

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.
(See FCC Observance information on the back page.)*

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

– Elder Tom Jentz

***JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME**

– Hymn #195

***BENEDICTION**

CONTACT INFORMATION

*“Serving One Another in Love”
Galatians 5:13*

CHURCH OFFICE - 752-2400

PASTOR – Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR – Shane Waldron

OFFICE STAFF/BOOKKEEPER – Carlynn Stahlberg

CUSTODIAN – Kelly Brown

ELDERS

Grady Bennett..... 314-4207	Don Olmsted.....250-7915
Dave Hanson 249-8893	Matt Riley756-8913
Tom Jentz 755-2029	Steve Thompson857-3326
Steve Johnson...on sabbatical	Jan Wassink.....249-6590
Duane Martin..... 756-6026	

DEACONS

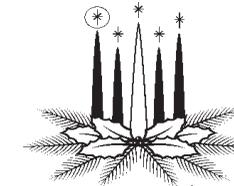
Buford Bennett 261-7124	Micah Hill.....890-2058
Doug Brown 890-0760	Mike Stahlberg ...on sabbatical
Ike Eisentraut..... 257-2222	Bruce Tulloch755-4550
Bill Gamble 249-0152	

BUILDING TRUSTEES

Doug Brown 890-0760	Nick Hanson253-4668
Donnie Burns..... 261-9830	Matt Vander Ark.....270-1904
Russ Hadley..... 752-3661	



Displaying God’s Glory in a Community of Grace



December 2, 2012

1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

*“As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ.”
Luke 3:15*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY: *Habitat for Humanity*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

His Calling and Our Praise

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 3:16*

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, and was taken up in glory.

Leader: Proclaim it among the nations. Sing of his greatness you people of God.

LORD’S SUPPER OBSERVANCE
At Faith Covenant, the Lord’s Supper is observed each Lord’s Day as the climax of our worship service. We invite to the Lord’s Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders after the service. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ. We recommend the use of wine; however we offer both juice and wine in the tray to allow true liberty of conscience. The wine is located in the two outer rings and the juice is located in the center ring.



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***LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES!**

– Hymn #198; vs.1,4,5,6

***COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS** – Hymn #196

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD** – words included

The splendor of the King clothed in majesty.

Let all the earth rejoice, let all the earth rejoice.

He wraps himself in light and darkness tries to hide
and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

(Chorus)

How great is our God, sing with me.

*How great is our God, and all will see
how great, how great is our God.*

Age to age he stands and time is in his hands.
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end;
the Godhead three in one: Father, Spirit, Son.
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

(Chorus)

(Bridge 2x)

Name above all names, you are worthy of our praise
and my heart will sing how great is our God.

(Chorus)

His Renewal and Our Hope

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: 1 John 1:5-8

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim
to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in
darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we
walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship
with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses
us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive
ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All: Do not remember against us our former iniquities;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for
we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our
salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us,
and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!** (Psalm
79:8-9)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: Psalm 28:8-9

The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving
refuge of his anointed. Oh, save your people and bless your
heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

***COMMON CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

The Apostles' Creed – Hymnal page 845

***REVELATION SONG** – music included

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain; holy, holy is he.
Sing a new song to him who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

(Repeat)

(Chorus)

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.*

*With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
you are my ev'rything and I will adore you.*

Clothed in rainbows of living color, flashes of lightning,
rolls of thunder; blessing and honor, strength and glory
and power be to you, the only wise King.

(Chorus)

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder at the mention of your name.

Jesus, your name is power, breath and living water,
such a marv'ulous mystery!

(Chorus 2x)

PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Diaconal Offering today: Please use the
Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.*

Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.

*Children ages 4-6 are excused for Children's Church
(held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)*

***TO US A CHILD OF HOPE IS BORN** – Hymn #233

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

His Word and Our Response

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent – Light in the Darkness

Sermon Title: Preparing for the Right Expectations

Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-18

(See pages 8-10 for sermon outline, text and questions)

***JESUS MESSIAH** – words included

He became sin who knew no sin,
that we might become his righteousness.
He humbled himself and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing!

(Chorus)

*Jesus Messiah, name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.*

*The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven,
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.*

His body the bread, his blood the wine,
broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing!

(Chorus)

(Bridge)

All our hope is in you, all our hope is in you.
All the glory to you, God, the Light of the world.

(Chorus)

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:
Christ Lutheran Church, Whitefish, Pastor John Bent.

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:
Rohan & Becky Crown, PCA church planters in Lethbridge, AB. Their Amazing Grace church plant outreach has been evangelistic to the First Nations (native reservations) people around Lethbridge through outdoor events and youth groups. Pray for continued protection and expansion of the gospel. Pray also for the raising up of leaders and elders within their church.

