



Living Faith
United Methodist Church

5310 South 182nd Avenue Omaha, NE 68135

Phone: (402) 393-2321 Fax: (402) 393-2370

email: info@livingfaithumc.com

website: www.livingfaithumc.com

Pastor Jaime Farias

Sunday, December 20, 2020

This Was Not The Plan

2 Samuel 7:1-11

Luke 1:46-55

Prayer Requests

- **Carol Earhart's family& friends** ~ grieving
- **Karen Lakeman's family & friends** ~ grieving
- **Dennis Lunde** ~ healing
- **Pat Falk** ~ health
- **Tom Collin's youngest Son Kory** ~ health
- **All who are feeling isolated and lonely**
- **Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.** for his leadership and for modeling life in Christ
- **Transition for LF & All UMC's**
- **Protection from viruses and illnesses going around**
- **Shirley Morris** ~ healing, encouragement
- **Donna Chaney** ~ health & strength
- **Gloria Peterson** ~ health
- **Our nation, our leaders** ~ wisdom and discernment
- **Vernon Thomsen** ~ health, pain management
- **Elderly, shut ins**
- **Adeng , Annie, Julie Kristin, and Renson Michael Chen**
- **Pray for Marriages, Families, Relationships**
- **LFUMC, and all of God's churches**

Food Pantry

Thank you for your current donations.

We are in need of donations for our food pantry.

Pastor Jaime & Phil Fisher took the food pantry items to Millard South this week.

We are now collecting for Living Hope's Food Pantry.

We cannot accept food that is expired. Thanks!

From The Pastor

THE POWER OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

“Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied. (John 1:45-46 NLT)

What does it mean to do personal evangelism in this digital era? Everybody is quite familiar with virtual learning and the new computerized technology. Our world is becoming globally interconnected. One can reach people and places without traveling long distances. There are new generations living in this modern digital age nowadays. Young people and children are now experts using their smartphones and laptops. Many young people are engaged on the internet more than having in-person conversations. Websites and social media can easily give access to places and people living in countries far away. Most of us have direct or indirect access to thousands of real people through our social media accounts and smartphones. You can use a variety of social media for learning new discoveries from notable professors and universities. Anyone can receive their knowledge and scientific research through the internet. Following are just a few views about evangelism ministry from some experts on digital communication:

“Digital tools are a gift for communicating—and so are all other traditional church methods, but they are more effective when used together.” Using Social Media for Evangelism (CPO)

“As Christians and Churches, we need to understand how communication is changing, and adapt the way we communicate with those we wish to reach with the gospel. We must avoid reaching the point where what we do inside the church is so distant from what happens outside, that people assume our gospel is as outdated as our technology. If we insist on communicating only in ways that we find familiar, we will find that fewer and fewer people are willing to listen.” Pam Smith, Online Mission and Ministry (SPCK). “Digital Evangelism helps us spread the Gospel into all the world at a rate we never could’ve imagined before.” –Centre for Online Evangelism

A recent Barna Group study revealed that 58% of millennials believe digital platforms have made sharing their faith easier. So, if we wish to be relevant to our social context by carrying out the Great Commission, our churches must learn new strategies and methods, and how to use digital platforms that can help us to reach out more crowds. Our evangelistic efforts need to be updated to our time and cultural context. We may ask ourselves, how we can share our faith with others within this digital context? Should we imitate those early Christian disciples instead?

As we read the verses above, we may find such a contrast between those early followers of Jesus Christ and today's digital tools. They shared their story with their friends face to face. Andrew, for instance, found his brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah” and he brought his brother to meet Jesus. Philip also did the same. He went to look for his friend Nathanael and shared with him his own testimony. Maybe we just need to say as Philip did, and tell our friends: “Come and see for yourself.” Personal evangelism can be so powerful even in this new digital era. Let us go and make disciples in whatever way we are able to do beloved.

Pastor Jaime

METRO CITY PRAYER
DECEMBER 2020
IMMIGRANTS/REFUGEES

"And you saw how the LORD your God cared for you all along the way as you traveled through the wilderness, just as a father cares for his child. Now He has brought you to this place." Deuteronomy 1:31

"He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye."
Deuteronomy 32:10

"Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem..." Luke 2:4

God's love for the stranger and the alien is woven throughout the Bible. Abraham left his home to follow God's leading to an unknown land. Jacob left Canaan with his family to sojourn in Egypt during a time of famine. The children of Israel fled slavery in Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. In the New Testament, Mary and Joseph were forced by the Roman government to leave Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem for the census; from there they took their newborn son Jesus and fled to Egypt for their very lives, unable to return to Israel until it was safe. During this month when we celebrate our Savior's birth, we see that He understands what it's like to be a refugee, because He was one.

