

Faith Lutheran *LINK*

JANUARY 2022

WWW.FAITHLUTHERANSANTAROSA.ORG

ISSUE SIXTY-ONE



We are a family of professing Christians inspired by Christ's grace and love. We are committed to joyful worship, spiritual growth, caring relationships and community outreach.

A Message from the Pastor: New Year's Resolutions

I'm trying to remember what resolutions I made at this time last year. I probably told myself that I would eat more healthy foods and exercise more regularly.

Following the usual excesses of the Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year triumvirate, the resolution to moderation in diet and discipline in exercise has become somewhat standard fare for New Year's resolutions, not only for me, but for many.

This time last year I may also have resolved to, in one way or another, improve my relationships with spouse and family and friends. It is not unlikely that I told myself I would better manage my money and my time in 2022 than I did in 2021. I am almost certain that

I resolved to spend more time in devotion and prayer with the Holy Scriptures.

I am not one to write down my New Year's resolutions usually, nor to share them publicly with others. Such advertisement invites reminders and recriminations through the year when resolve turns to resignation. If I keep my New Year's resolutions around too long into the new year, I fear they will only serve to convict me of poor resolve, of weak determination, and of shallow moral fiber.

That's the danger of writing down or speaking out loud your New Year's resolutions; they can come back to haunt you.

Thankfully, our stature before God, our relationship of salvation, is based not on our resolve, nor upon our accomplishment of resolutions made,

(cont. on Pg. 3)

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—and the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."
- John 14: 16 - 17

COME SEE!
WORSHIP in person or on line
9:00 AM
Communion: EVERY
Sunday!!!

photo credit: kidsforpeaceglobal.org

Pastor: Rev. Brian
Claasen



Faith Lutheran Church and
Preschool
4930 Newanga Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Prayers of the People

REJOICE! Katie Stohlmann & Charlie Swanson's son Henry Michael and Emma Ruth Abigail Carlstrom, daughter of Erin and sister of Adie, baptized on Nov. 7!; Please pray for Chris Carson's cousin Kent, in Fort Smith, AR; For Karen Casper who had surgery in Nov. and for her granddaughter recovering from high risk pregnancy and her newborn son; For Richard Seefeldt with health concerns; For Jason Cohen who had surgery and is recovering; for John Roche (Janet Hammond's brother) and wife Debbie; For Calvin, Janene Gilmartin's cousin; For Vicky Robinson who lost her husband Les; For Kent, Blythe Babb's brother her other brother Kirk, and for her cousin Brian Mechau who passed recently. Prayers for Tracy Francis' friends Doug Shelle and wife and children. Doug passed recently due to COVID; Prayers for Ellen Welch, Noel Mitchell's aunt who succumbed to cancer; For the grieving families of Terry Larson, Genetisiwa Fleming and Faith Parson; For Hammond's daughter in law, Jamie Hammond, recently diagnosed with breast cancer; For Glen Crownover's brother Keith and for his cousin Debi Crownover; For Blythe's daughter Tammy and her husband Rogelio; For Jeanine Dahlquist, Kathryn Miller and all those who are struggling during the pandemic.

Do you shop at [amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2630076)? Use the link below and choose FLC: a portion of the proceeds will come back to Faith Lutheran Church!
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2630076>

Also: Sign up for ESCRIP here: <http://www.escrip.com/> and choose merchants you shop with regularly (Safeway, Lucky, etc.). Choose Faith Lutheran Church and a portion of the profit will go to FLC. Thank you!

Your 2021 Church Council

(2022 Council to be elected on Jan. 23 2022)

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
Pastor	Rev. Brian Claasen	(707) 235-3292
President	aNna rybaT	757-581-1880
Vice President	Tracy Francis	707-372-8892
Secretary	Erin Carlstrom	707-210-6983
Buildings & Grounds	Hans Stocklin	707-538-1713
Pre School	Linda Sederholm	707-537-8063
Treasurer	Connie Duncan	707-708-7291
Worship Experience	vacant	
Finance/Stewardship	Janet Hammond	707-539-4935
Social Ministry	Joan Muzzin	707-477-5589
Parish Administrator	Janene Gilmartin	707-539-2521
Christian Ed/Youth	Ernie Engle	707-292-5816
Sharing Faith	Tracy Francis	707-372-8892
Personnel	vacant	

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," (Matthew 6:21)
 PRAISES!!!

