

Faith Lutheran Church
Youth & Family Ministries
1115 Combie Road
Meadow Vista, CA 95722

(530) 878-1870
<http://www.faithmv.net>

To:

Faith Lutheran Church - Meadow Vista YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER



Advent is here, which means it's time to prepare for Christmas—and much more!

December 2011

WHAT'S INSIDE:



- High School & Junior High Youth Group Opportunities
- Christmas related events
- Two homeless feeding opportunities this month
- December Calendar

A time of preparation...

Christmas is holiday usually filled with joy for kids. There is nothing to do – just wait for the tree to be decorated and gifts to find their way underneath. Wake-up Christmas morning and celebrate! Oh, to be a kid at Christmas...

Writing from an adult perspective, we know that isn't true for us. It takes a lot of work to find a tree, decorate it – and whatever else we choose to color with holiday cheer (or LED lights). It takes time and money to go out and find those gifts, prepare the food, and put together family gatherings. And usually it takes planning to make sure the holiday season comes together. We have to be prepared – and if we aren't – we

(Continued inside...)

A time of preparation...

(Continued from the front...)

know how difficult and frustrating the season can become.

During advent we will be preaching that this time of the year is not just meant for decorating, purchasing and cooking, it's also a time for inward preparation. Reflecting on the gifts we already have, reminding ourselves to live in the present moment with patience, to live for others, and provide for those in need. God strengthens us through these practices, and it's this preparation that reminds us that Christ's coming is not just a past event to be celebrated or a future event to look ahead to, but rather something that is happening in the here and now if we pay attention to it.

As I talked about in my sermon the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Faith Lutheran & our Youth & Family Ministries are entering our own period of advent. We are preparing for transition, new leaders, and a new vision of what God has in store the ministry of our church here in Meadow Vista. We do not know what this will look like, or even necessarily what we need, but we know that very soon something new will be coming.

It's during this time of advent for our congregation that we need to prepare in both ways. We need to have our lists prepared of what it is we need to do, and what we need to have. We need to do the work of making sure our administrative and logistical tasks are taken care of. But we also need to take time for inward preparation, reflecting on the gifts that our congregation already has in abilities and perspectives. We need to take time to be present in this moment, not letting anxiety for the future rule our decisions. And we need to realize the church is not meant for sustaining itself, but rather for the needs of others in our community. We need to ask how this church can truly serve the community we are situated in.

Much like Christmas, the kids that are a part of our congregation, and the many people outside of our church are unaware of the amount of work that needs to go into being ready for what is to come. But if we are diligent, and take the time for both physical and internal preparations, and look to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us, I am confident that our students and families, young and old will reap the benefits. And on that day you get to un-wrap the new gift to this community, there will be much joy and celebrating.

May God be with us in this season of Advent.



JUNIOR HIGH OPPORTUNITIES



Sunday, December 4th

Meet at FLC at
3:00pm
FREE!

Junior High 1st Sunday Youth Group

Our Junior High Students will have a chance this year for some youth group activities here at FLC or some other fun off site location. Generally they will be on the 1st Sunday of the month in the afternoon. This month in December we will have our youth group day here at church at 3:00pm with Christmas related games, activities, yummy treats and some fun. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends to come!

January Youth Group: There is no January youth group due to the New Year's Holiday.

BIG JUNIOR HIGH LOCK-IN EVENT WILL BE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd @ 7:00PM!

Confirmation Classes

This year Confirmation Classes for 7th and 8th grade students are held on the third Sunday of the month at 4:00pm at the Wheaties Box.

Sunday, December 18th: WHAT DOES IT ACTUALLY MEAN TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR?

THE 4th—10th Commandments

Jesus says that most all of the laws and commandments can be summed up by the statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. What does it mean to love and who is your neighbor? We will be looking at the specifics of the 4th - 10th commandments to try and answer these questions.

If you can't make one of our confirmation classes, please let Joel know so you can schedule a make-up session.

If you are in 7th grade and planning on being confirmed this year, our next retreat day is Wednesday, February 1st after school. Please make sure this date is on your calendar!

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



701 High School Youth Group

Our youth group for high school students meets on Tuesday nights in December from 7:00-8:00pm at the Wheaties Box. It may not be the largest group of students, and it might not be the coolest place to come hang out, but we can promise that there will be snacks if you are hungry, someone to listen if you want to share, and some good questions to ponder if you want to think. It's just a good place to come and spend some time relaxing and engaging with others once a week or whenever you can make it. Occasionally we will meet somewhere else such as a frozen yogurt shop or a restaurant. Joel will provide notice as those options happen.

