



Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church (LCMS)

# Friendly Findings

## December 2017

765 E. Chinden Blvd.  
 Meridian, ID 83646  
 (208) 288-2404  
 office@friendshipcelebration.org  
 www.friendshipcelebration.org

### *Advent ~ Christmas Worship & Special Events*

#### *Advent Holden Evening Prayer Services:*

Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm: November 29th, December 6th,  
 & December 13th

#### *Friday, December 1st: Ladies' Advent by Candlelight*

6:00 pm Christmas Shoppe  
 7:00 pm Advent by Candlelight Program

#### *Preschool Christmas Program*

7:00 pm Thursday, December 7th

#### *Sunday School Children's Christmas Program*

11:00 am Sunday, December 10th

#### *Sunday, December 17th:*

11:00 am Celebration Choir Cantata:  
 "How Should a King Come?"  
 5:00 pm Family Style Christmas Worship

#### *Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve services:*

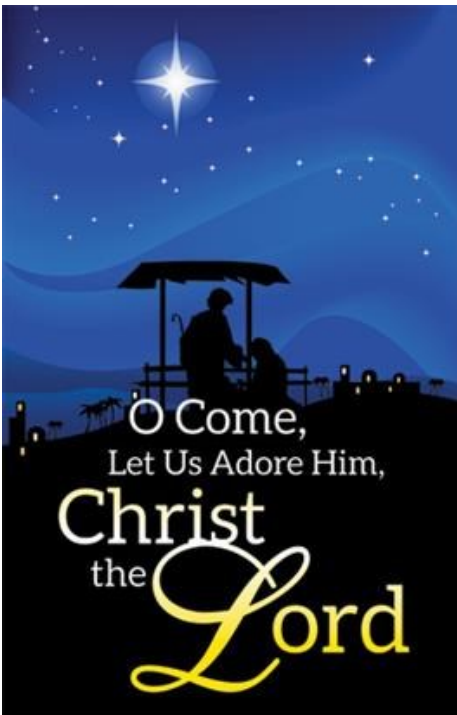
8:15 am Regular Worship Service  
 11:00 am Family Style Christmas Worship led by Brett Lindemood, DCE  
 (No Bible Studies or Children's Sunday School)  
 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship  
 with the Celebration Choir Cantata:  
 "How Should a King Come?"

#### *December 25th: Christmas Day*

10:00am Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion

#### *December 31st: New Year's Eve*

8:15 am & 11:00 am Worship Services with Holy Communion  
 No Bible Studies or Children's Sunday School



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## ***A Word from Pastor Matt...***

Dear Friends in Christ,

I love Mormons (I hope you do too!). I decided to tour the LDS temple just up the road. I took the tour because I wanted to be able to better relate to Mormons. I was also interested in how their beliefs would be presented. Every word was intentional and polished! They obviously had the process down from the initial video to the friendly workers posted at every corner, even children who assisted putting on shoe covers.

As for the temple itself, they clearly spared no expense on building materials—lots of doors and high ceilings. The baptismal font (used for proxy baptisms for the dead) was described in the most compassionate of terms. The idea of sealing marriages for eternity was presented as necessary for forever families. I walked through several instruction rooms where other deeper teachings are revealed to actual temple goers. (In earlier versions of these films, Protestant ministers were portrayed as agents of Satan.) The celestial room was, well, a room with a fancy chandelier. Supposedly, it is a place to feel closer to God and ponder life.

It was noteworthy as to what I did not see. I saw perhaps seven portraits of Jesus but none of Joseph Smith. No mention of secret handshakes, secret names—the things the Joseph Smith carried over from the Masonic Lodge. No mention that Mormon men believe they can become gods themselves and from the celestial kingdom call their wife/wives to them. There was certainly no mention of the fact that today only about 10-15% of LDS members can enter a temple once it is dedicated. The reason? The remaining 85-90% are not temple worthy. They haven't done enough to deserve it.

The open house period is now over and they have ripped out all the carpet that we “unworthy” people have touched. As an expensive gesture, they have installed new carpet to prove a point—holiness and worthiness go together.

I still maintain the LDS church is the best church that man could ever build. That is its virtue and problem. The LDS temple itself is more about man's supposed progression to God, than God's descent to man. That's a red flag to me. In the Bible, temples are more about God providing a way to encounter Himself and be righted in relationship to Him.

