

“Remember, Red, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.”

(from Andy’s letter to Red from the movie Shawshank Redemption)



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

The Holidays are upon us .. those ‘Holy-Days’ .. where our hearts, minds and spirits seem to be able to wander more freely, back and forth, between the thin places. Thin Places are where we become connected to past memories and future longings and they are so much more vivid and tangible than at any other time of the year. That is the definition of remember .. to be connected to once again.

For 18 years I have had the privilege to worship with you on Christmas Eve and be awash in the glow of candlelight as we sing Silent Night at the end of the service. And every year, I am transported back to ALL those times I stood, basking in candlelight, singing.

I remember one particular Christmas Eve. I was serving as an Intern in a small country church in southeast Idaho, about an hour and a half from Pocatello. It was where the past and future collided in the present of that evening. During the service, I remember being almost overcome with memories of my youth, singing at my home church in MN and my excitement as I saw friends and we shared what amazing things Santa brought to us... along with memories of waking up early and packing the car for our trip to the Grandparents on Christmas Day and entering a house full of Relatives and a table that had even more food on it than at Thanksgiving and thinking, “How is that even possible?” At the end of the service in Idaho, as I lit the candle for our final hymn, I remember aching as I reflected at all the faces of people that were no longer with me. And also aching for all the people I saw the week before who were struggling with past memories and present realities. I needed that little congregation to sing Silent Night and hold their candles high. Everybody had left and I was just finishing cleaning up. I turned the lights off and locked the front door of the church and began walking to my car. I looked at my watch and it was exactly midnight. About an inch of fresh snow had fallen and it was .. literally .. dead quiet. In the middle of that small parking lot I stopped and looked up. There wasn’t a cloud in the sky. It was a full moon that evening and at that time it seemed it was the biggest moon I had ever experienced. And it just hung there, staring at me. I then noticed that the light from that moon literally lit up everything, as far as the eye could see. Silly as it may sound, it was the star of Bethlehem. I think I could have driven home without car lights but I used them anyway. I was safely home 45 minutes later .. the moon guiding me. I stepped out of my car and in a real and tangible way, felt and heard ... Emmanuel. And I was filled with hope. The light shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Hope is not, in Biblical understanding, wishful thinking. Hope is a declared, proclaimed promise of what will be and what is now. Hope is .. “Jesus has you, Jesus holds you and Jesus will never let you go” .. with legs, feet, hands and heart. Hope is the cradle we are placed in when we hear the Christmas Story. “Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things. And no good thing ever dies.”

Pastor Matt

DECEMBER 2022

Marlene Faraca	12-01
Rebecca Morey	12-02
Keith Lyson	12-08
Imo Jones	12-11
Tom Bauer	12-14
Nakia Salazar	12-15
Shannon Radke	12-16
Sandy Loskill	12-17
Randy Richter	12-18
Carol Rock	12-18
Neil Persyn	12-19
Scone Bender	12-21
Miller Griffith	12-22
Ed Heckman	12-24
Gae Lewis	12-25
Billie Goodno	12-27
Don Gumenberg	12-27
Norm Haikkila	12-28
Rocky Brumbaugh	12-28
Cheryl Bailey	12-29
Kathy Hansen	12-29

January

Blanche Wall	01-04
Van Smith	01-05
Lee Shaver	01-11
Mark Bender	01-11
Nicole Seeber	01-14
Jean Kress	01-14
Nicole Smoot	01-15
Racine Balow	01-18
Kristi Bell	01-19
Faith Hughes	01-20
Sandy Ellersick	01-23
Les Wall	01-21
Lynda Heckman	01-28
Jamie Wyrobek	01-28
Ken Peralta	01-30
Anna Jones	01-30
Pat Kowal	01-31

*If your birthday isn't listed, please let us know
We would love to add you to our birthday list..*



Thursday December 1st at 10am

**We will also need help taking
everything down Thursday
January 5th at 10am**

**We invite the congregation to
bring Poinsettias to decorate.**



Help Support the Food Bank

Donate \$200 to the food bank and you can choose one of our beautiful quilts.

Donations will be made through Anna's Circle and split between the food banks this year.

Talk to Joy or any other Anna's Circle lady.

Make checks out to: Lutheran Church Women with 'food bank quilt' in the memo space.

QUILTS FOR FOOD



Ways you can SERVE

We need your gifts!

The nominating committee will be meeting soon to fill vacancies in our committees and on our council. Please think about where you might be willing to serve -- we all work together to make ministry happen. Committee members do not need to be official "members" of the church, but you do need to be a member to serve on the church council.