We received pledges for 2022 of \$91,989! God is good.
 We give thanks for our Stewardship Team: Janet Hammond
 (Committee Chair), Jean Flak, John Hall



photo credit: <https://www.gominno.com/>

(cont. from Pg. 1)

Thankfully, our stature before God, our relationship of salvation, is based not on our resolve, nor upon our accomplishment of resolutions made, but rather is based on God's resolve to claim us as God's own.

Thankfully, our hope in the year before us is not dependent upon our ability or inability to live up to our own, or anybody else's expectations, but is dependent only on God's unending love for us in Jesus Christ.

As we venture into the uncharted waters of another New Year, let us resolve to lean on God's grace, to plumb the wisdom of God's Word, to pray regularly for one another, and to trust in God's powerful resolve to save and redeem us.

- Pastor Brian

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

haPpY NeW YeaR Friends!

It didn't feel right, not taking a casserole or pot of soup to beloved friends this past year: Genetisiwa (lost Patrick), Karen (lost Terry), and others in their time of grief. O yes...the pandemic. A Hallmark card took the place of spending some time with a personal visit.

Several friends helped go beyond just "surviving" the pandemic. Thank you Pr. Brian, who is not required to do more than show up on Sundays, but has attended our meetings, helped us with his wisdom. LOVED your guitar playing, your stories and singing during Holden Eve. prayer. Loved your messages on Sunday and the positive energy you infused in our small congregation. Chris Carson joined Pr. Brian with guitar and beautiful singing voice served almost each and every Sunday this year as worship assistant, also as Altar Guild Chair, Worship Exp. Chair, Pre-School Chair, Personnel Chair and others. Glen Crownover and John Hall: You served as the heartbeat of our worship for almost 2 years now. You kept us connected to members unable to worship in person. Thanks be to God for you! Maryellen Birkland played magnificently each Sunday and made sure we had a robust music program. Trusted VP Tracy Francis, who thru Covid has been a reliable partner in her counsel and who coordinated Dine & Donate events (until pandemic interfered); Erin Carlstrom, a new

Mom helped us keep up with Roberts Rules of Order during our meetings; Hans Stocklin's beautiful handiwork revived the siding of the choir entrance of the church and helped maintain the church property. Linda Sederholm kept the Council informed about the business of managing the Pre-School and the local and federal funding credits (~ \$101K federal funding IRS credit due soon); Janet Hammond on Finance and Stewardship drive were instrumental in another year of generous pledges by our congregation; Joan Muzzin coordinated the amazing good works of local food banks and charitable organizations, ensuring that FLC made a difference in our community. We thank you! Parish Administrator, Janene Gilmartin coordinated weekly bulletins, paid the bills and kept the congregation informed, you are the heartbeat of our church!; Ernie Engle (Christian Ed.) showed up every Sunday to meet with the children (few as there were...) and provided meaningful age-appropriate Bible lessons for young and old alike, while involved in the worthwhile Salvation Army ministry.

John Hall's term as Pre-School Chair expired. And John: Your AMAZING work in researching and applying for all the available local and federal grants and funding were instrumental in keeping our Pre School afloat financially, and who's counsel to me personally has been invaluable. Connie Duncan! For your bookkeeping of our finances. Where would we be without you? You have kept us within budget, paid our bills and projected our future financial outlook. Bless you. You helped with some tough decisions this year on Exec. and Personnel Committee.