Historically our state has been identified as a place of sanctuary and supply. Beginning with the pioneers we have been a city of refuge welcoming those from many nations. No one has been untouched by this year's pandemic, but it has hit many immigrant families especially hard. Multiple generations living under one roof make it more difficult to isolate ill family members; language barriers make it difficult to understand instructions on how to keep their families healthy, and the closure of many businesses impacts them as well. May the church in our Metro area "encircle them, care for them...just as a father cares for his child". May we be His heart in the Heartland for the dispossessed!

Pray—Pray for grace to adjust to a new culture, language, climate and way of life for refugees and immigrants. Upon their arrival refugees have a 90 day window to find a job, begin language studies, navigate life (money, transportation, jobs, work permits, government agencies, etc.).

Pray—Pray for schools, agencies and ministries that work with immigrants and refugees. Ask the Lord to pour His grace and provision on them so that they may be effective advocates for their clients needs. May they have divine creativity in providing their services within the framework of current pandemic restrictions.

Pray—Pray that the Church would embrace and welcome the immigrant and refugee, recognizing the richness of what their cultures add to our city. May we be salt and light and filled with the love of Christ for our newcomers!

All 2020 remittances must be postmarked on or before Jan. 8, 2021. Remittance sent after Jan. 1 must clearly be marked with "December 2020" if you are remitting 2020 money. Payments postmarked after January 8, 2021 will be considered 2021 money regardless of how the remittance is marked.



Dec 20th ~ 4th Sunday of Advent



Weather and Cancellations

Living Faith United Methodist Church follows the policy of Millard Schools.

If the schools are cancelled, the church's daytime and evening activities will be cancelled.

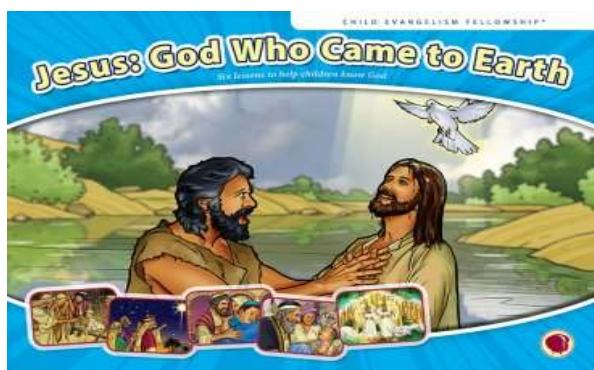


For cancellation information, please check our Facebook Page or our local TV stations.

In the case of threatening weather on Sundays, the decision to cancel worship will be made by the Pastor.

Children's Worship Service

9:00 a.m.



- Lesson 2: Wise Men Worship The Savior
- Lesson 3: Jesus Obeys His Heavenly Father
- Lesson 4: Jesus Is The Promised Savior
- Lesson 5: Jesus Is The Sinless Savior
- Lesson 6: Happy Birthday review Party!



2-weeks in
Advent &
Christmas

Sunday School classes

- Dec. 20 - An Angel Appears to Mary: Luke 1:26-38; (Psalm 89:1-8) and
- Dec. 27 - Simeon and Anna Welcome Jesus: Luke 2:22-40; (Galatians 4:4-7)