Consider how when the Word became flesh, God “tabernacled” among us in Christ (John 1:14). At the crucifixion, the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom (Mark 15:38). Christ referred to His body as a temple that would be torn down and rebuilt in three days (John 2:19). Paul tells us our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16). And in heaven, there is no temple for the Lord God and the Lamb are the temple (Rev. 21:22).

This is great theology, but to what effect? It means we can always cherish and trust more what God does and has done than whatever fancy thing man thinks of, even if it appears to be quite beautiful and holy. It is Advent—and soon Christmas—which means God has done some real tabernacling on our behalf. Both our holiness and worthiness are found only in Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

# 52 Years 5 Months and 13 Days

I don't know if you have had the experience of being disconnected by distance, profession, or for some other reason from someone for a long time. With our relatives we usually connect yearly or more if the distance is great. Our relatives are mostly in northwestern Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Many have gone to glory to be with Jesus; so that we don't go back every year. In recent years some of you have met a Confirmation classmate by the name of Rick who has visited us at Friendship Celebration several times a year. Rick and I have connected a number of times over the years, but I had a new experience this past week. I reconnected with BILL.

Bill lives in Marsing. We have talked a couple of times on the phone in the past few of years, but have not seen one another face to face until last Monday, November 13, 2017. It is the first time we have seen one another face to face in over 52 years. We tried to do this before, but it didn't work out. This time we were very specific. He told me what he would be driving and wearing and I did the same. We graduated together from Concordia High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There were only about 100 of us and we lived together in the same dormitory for four years. We all had our close friends, but after four years you were close to all your classmates. We are both 70, and I thought we spent a significant percentage of our lives, which shaped us to be what we are today together, with our teachers and mentors in high school.

So, what did we talk about? Of course, I can't "tell all," but I couldn't believe how our values, spiritual lives, work ethic, interests, and pastimes are so similar. We have prayed at church for Bill's son who was in a special forces unit in Iraq. I didn't realize it was his son at the beginning. His grandchild came to our preschool, I didn't realize it at the time. We had a fantastic time reconnecting over lunch and talked about 104 years of our lives. I don't know how often that happens. We plan to continue this relationship of reconnecting. Bill and his wife are connected with another LCMS (Lutheran) church in the Treasure Valley, but I hope he and family might visit us every once in a while.

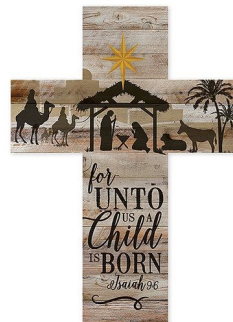
So, all of this brings up the age old Lutheran question: "WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?" All of us have had the experience of reconnecting with someone we haven't seen for a while. I hope for most of us it has been good. I also believe that for us as Christians there are no accidental meetings. I believe that in the present - our day to day experiences and connections - God puts people in our path. My experience with Bill and others like him shows me that God reconnects me with people in my past. I'm convinced He has a reason.

So...here's the challenge I have for you. This is a great time of the year to make some kind of effort to reconnect in a relationship that has gone on "hold" for some time. We can sign and send a card or we can make an effort to make a personal contact. E-mails and texts are fine, but, in my opinion, there is nothing like a personal phone call.

What do you talk about? That's up to you. Suggestion: personal history, family, past and present interests, politics - carefully, goals and plans for the future, spiritual things as the Holy Spirit guides you. Don't be afraid to be risky. What have you got to lose if you haven't been in touch for a while? You are already taking the risk by taking the initiative.

The challenge of following Jesus means that we strive to be like Him in all our relationships. I don't think Jesus unfriended anyone.

*Pastor Tom*



**DUE**  
**MORTGAGE**  
**PAYMENT**

As part of our efforts to keep you informed regarding financial matters of Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church, we will be providing a breakdown of the payments made on our outstanding loans on a quarterly basis. For the period January 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017, we have paid regular payments of \$70,200 on our LCEF Mortgage as follows:

Principal paid \$34,694.92  
Interest paid \$35,505.08

Principal of \$4,050, above and beyond our regular monthly payments, has been paid by contributions received specifically to reduce our overall debt. Thanks to all those who have contributed for this purpose.

Our outstanding balance on the LCEF Mortgage as of September 30, 2017 is \$1,199,873.50.

Your Lay Leadership Council



**Financial Peace University**--We had a great turnout for the Dave Ramsey Smart Money event last week. We're excited to announce Financial Peace University, a 9-week class, will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:45-8:15 pm, at FCLC. Cost is \$129 and kit can be ordered online at [daveramsey.com/events/fpudeal](http://daveramsey.com/events/fpudeal). For more info, contact Rich Davis 208-807-0741.