DIACONAL OFFERING: This morning we share in worshipping through our diaconal offering for those needing assistance in our church and community. Please use the Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS GATHERING: All ladies of Faith Covenant are invited to a Christmas Gathering this coming Saturday, December 8 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the church for holiday food, fun and fellowship. We'll get a jump on Christmas crafting with a simple glass magnet project that you can keep or give as a gift. Supplies provided but no special skills required! Cost is \$3 *and* an item for the Flathead Food Bank. ***Please sign up in the foyer today if you plan on attending!***

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Service will be held this year at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: Each year the offering taken at our Christmas Eve service is given to families or individuals of Faith Covenant who have particular needs. Our Deacons determine need and distribute the entire offering to those in need of extra assistance.

CLARISSE and ANDY Sunday school offering status:
Monthly goal = \$100; November-to-date amount: \$38.93

COMMUNITY KITCHEN-FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next week on **Thursday, December 13** at **Central Christian Church**. If you have questions, contact Sharon Thompson or Joyce Schmautz.

THE SALVATION ARMY IS ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS: Joyce Schmautz schedules "counters" of the money that comes in from the Salvation Army kettles through the holiday season. She is looking for a few more helpers on Saturday evenings from 7:00 -8:00 p.m. The counting goes fast, is fun and gives a glimpse of what those little kettles represent to the community. You can commit to count weekly or for one week. Call Joyce at 756-6325 if you can help.



For Prayer Chain requests or to be added to the prayer chain, please contact the church office at 752-2400 or email to office@faithcov.com.

DECEMBER MINISTRIES

DEACON OF THE MONTH Buford Bennett
NURSERY M.O.M. (Mom of the Month)..... Carol Martin
NURSERY COORDINATOR.....Darcy Hearn
Direct Nursery questions, concerns, praises, etc., to Darcy at 270-8933.

TODAY

USHERS/GREETERS Nick & Hanni Hanson
CHILDREN'S CHURCH Sharon & Liz Riley
WORSHIP NURSERY (infants) Neumanns
WORSHIP NURSERY (toddlers thru 3yrs) Amy Bennett
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS Jeri Brown & Marlo Lancaster
COMMUNION PREP Amy Bennett
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Hanni Hanson

NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 9

USHERS/GREETERS Nick & Hanni Hanson
CHILDREN'S CHURCH Leah & Breanna Wiersma
WORSHIP NURSERY (infants) Turners
WORSHIP NURSERY (toddlers thru 3yrs Martins
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS Amy Bennett & Laura Pierson
COMMUNION PREP Gary & Barb Fenner
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Yvonne Hernandez

CALENDAR

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
10:45 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship
11:15 a.m. – Sunday school for all ages

THIS WEEK

Tuesday – Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m.
– Elder home visits, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
– Jr. High Youth Group, 7:00–8:30 p.m. at church
– Sr. High Youth Group, 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Bennett's home, 513 Crestview Rd. in Kalispell
Saturday – Ladies' Christmas Gathering, 6:30 p.m. at the church

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesdays – Music practice, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m.
– Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups (Sept.-May)
Sundays – Adult Small Groups (Sept.-May)
1st Sundays – Diaconal Offering
1st Tuesdays – Elder home visits
3rd Tuesdays – Elders/Deacons' meeting, 7:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays – Elizabeth Women, noon, at Jo Anne Ross' home, (Sept.-May)
Last Sunday of month – Prayer & Worship Service, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11 – Elizabeth Women, noon at Jo Anne Ross'
Thursday, December 13 – Women's Ministries meeting, 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 18 – Elder/Deacon meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 23 – No Sunday school
Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 30 – Prayer & Worship Service, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1 – Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 6 – No Sunday school
Tuesday, January 8 – Elder home visits, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 30– Soup Supper & Annual Meeting

SERMON OUTLINE

December 2, 2012

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent – Light in the Darkness

Sermon Title: *Preparing for the Right Expectations*

Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-18

I. Penance and Prophecy

II. Turn or Burn

III. Wheat and Chaff

SERMON TEXT: Luke 3:1-18 (ESV)

3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?”

¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.” ¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

Questions and thoughts for discussion:

1. What catches us off guard by John the Baptist’s appearance and message?
2. What is important about Luke’s historical details in v-1?
3. When you read v-3 and then compare it with vs 4-5, how do they connect? How does personal penance or repentance fit in with these prophetic statements?
4. What role does vs 7-14 play in this narrative? How might this be a corrective to cheap grace?
5. Do you think people reading this section would be a bit surprised by Jesus’ ministry as it is unfolded in the rest of the gospel of Luke?
6. What expectation does Jesus meet in John’s description? What expectations are as of yet left unanswered?
7. Does John’s message resonate with much of modern, western Christianity? Why or why not?