We need folks for:

Evangelism Committee -- the Evangelism committee coordinates our fellowship events, funeral luncheons, and other outreach activities.

Property and Maintenance Committee - the Property and Maintenance committee oversees the care of the building and grounds.

Stewardship Committee - the Stewardship Committee oversees the church budget and giving.

Nominating Committee - the Nominating committee will be the ones to fill vacancies next year.

We are also looking for a new **Vice President** for our council.

Church Council officers are elected for one year terms. The President and Vice President can serve two consecutive terms. The secretary and treasurer positions do not have term limits. Committee members are elected for 3-year terms and can serve two consecutive terms.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact Annie Frederick, our current Vice President. #509-270-0496



December 15th

Ushers & Greeters

December 2022

- 4 Toby and Gail Johnson
- 11 Tom and Hazel Bauer
- 18 Trish Akre
- 24 Christmas Eve: Les and Blanche Wall
- 25 Randy and Vicki Richter

January 2023

- 1 Hedy Mitchell
- 8 Marlene Faraca
- 15 Tom and Hazel Bauer
- 22 Sandy Loskill
- 29 Katie Kersting



Christmas Eve: Service 7pm
Christmas Day: Lessons and Carols
(& Impromptu Christmas Program)
at 10am




Pastor's Epiphany Open House
January 8 2pm-5pm
114 E Circle Drive - Newport



January 29th
Annual Meeting
& Potluck after



				1	2	3
4 9 Sunday School 10 am Worship	5 10 am Bible Study noon - Al-anon	6 10 am Anna Circle	7 7pm Choir	8	9	10
11 9 Sunday School 10 am Worship	12 10 am Bible Study noon - Al-anon	13 10 am Anna Circle 10 am Quilting 7pm Council Mtg	14 7pm Choir	15 Second Harvest Food Distribution	16	17
18 9 Sunday School 10 am Worship	19 10am Bible Study noon - Al-anon	20 10 am Quilting	21 7pm Choir	22	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service CHRISTMAS EVE
25 No Sunday School 10 am Lessons and Carols CHRISTMAS DAY	26 noon - Al-anon	Pastors vacation Dec 26 - Jan 1				31

1	2 10 am Bible Study	3 10 am Quilting	4 7pm Choir	5	6 EPIPHANY	7
8 9 Sunday School 10 am Worship Pastors' Epiphany Open House - 2pm - 5pm	9 10 am Bible Study noon - Al-anon	10 10am Quilting 10 am Anna Circle 7pm Council Meeting	11 7pm Choir	12	13	14
15 9 Sunday School 10 am Worship	16 10 am Bible Study noon - Al-anon	17 10 am Quilting	18 7pm Choir	19	20	21
22 9 Sunday School 10 am Worship	23 noon - Al-anon	24 10 am Quilting	25 7pm Choir	26 <div></div>	27 <div></div>	28
29 10 am Worship Annual Meeting Potluck Following	30 10 am Bible Study noon - Al-anon	31 10 am Quilting				



Holy Family's Journey

By: Elaine Faires

Stars filled the sky
Holy Family journeyed
Bethlehem was nigh

Little Donkey
Quickened his pace
Stress of the moment
Showed in Joseph's face

Rejected at the inn
Jesus was born
In a bed of straw
On Christmas morn

Animals barely stirred
Donkey, sheep and cow
A miracle this day
Shepherds saw

Mary, mother of God
Held the precious child near
Father Joseph prayed
In a voice gentle and clear

Savior in mother's arms
Child of beguiling charms
Angels sang sweet lullabies
Jesus smiled and opened his eyes

Christmas at Diamond Lake

By: Elaine Faires

Snow covered peaks seen from our streets
Roofs swaddled in snow.
Chimneys puff smoke as do the old menfolk.
Haze in the valley below.

Row upon row of fine potential Christmas
trees stand.
Silence permeates deep, the land sleep, snow
atop the sand.

Winter birds take flight in the days half-light.
Deer sleep in the meadow low.

Nature decorates Diamond Lake with sparkling ice
and shimmer flakes as north-easterly winds blow.
Fuzzy lights - red, blue, gold and white - glow from
Cottage sites welcoming holiday cheer.

From here at Diamond Lake my friend, we wish
you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

December / January Newsletter

American Lutheran Church



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Church Council Members

President: Jason Jones
Vice-President: Annie Frederick
Secretary: Pam Thompson
Treasurer: Gae Lewis
Education: Millie Brumbaugh
Evangelism: Val Samson
Missions & Social Concerns: Mary Bug Smith
Property: Glen Smith
Stewardship: Katie Kersting
Worship: Mark Bender

*Marked with the cross of Christ forever,
we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.*