Thank you Rev. Dr. Stohlmann for your weekly bible study classes. As a relatively late-comer to my Christian faith, my faith and understanding has deepened thanks to your teaching. I ask you: What is a greater calling than "Teaching?" Our altar guild members made sure communion was prepared each Sunday, appropriate vestments adorned the altar and beautified the altar with flowers: Blythe Babb, Chris Carson, Linda Coffman, Diane Cohen, India Geibel Norton, Patti Gillhooley, Karen Larson and Laurie Wennes. Blessings to you all, your service mattered!

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND Annual
Congregational Meeting (Part II) via Zoom link
sent separately via e-mail

Jan. 23 after worship (~ 10:00). We will approve
Proposed Budget for 2022, nominate new Council
Members and discuss 2022 and beyond.

-Yours in Christ, aNna rybaT

CELEBRATE!

Birthdays and Anniversaries in
JANUARY

3 aNna rybaT
18 Richard Seefeldt



BOOK CLUB NEWS

Because of the MLK holiday, we will meet on Monday, January 10th at our regular time, 3- 4:30 pm. The book to be discussed is *The Judge's List* by John Grisham.

Looking farther ahead, the following meeting will be on the 3rd Monday, February 21st, 3:00 - 4:30 pm. The discussion book will be *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty.

image by August and Desmond Schutzenhofer

WANT ADS

YARD SALE: Got stuff? (not junk) We should host a yard sale on church front lawn in March or April. Start cleaning your closets!

If you have something to sell or an ad of general interest, please email editor at arybat@comcast.net by 21st of month.

CAMPUS SEEN-YEARS MINISTRY

SEEN-YEARS
NEW YEARS GATHERING

POSTPONED DUE TO PANDEMIC

PRE-SCHOOL Update

CARES Act: COVID Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act authorized Employee Retention Credit (ERC) to assist employers experiencing economic distress but who endeavored to retain their employees. The credit allowed \$5,000 per employee in 2020 and up to \$7,000 per quarter per employee in 2021. John Hall (Pre-School Director until Aug. 2021) expertly managed and applied for all of the credits and refunds we were eligible for, including PPP (Personal Protective Equipment) and EIDL Loan from Exchange Bank that allowed us to remain open after state mandated closures as precaution against the spread of the virus. We began automatic repayment of \$428 per month of the \$100,000 EIDL loan to Exchange bank in October thanks to generous donations by congregation. The contributions by the congregation were sufficient to cover the loan payments. We may use the ERC refund (~ \$101,000) to pay down or pay off the balance of the loan. 2022 pledges total \$4040 which will also be used to pay down the loan. Available balance remaining: \$44,320. The Pre-School, under expert direction of Kelli Watkins has kept the school open and the children and staff safe, although we have had one positive infection. We are beginning to see a gradual increase in enrollment which will help to augment the tuition income and finances of the Pre-School. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Chris Carson, Pre-School Board Chair on our FLC Council.

CAMPUS MAINTENANCE UPDATE:

Application for grant from Bethlehem Foundation has been submitted. We requested \$125K to REPLACE all roofs for Charter Hall, Hummon Hall and breezeway, sanctuary and Red Cottage. There will be deferred maintenance repairs needed. We should know in spring whether or not grant has been approved. New Compost bin installed. You will need to use #4930 in key pad to open the garbage/recycle/compost bin area which is for use of FLC, Pre-School and RPC only.

Pls. send *LINK* corrections/additions/
deletions to arybat@comcast.net

Thank you!

COVID *Omicron* UPDATE

Faith Lutheran Church will follow CDC, California State, Sonoma County and local guidance and restrictions for the protection against the *Omicron* and *Delta* variants of COVID-19. The rules have again changed: **For all indoor gatherings, regardless of vaccination status, you must wear a mask**, N-95 if possible. Please do not wear cloth masks or scarfs, they are not as effective. You may not have symptoms but may be a carrier of the virus! As several members are at heightened risk of serious disease, even after vaccination and booster, PLEASE WEAR A MASK inside church buildings when others are gathered. We hope everyone has been vaccinated against COVID but cannot confirm. Transmission is possible in spite of vaccination. Young members (ages 6 - 15) are now eligible for vaccination and everyone over 18 is encouraged to get a booster shot.