TOPIC FOR DECEMBER: Mythology & Stories: Gods, Creatures, Floods & Stars

TUESDAY NIGHTS:

December 6th
December 13th

701 will continue on Wednesdays beginning again on Jan. 11th



High School Christmas Event

Ice Skating & Italian Food! We had a request to go Ice Skating this year, and what a better time than close to Christmas. We will get together and go to Skatetown Roseville for an afternoon of Ice Skating, and then head to dinner at Buca di Beppo for a "Family Style Italian Dinner."

Meet at Faith Lutheran at **1:30pm on Sunday, December 11th**. We will be home by 7:00pm. Please RSVP (so we have enough drivers and a big enough table for dinner), by calling, texting or emailing Joel.

Friends are welcome! Just let me know how many are coming—and make sure they have a medical release/permission form on file.



Sunday, December 11th
Meet @ FLC—1:30pm
Cost: \$10

Got an idea for an event or activity you want to do with our youth group? Let Joel know!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES



Cesar Chavez Park Homeless Feedings

We prepare hot coffee and hot soup here at FLC and transport it down to Cesar Chavez Park in downtown Sacramento. We take time to talk and serve the homeless in the area. Come join us and help provide both a warm meal to people are hungry and some love at the same time!

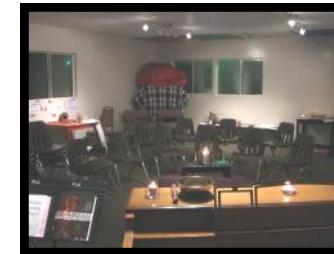
Saturday, December 3rd
&

Saturday, December 17th

Meet at FLC at 10:00am
Return to FLC by 1:30pm

Due to postponements in October and November, we will be doing two homeless feedings in December! This is a great time of the year to come and join us for the first time if you've never come before!

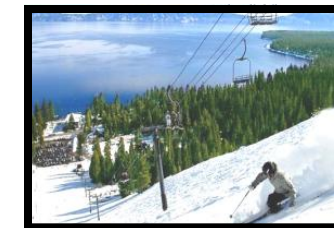
HIGH SCHOOL & ADULTS ONLY



Woodstove Worship

At 6:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of the month we have a casual worship service in the Wheaties Box. Joel leads the service with a brief liturgy and reflection on the text. Owen Myers provides the music for the service which is more modern and led from the piano. If you can't make morning services, this is a great opportunity to still make it on some Sunday evenings!

Sunday at 6:00pm
December 4th & 18th



Ski & Snowboarding Days

More information will be made available later but please put these dates on your calendar if you are interested:

Junior High: Monday, January 16th
High School: Friday, February 24th

January & February
More info soon!

Make-Up For Bad Weather:
Junior High: Thursday, Feb. 23rd
High School: Friday, March 23rd

December 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Cesar Chavez Park Homeless Feeding Meet @ FLC 10:00am
4 8:30/11:00 AM Worship 3:00pm Junior High Group 6:00pm Woodstove Worship	5	6 701 High School Group 7:00-8:00pm Wheaties Box	7 Colfax High School Chamber Choir Concert @ FLC 7:00pm	8	9	10
11 8:30/11:00 AM Worship Children's Sunday School Program @ 11:00am Service 1:30pm High School Christmas Event: Ice Skating & Buca di Beppo	12	13 701 High School Group 7:00-8:00pm Wheaties Box	14 Owen Myers Advent Concert @ FLC 7:00pm	15	16	17 Cesar Chavez Park Homeless Feeding Meet @ FLC 10:00am FLC CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:00pm @ FLC
18 8:30/11:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Triple Play Sunday School 4:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Woodstove Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00pm & 9:30pm Worship Services
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30 AM Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

JANUARY IMPORTANT DATES:

- **HS 701 YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES:** Wednesday, January 11th
- **CESAR CHAVEZ PARK HOMELESS FEEDING:** Saturday, January 14th
- **JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Sunday, January 15th
- **JUNIOR HIGH SKI/SNOWBOARD DAY:** Monday, January 16th
- **FIFTH SUNDAY FAMILY GATHERING:** Sunday, January 29th

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS:

- **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE TOUR**
Sunday, February 19th—Wednesday, February 22nd

For students interested in junior colleges and transfer opportunities into 4 year schools. More info soon!