## Reaching Out to our Community and beyond with God's Love. . .



Thrivent Action Team seed money has been received to use for Christmas food boxes for those that are in need of a hand up at Christmas. This year Craig Hoellwarth has shared a need with Family Advocates so we will be providing some of the boxes to support this outreach. We will be accepting donations of specific food items or money to supplement the grant. See the Weekly 411 or bulletin for specifics. Do you know of someone that can use a helping hand? Please call Nancy Cheney at 898-9092 if you would like someone to receive a Christmas food box or to donate. Thank you for helping to continue this outreach. We are also in need of help to assemble and deliver the boxes.( date to be announced later)

We are participating in **the Angel Tree ministry** again this year. This is a ministry of Prison Fellowship that affords parents in prison the opportunity to give their children a Merry Christmas. The mission of the program is to deliver Christmas gifts to the child in the name of their incarcerated parent/s. However, the most important part of this mission is to share the Gospel with these children and their caregivers.



Volunteers are needed to buy Christmas gifts for the children and return to the church. Help will be needed to deliver gifts to the children before Christmas.

Gift tags will be available on November 26th. It is suggested that gifts cost no more than \$15-20. **Gifts need to be returned by December 10th.** Questions call Judy Sivey. (208-921-2340)



# December 2017

## Children - Youth - Family Activity Calendar



### Saturday, December 2nd:

Parent's Night Out 5:30pm-9:30pm  
Benefits the Texas servant Trip

### Sunday, December 3rd:

Children's Message:

8:15am & 11:00am- Brett Lindemood

10:15 (following the Voters Meeting)

Texas Servant Trip Meeting

12:00-3:00pm 3rd & 4th Grade Youth Group

(staying on Campus)

3:30-5:00pm Youth Confirmation

### Saturday, December 9th:

Parent's Night 6:00pm-10:30pm  
Benefits the Texas servant Trip

### Sunday, December 10th:

Children's Message:

8:15am & 11:00am- Brett Lindemood

3:30-5:00pm Youth Confirmation

### Saturday, December 16th:

Parent's Night Out 5:30pm-9:30pm  
Benefits the Texas servant Trip

### Sunday, December 17th:

Children's Message:

8:15am & 11:00am- Brett Lindemood

12:00-3:00pm 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group  
(staying on Campus)

6:00-8:30pm Youth Christmas Party  
(Jr. High, Sr. High, College)

### Sunday, December 24th:

Children's Message:

8:15am & 11:00am- Brett Lindemood

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**NO YOUTH GROUP**

**NO CONFIRMATION**

### Sunday, December 31st:

Children's Message:

8:15am & 11:00am- Brett Lindemood

**NO YOUTH GROUP**

**NO CONFIRMATION**



**Caring Ministry** reaches out in love to offer support, caring, comfort, and fellowship to those experiencing loneliness, illness, loss, or other life changes.. This is our mission. Our next meeting is on **Monday, December 11th at 9:30 a.m.** at FCLC. The invitation is always open to any who would desire to be a part of the Caring Ministry team. Contact Donnette House (297-0775) or Patsy Kern (888-2979) if you are interested in join this awesome ministry.

**The Quilters Group** needs your help: Twin flat sheets in any color (no white). Walmart has the best sheets and Fred Meyer has the best prices. Also, blankets and mattress pads can be used for batting in the quilts. Must be clean, cotton or mostly cotton. The Quilters Group also has an ongoing need of funds to cover the cost of quilt batting & shipping for quilts shipped to Lutheran World Relief. Any monetary donations are very much appreciated.

### Workday Fellowship

Work Day at the church is on Saturday, **December 9th** from 9:00am - Noon. Indoor and outdoor projects to help with. Lunch is served. As always, you can find out what's needed and work on your own time schedule. Regular Work Days are every Saturday at 9:00am. AND lunch is provided! Mike Sivey Property Chairman (208-859-0079)

**The Hospitality Committee needs your help!** The Weekly GRUNT Crew and the Monthly Saturday Workday Fellowship Crew need lunch! Can you help? Please sign up on the sheet on the Information Desk in the foyer or contact Susan Banker (208-455-9499). **Thank you!**



## SUNDAYS at Friendship Celebration

**Worship Services:** 8:15 am & 11:00 am  
 (Nursery care available both services & Sunday School Hour)  
**Fellowship Time:** 9:15-9:45 am  
**Children Sunday School:** 9:45-10:45 am  
**Adult Bible Classes:** 9:45-10:45am  
**Prayer & Praise** 5:00 pm