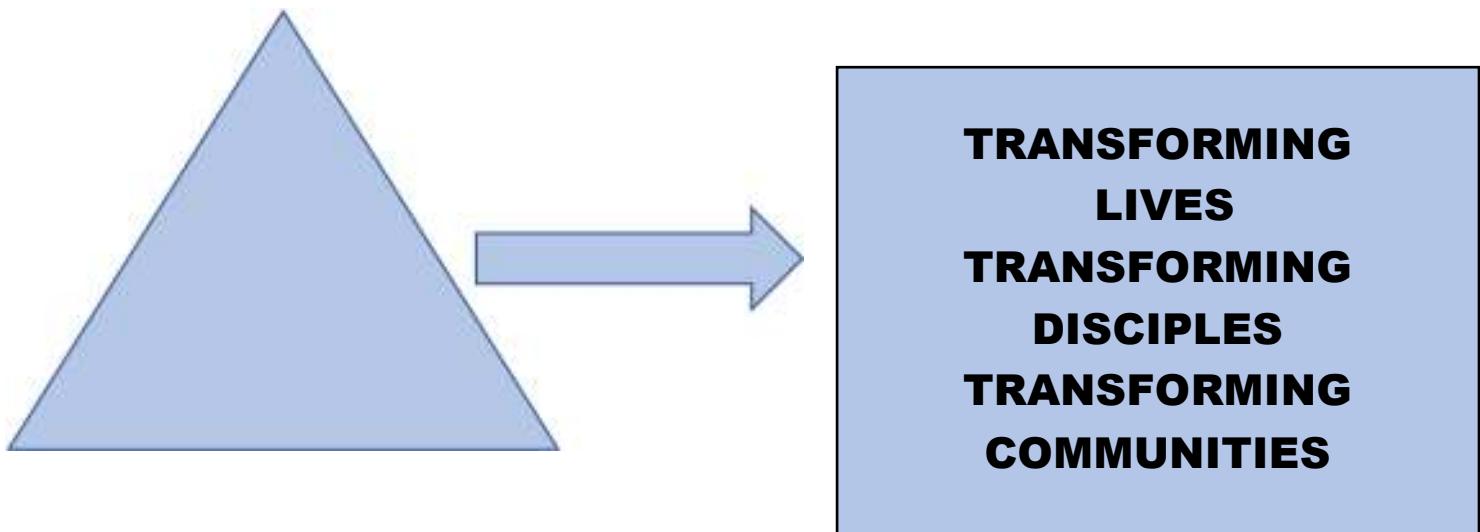
Coming up!
In January

- Kids look for places of belonging, places where forgiveness exists, places where they can experience a genuine connection. The Gospels teach us that places like these exist. In these stories kids learn that we can know God through Jesus, we can know forgiveness because of Jesus, that Jesus knows us and wants us to follow him. **The message of Jesus is powerful and something we can subscribe to!**

TransforMission Vision

Jesus also used this illustration: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.” Matthew 13:33 NLT

Our Vision is to build up a church with a holistic worldview and a broad understanding of the kingdom of God. Through an Environment for Growth, We will lead the church by tenaciously creating a spiritual environment which will enable the entire congregation to remove the obstacles to believe in God’s Word, and to experience the Holy Spirit power to change lives and to transform this community with the influence and communication of Jesus’ gospel. We will make this church to become like the yeast permeating every part of the dough. Our vision is to see the Kingdom of God growing from within each life into a new creation. Our church will not be shaped by today’s culture, rather it will make a cultural transformation through the supernatural activity of God’s transforming power.



THEOLOGY OF VISION

SYMBOLIC PRISM= HOLY TRINITY

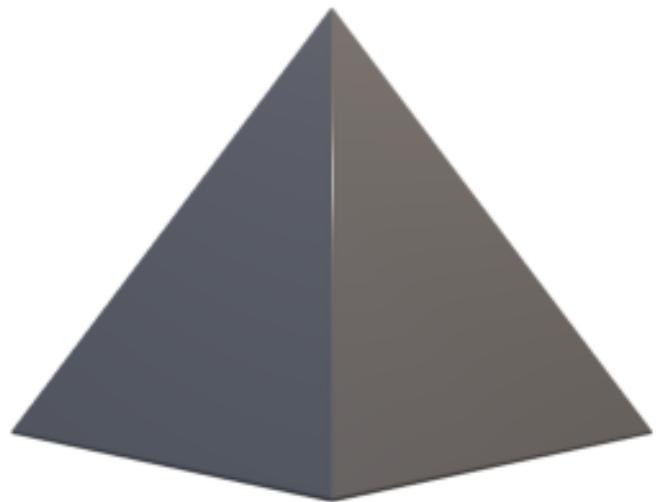
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

MINISTRIES DEVELOPMENT

SIDE A: SCRIPTURES

SIDE B: PRAYER

SIDE C: DISCIPLESHIP



TRANSMISSION VISION

TRANSFORMING LIVES

TRANSFORMING DISCIPLES

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES



This group is studying Hebrews

9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall



Read through the Bible, Study Together

9:00 a.m.
Room D

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



All children are **WELCOME**

HELP NEEDED

Vacuuming & emptying trash
in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday
School Rooms (except F & G)
and empty Kitchen Trash

We clean our own church. Can you help?

