church

Christmas Events Dates To Remember:

December 9th: Treats For Shut-Ins

December 10th: Kids Program & Dancing Around The Tree

December 16th: Advent Open House at Pastor Lee's House

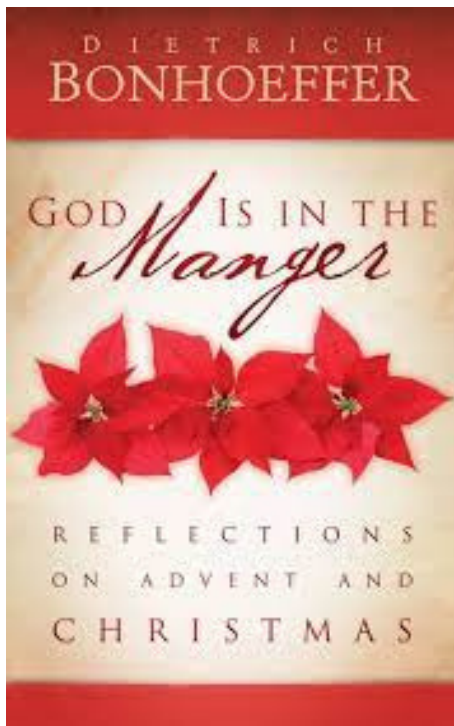
December 24th: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service At 4:30 pm

December 25th: Christmas Day video devotional

December 31st: No In-Person Worship

(An on-line service will be shared.)

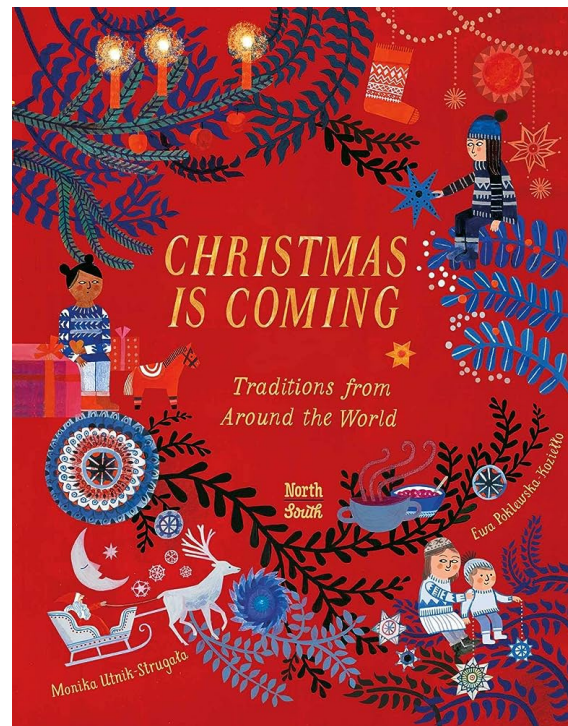
Book Recommendations



Adult:

God is in the Manger:
Reflections on Advent
and Christmas

By: Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Children:

Christmas is Coming:
Traditions from
Around the World

By: Monika Utnik

Do You Know Someone Who Needs A Car Seat?

Our Secretary, Whitney Howe, and her husband, Nick Howe, are Child Passenger Safety Technicians. They have 4 Convertible Car Seats, 4 Forward Facing Car Seats, and 4 Booster Seats that are available for families without a seat for their child. These seats are free but must be distributed by Whitney or Nick to ensure the seat is a good fit for the child and vehicle. Please contact the church if you or someone you know is in need of a seat.

Phone Number: 319-989-2065

Email: fredsville@fredsvillelutheran.org



★ FREDSVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH ★

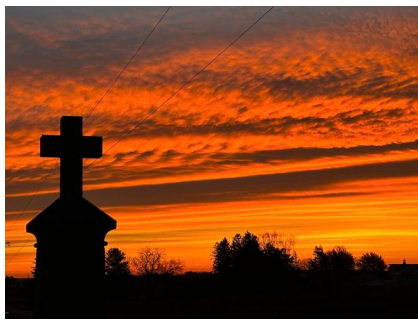
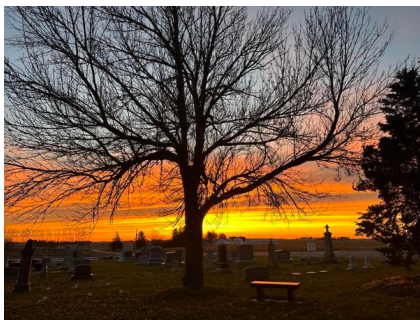
JOY TO THE WORLD

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP | 4:30 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY, ON-LINE DEVOTION

WWW.FREDSVILLELUTHERAN.ORG



Travis and Angie brought their 1931 Ford Model A to church and shared a Sunday drive.



“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.”

~ Psalm 9:1

Decorating at Fredsville





December 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI!

At LSI, we recognize that the holiday season can be a challenging time for many, especially for the populations we serve throughout the year.

We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know immigrants and refugees working to become U.S. citizens, with little community support or help along the way. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, fearing they will never have a forever home.

In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season.

As we reflect on the past year, we thank you — our generous supporters and community partners — for stepping up to give and help the people LSI is privileged to serve. We are grateful for your contribution in bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these essential services.

LSI wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa.

2023 DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Pastor's Day Off	2 Clothes Closet 10:00 am to Noon
3 Worship 9:30 am Choir Sings Sunday School 10:30 am	4	5	6 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	7 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 Treats For Shut-Ins
10 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Kids Program & Dancing Church Council Meeting After Worship	11	12	13 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	14 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	15 Fancy Fingers 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Pastor's Day Off	16 Advent Open House @ Pastor Lee's House 2:00 to 4:00 pm
17 Worship 9:30 am Choir Sings Sunday School 10:30 am	18	19	20	21 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	22 Pastor's Day Off	23
24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:30 pm	25 No In-Person Service Video Devotional	26 Pastor Lee On Vacation	27 Pastor Lee On Vacation	28 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am Pastor Lee On Vacation	29 Pastor Lee On Vacation	30 Pastor Lee On Vacation
31 No In-Person Service Video Devotional Pastor Lee On Vacation						