- 📖 Pastor Matt's Class - The Parables of Jesus (Room 132)
- 📖 Pastor Tom's Class - Pastor's Membership Class (Room 210)
- 📖 Study on Book of 2 Peter- Led by Matt Holmquist (Room 125)
- 📖 Study of Greek through the Gospel of Luke - Led by Linda Varnes & Lynn House (Room 130)
- 📖 Study on the Book of Acts Led by Ken Priebe (Room 113)
- 📖 Study - Adult Special Needs Led by Neal Lindemood & Jack Hansen (Room 112)

### Weekday Bible Studies

#### Women's Thursday Bible Study (FCLC)

Meets Thursday mornings at 9:15 am.  
 Contact Karen Graham 208-870-7764  
 Topic: *Resumes in the new year*

#### Women's Friday Bible Study (FCLC)

Meets Friday mornings at 10:00 am  
 Contact Carol Jo Richter 208-377-3746  
 Topic: *Life & Ministry of Peter*

#### Women's Friday Breakfast (Star)

Contact Dottie Basye 208-949-5020

#### Men's Friday Morning Breakfast (50's Café - Meridian)

Contact Merlyn Schmeckpeper 208-888-9494

#### Men's Friday Morning Breakfast (Star)

Contact Bill Basye 208-286-0691

#### Men's Friday Morning Breakfast (Maui Wowi - Meridian)

Contacts Dale Bentley (208-859-4001)  
 & Chuck DeVito (208-505-7579)

**Growing  
 Together  
 in Faith**

### Nurture Groups

#### South Meridian Nurture Group

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at Merlyn Schmeckpeper's  
 157 E. Ada, Meridian (208-888-9494)

#### Eagle Nurture Group

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7:00 at Dick & Ruth Kanemasu's home  
 at 990 W. Oakhampton Dr. Eagle (208-830-0706).

#### Star-Eagle Nurture Group

Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm at David & Susan Banker's home  
 at 300 W. Sutter Dr. Eagle Contact Bill Basye (208-286-0691).  
 Or Mike Sivey (208-859-0079)

#### Star Nurture Group

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at Rick & Emelie Woodall's home.  
 Contact them at 208-286-7508 for more information.

#### West Boise Nurture Group

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7:00pm at FCLC. (Except during Advent and  
 Lent) Free childcare available! Contact Aaron or Rachel Hubler.  
 Email or text: 208-559-2560 or 208-859-9095.

#### Safety & Preparedness Group

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 at FCLC. Contact Lynn House  
 for more information (208-830-0078)

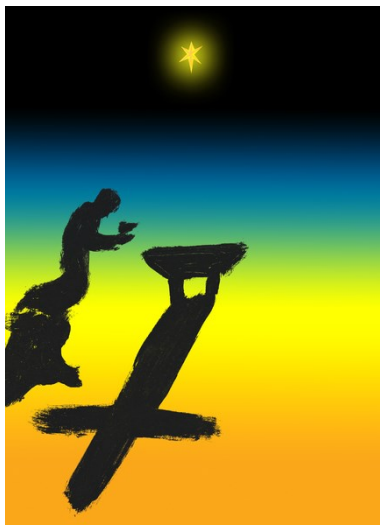
#### Bible & Brew-Homestead Grill (Meridian)

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month 6:00pm  
 Contact Brett Lindemood (208-982-1461)



# F Y I

- † **Worship Service available on DVD** for those homebound, or anyone who would like to hear and see last Sunday's message. Call church office.
- † **To put a prayer on the Prayer Chain** contact: Jenny Kandler 362-5410 or email her at [bob54109@msn.com](mailto:bob54109@msn.com). (Note: Also call to let her know you sent a prayer request) In the event that, Jenny Kandler. In the event that, Jenny Kandler can't be reached for prayer chain, please call/notify, Donnette House (208-297-0775) at [donnette15@gmail.com](mailto:donnette15@gmail.com).
- † **Fellowship Time** with coffee/juice and treats from 9:15-9:45am on Sundays. Thanks to various people/groups for providing each month. You may provide treats for a **special occasion** (Baptism, Birthday, Confirmation, etc.) if you wish for our Fellowship Time. Contact Gaylynn Mikasa 761-4034.
- † Stay up to date on congregation happenings by receiving the **Friendly 411 Weekly** via email every Thursday afternoon. To subscribe email Joan Hammerson at [jhammerson@friendshipcelebration.org](mailto:jhammerson@friendshipcelebration.org)
- † Your "**Friendly Findings**" Newsletter is available in the foyer at church or on our church website: [www.friendshipcelebration.org](http://www.friendshipcelebration.org). Newsletter article deadline is 20th of each month and may be submitted by email to: [office@friendshipcelebration.org](mailto:office@friendshipcelebration.org). Or contact the church office at (208) 288-2404.
- † **Church Office Hours:** Kayla Liehe (Office Mgr.) Monday through Friday 8:30am—4:00pm. Joan Hammerson (Secretary) Tuesday-Thursday-Friday 8:30am-2:00pm.



## Church Staff:

### Senior Pastor:

Matt Henry  
[mhenry@friendshipcelebration.org](mailto:mhenry@friendshipcelebration.org)

### Founding Pastor:

Tom Hausch  
[thausch@friendshipcelebration.org](mailto:thausch@friendshipcelebration.org)

### Director of Christian Education:

Brett Lindemood  
[blindemood@friendshipcelebration.org](mailto:blindemood@friendshipcelebration.org)

### Preschool Lead Teacher:

Lori Jensen  
[ljensen@friendshipcelebration.org](mailto:ljensen@friendshipcelebration.org)

### Office Manager:

Kayla Liehe  
[kliehe@friendshipcelebration.org](mailto:kliehe@friendshipcelebration.org)

### Administrative Assistant:

Joan Hammerson  
[jhammerson@friendshipcelebration.org](mailto:jhammerson@friendshipcelebration.org)



## Lay Leadership Council

### President:

Karl Bokenkamp

### Vice-President:

Wayne Wierson

### Secretary:

Yvonne Okeson

### Chief Financial Officer:

Peggy Runcorn

### Director Discipleship:

David Reinke

### Director Evangelism:

John Wiemer

### Director Education:

Nicole Sarty

### Director Property Mgmt.:

Mike Sivey




**Every Sunday:**  
 8:15 am & 11:00 am Worship Services  
 9:15 am Fellowship Time  
 9:45 am Sunday School for All  
 5:00 pm Prayer & Praise  
 Off-site Bible studies & Nurture Groups.  
 See Newsletter or online



# December 2017

765 E. Chinden Blvd. Meridian ID 83646 (208) 288-2404



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Women's Bible Study 10am Ladies' Advent by Candlelight 6pm	<b>2</b> No Men's Breakfast this month Parents Night Out 5:30pm
<b>3</b> Voters Meeting 9-4:55am 3/4 Grade Youth Group 12pm 1st & 2nd Yr. Youth Confirmation 3:30pm Prayer & Praise 5pm	<b>4</b> Cantata Choir Practice 7pm	<b>5</b> Staff Meeting 4pm	<b>6</b> Quilter Group 10am Advent Worship 7pm Worship Team #2 Practice 8pm	<b>7</b> Preschool Christmas Program 7pm	<b>8</b> Women's Bible Study 10am	<b>9</b> Church Work Day 9am His Way Christmas Party 3-5pm Parents Night Out 6:00pm
<b>10</b> Sunday School Children's Christmas Program 11am Choir Rehearsal 12noon 1st & 2nd Yr. Youth Confirmation 3:30pm Prayer & Praise 5pm	<b>11</b> Caring Ministry meets at FCLC 9:30am	<b>12</b> Circuit Winkel Meeting 8:30am-1:00pm	<b>13</b> Quilter Group 10am Advent Worship 7pm	<b>14</b> Worship Team #3 Practice 7pm	<b>15</b> Women's Bible Study 10am	<b>16</b> Choir Rehearsal 12noon Parents Night Out 5:30pm
<b>17</b> Christmas Cantata 11am 5-6 Grade Youth Group 12pm Family Christmas Service 5pm Jr/Sr Youth Christmas Party 6pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Staff Meeting 4pm Lay Leadership Council 7pm	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline Quilter Group 10am	<b>21</b> Worship Team #4 Practice 7pm No Preschool-Winter Break Dec. 21-Jan 5th	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Choir Rehearsal 12noon (tentative)
<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 8:15am Worship Svc 11:00am Family Christmas Worship Christmas Eve Worship with Cantata 7pm	<b>25</b>  Christmas Day Worship 10am	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> Quilter Group 10am No Preschool-Winter Break Dec. 21-Jan 5th	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Worship Services at 8:15am & 11am with Holy Communion No NYE service						