You only need to commit about 2 hours per month, and you can clean at a time that works for your schedule. (Currently cleaners are requested to come Thursday - Saturday)



**CONTACT TRACY IN THE
OFFICE. 402-393-2321**

Scripture and Sermon Titles

You are invited to read the Scriptures prior to Worship Services.

Sunday, December 20

This Was Not The Plan

2 Samuel 7:1-11

Luke 1:46-55

Thursday, December 24

Let's Go To Bethlehem!

(Not to the North Pole)

Luke 2:1-20

A Look Ahead

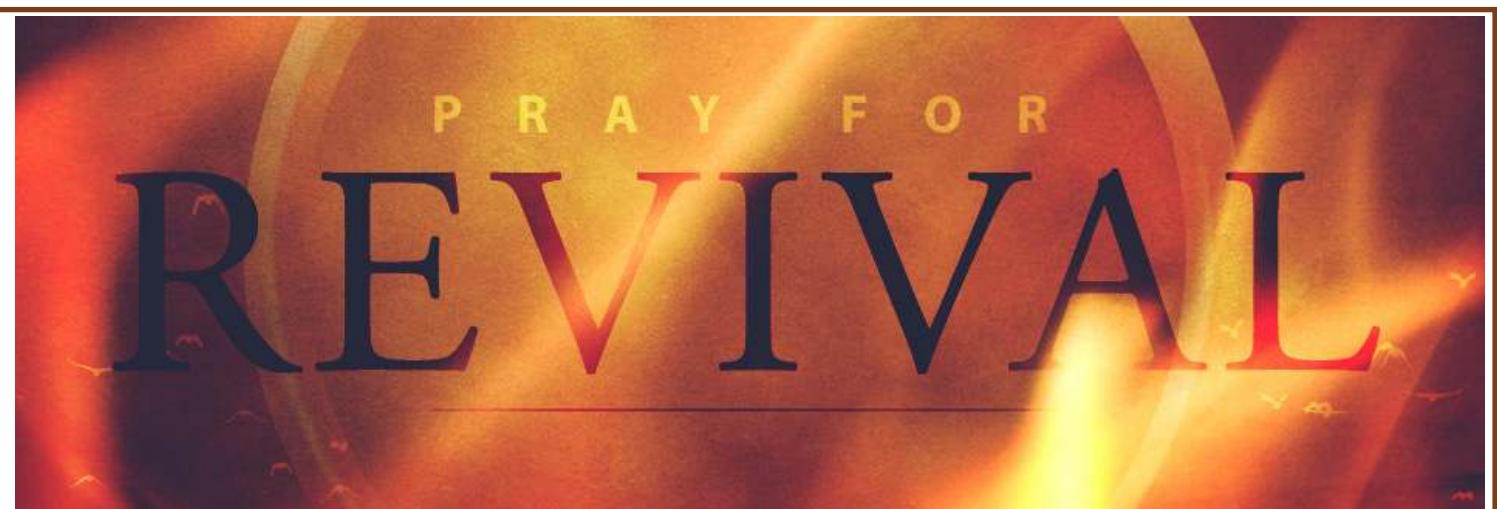
Dec 20 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

Dec 24 ~ Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Dec 25 ~ Christmas ~ Office Closed

Dec 31 ~ New Year's Eve

Jan 1 ~ New Year's Day ~ Office Closed



Revival Prayer Meetings

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

Dec 17 Thurs	2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Revival Prayer Meeting ~ WC Praise Team Practice
Dec 20 Sun	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:10 a.m.	4th Sunday of Advent Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Children's Sunday School Worship
Dec 21 Mon	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts Troop 405 ~ FH
Dec 22 Tues	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Practice
Dec 23 Wed	6:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Confirmation Class ~ Room D
Dec 24 Thurs	5:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Christmas Eve Worship
Dec 25 Fri		Office Closed  Merry Christmas
Dec 27 Sun	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:10 a.m.	Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Children's Sunday School Worship
Dec 28 Mon	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts Troop 405 ~ FH
Dec 29 Tues	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Practice
Dec 30 Wed	6:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Confirmation Class ~ Room D
Dec 31 Thurs	2:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Revival Prayer Meeting ~ WC