We will continue to err on the side of caution, for the benefit of all of our congregation. The doors to the sanctuary /Hummon Hall will remain open for ventilation during worship and fellowship; Please adhere to social distancing. If it is chilly for you, please wear extra layers.

With required precautions we WILL GET THROUGH THIS.

- aNna rybaT, Council President

**AS ALWAYS, IF YOU DO NOT
FEEL WELL PLEASE STAY
HOME!**

OFFICE HOURS

TUE - FRI: 10:00 - 4:00 PM

CLOSED MONDAYS

Pastor's Office Hours by appointment

(707) 235-3292

The office email faithsr@sbcglobal.net is not working. While we troubleshoot, please use Parish Administrator's alternate email: janene@redeemersr.org

Geni's Jellies & Jams are available for \$5 each or 3 for \$12.50. Proceeds go to the Campus Maintenance Fund.

NO SMOKING!!

Effective 1 March, 2022, Faith Lutheran and Redeemer Presbyterian Church campus will be SMOKE FREE. Our outside groups have been notified. The smoking urn near Peace Garden disintegrated and will be dismantled. Please refrain from smoking on our campus. Thank you for your cooperation.



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR IN

JANUARY

LOVINGLY DONATED BY:

2

9

16

23 In honor of Steve and Pat Gieseke's 50th Wedding Anniversary – Chris Carson

30

To sponsor flowers in 2022, please contact Christ Carson. Flowers are provided by altar guild and may be picked up after worship each Sunday.

photo credit: www.trulyexperiences.com



LINK newsletter editor: aNna rybaT, arybat@comcast.net or 757-581-1880. Please submit articles/corrections by the 21st of @ month. i welcome your photographs (.jpeg) or articles of general interest! Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Men's BBQ for all men of Faith (Faith Lutheran and Redeemer Presbyterian) every first Wednesday of the month. This month, on JAN. 5 at 6:00 PM. Bring something to grill, something to share and your preferred beverage.

iHop Breakfast crowd meets again every Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM

-Memorial Bricks Project-the FLC Memorial Committee has approved a design for the Faith Parson Memorial Patio in front of the Noah's Ark shed and the project is out for bid. As part of that project the bricks currently in the preschool yard will be removed and used in the patio. This will allow more people access to view the bricks that have been donated and reduce material cost. The design is such that additional bricks can continue to be added.

FLOWERS on the ALTAR 2022: please send requests to sponsor flowers to Chris Carson.

JANUARY 2022 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Name of Jesus New Year's Day
2 2 CHRISTMAS 9:00 Worship 10:00 Bible Study Coffee Fellowship	3 New Year Holiday	4 Breakfast iHop 8 AM	5 Men's BBQ 6:00 PM Picnic Area Spring Lake Walking Club 0900	6 SEEN-YEARS 10 - Noon	7	8
9 Baptism of our Lord 9:00 Worship 10:00 10:00 Bible Study Coffee Fellowship	10 Book Club 3 - 4:30 PM	11 Breakfast iHop 8 AM	12 Spring Lake Walking Club 0900	13	14	15
16 2 Epiphany 9:00 Worship 10:00 Bible Study Coffee Fellowship	17  MLK Jr. Birthday	18 Confession of Peter Breakfast iHop 8 AM Council Mtg. 6:30PM	19 Spring Lake Walking Club 0900	20 SEEN-YEARS 10 - Noon	21	22
23 3 Epiphany 9:00 Worship 10:00 Congregational Meeting (Part II) via ZOOM	24	25 Conversion of Paul Breakfast iHop 8 AM	26 Spring Lake Walking Club 0900	27	28	29
30 4 Epiphany 9:00 Worship 10:00 Bible Study Coffee Fellowship	31					

A Reading from Isaiah 43:19

“See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? I am making a
way in the wilderness and
streams in the wasteland.”

- The Word of the Lord.



photo credit: aNna rybaT,
Sandbridge Beach, VA



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Editor: aNna rybaT

TO: