

Announcements for Sunday, December 22, 2013

New Announcements

Assisting in Worship this morning are Kathryn Mahoney, who carried in the Advent banner, and Marilyn Glover and Rick Lorentz, members of the Bread Ministry Team, who are lighting the Advent candles.

Ingathering 2013 update: Thanks to everyone at Faith who has contributed to this year's Ingathering Offering. To date, \$1,120.00 has been donated for the New Covenant Lutheran Church hunger center on Hayden Avenue. Additional information about this offering follows in the Previous Announcements.

Paths of Righteousness: When the 14th Dalai Lama and a whole generation of highly accomplished teachers from Tibet became refugees in the late 1950s, they brought with them a unique tradition for the systematic construction of a Spirit-filled life. These eight Sunday morning sessions, beginning on January 5th, will provide a very abbreviated introduction to the use of this "spiritual technology" to build a progressively wider and deeper understanding and practice of both Buddhist and Christian precepts. This class will be facilitated by Jim Christensen.

Previous Announcements

Update on Bill Ritchey: As many at Faith already know, Bill Ritchey has been recovering from surgery, first at Hillcrest Hospital, then at the Rehabilitation Center of Euclid Hospital, and, since Wednesday, December 11th, at Homewood Residence (Building 3, Room 101, 3 Homewood Way, Richmond Heights, OH 44143; 216-291-3803). Please keep Bill and Mary Ellen and their family in your prayers, and Bill would love to hear from you. Cards and phone calls are always welcome -- better yet, drop by and say hello in person!

2014 pledge envelopes are available for pick up today.

This year's Giving Tree is still up! Gifts this year will benefit the children of Providence House. Today is the last day donations will be accepted. Thank you for your support!

Ingathering 2013: As we did in our Ingathering in past years, we will be collecting cash donations through today. The cash will be donated to the New Covenant Lutheran Church hunger center on Hayden Avenue. While food donations are always welcome, cash is preferred by the hunger center because it has a wonderful multiplicative effect. With your cash donations, food from the Cleveland Foodbank is purchased by the hunger center at an enormously reduced cost, thereby making our dollars go much further in alleviating hunger than they would by purchasing from retailers. Please join us as we seek to help those who are hungry in our community.

Music Teacher Oksana Melnychenko invites everyone at Faith to a Christmas Recital in the Social Hall at 3:00 p.m. today. The recital will feature Oksana's students, a number of whom have played for our services. The recital is open to the community.

Christmas Eve at Faith: Our family service will be in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. There will be a potluck supper in the Social Hall at 6:00 p.m. A candlelight service with communion will be in the sanctuary at 8:00 p.m. If you feel you need a ride to attend one or all of these, please speak with Donna Nedrow so we can help to provide transportation for you.

The pastor will take his final week of vacation from Thursday, December 26th, to Thursday, January 2nd. For pastoral concerns during that time, contact Donna Nedrow at 440-285-7141. For pastoral emergencies, contact the pastor at 216-382-3156.

Just a reminder that Sunday, December 29th is the final Sunday in 2013. Any contributions that you wish to be counted for 2013 should be placed in the offering plate by this day. Also please note that the end-of-the-year giving statements, including Capital Campaign contributions, will be ready for distribution in mid January. If anyone would like a copy earlier, to catch up on pledges, they should contact the church office.

Join us for a New Year's Potluck Breakfast on Sunday, December 29th at 9:15 a.m. There's no church school, so enjoy the breakfast. Sign up is across from the kitchen.

Please save your old Christmas cards, and any other season cards, for Liz Duncan, who will take them to Breckenridge, where the residents remake them and sell them for the Residents' Comfort Fund.