Jan 1 Fri		Office Closed 
Jan 3 Sun	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:10 a.m.	Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Children's Sunday School Worship/Holy Communion
Jan 4 Mon	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts Troop 405 ~ FH
Jan 5 Tues	7:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Jan 6 Wed	6:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Confirmation Class ~ Room D Prayer Service ~ Zoom
Jan 7 Thurs	2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Revival Prayer Meeting ~ WC Praise Team Practice
Jan 9 Sat	2:30—5:30 p	Emmaus Gathering ~ WC
Jan 10 Sun	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:10 a.m.	Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Children's Sunday School Worship
Jan 11 Mon	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts Troop 405 ~ FH
Jan 12 Tues	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
Jan 13 Wed	6:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Confirmation Class ~ Room D
Jan 14 Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Practice
Jan 17 Sun	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:10 a.m.	Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Children's Sunday School Worship
Jan 18 Mon	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts Troop 405 ~ FH
Jan 19 Tues	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Jan 20 Wed	6:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Confirmation Class ~ Room D
Jan 21 Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Practice

OUR MISSION

To make disciples for Jesus Christ
to transform the world

OUR VISION

- 1) To be disciples for Christ
- 2) To bring others to Christ

OUR GOALS

- 1) Become & remain Spiritually Strong
 - a) Attend Worship Regularly
 - b) Be Part of a small group
 - c) Pray faithfully
- 2) Share God with our Community & the world
 - a) Mission Shares
 - b) Service to others
 - c) Reaching out
- 3) Interact with The Holy Bible Daily
 - a) Educate & guide our children & youth
 - b) Christian Education for all ages

REQUIREMENTS FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP During Covid-19

- 1. MUST WEAR MASKS ~ AVAILABLE IF NEEDED**
- 2. CHILDREN REMAIN WITH FAMILY**
- 3. ENTER/EXIT MAIN DOOR ONLY**
- 4. USHERS WILL SEAT & DISMISS CONGREGANTS
BY ROWS**
- 5. BIBLES NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE BRING YOUR
OWN**
- 6. TITHES & OFFERINGS IN DESIGNATED BOX IN
LOBBY**
- 7. BULLETINS & ATTENDANCE SHEETS WILL BE
PLACED AT SEATING AREAS**
(Please place attendance sheets in box in the lobby.)
- 8. NO SINGING BY CONGREGANTS**

**FOR FULL PLAN SEE ATTACHED RETURN TO
CORPORATE WORSHIP PLAN**

Who is at higher risk?



Older adults



People who have serious chronic medical conditions

**Heart Disease
Diabetes
Lung Disease**



Supplies to have at home:

- Necessary medication – ask healthcare provider about obtaining extra
 - If extra is not possible – consider using mail order
- Be sure to have over the counter medicines and medical supplies to treat fever and other symptoms
- Have enough household items and groceries on hand
 - Grocery stores with 'at-risk' hours
 - Consider ways of getting food brought to your house



Everyday Precautions

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - If soap and water is not available – use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching high touch surfaces in public places (elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking, etc)
- Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
- Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs
- Stay home as much as possible



Symptoms and emergency warning signs:

- Pay attention to COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, and shortness of breath)
- Emergency warning signs:
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - Persistent pain or pressure in chest
 - New confusion or inability to arouse
 - Bluish lips or face



If you get sick

- Stay home and call your doctor
- Consult with your health care provider for more information
- Stay in touch with others by phone or email
- Determine who can care for you if your caregiver gets sick
- Know when to get emergency help

Need more information?

**Our mission is to make disciples
of Jesus Christ for
the transformation
of the world.**

Check Us Out

www.livingfaithumc.com

Facebook! Search: Living Faith UMC

Sync up with our Google Calendar – look for us at info@livingfaithumc.com

Click the link below to get set up with our calendar:

<https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin?service=cl&passive=1209600&continue=https://www.google.com/calendar/render?tab%3Dwc&followup=https://www.google.com/calendar/render?tab%3Dwc&scc=1>

Make a DONATION TODAY ~ Scan the QR Code from your smart phone to be taken to our Donation Page on our website.

