

**Family Friendly
faith-formation encouragement
for the
Sunday morning printed announcement inserts
at
Faith Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IN**

Written by Dave Ebeling

Each announcement has this tagline at the end:

This faith-formation encouragement is from Faith's Family Friendly Core Team
Pastor Mitchell, Pastor Kuhlman, Jonathan Bertermann, Robert and Liesl Cruz, Dave
and Carol Ebeling, Janet Hitzeman, Bill Pfrommer, Jean Scott, and Laurie Stellwagen

For Sunday, November 6, 2011

Perhaps you read the church sign last month:

WELCOME TO FAITH WE'RE A FAMILY FRIENDLY CONGREGATION

What does it mean to be "Family Friendly"? Faith's Parish Planning Council has endorsed a 30-month emphasis that will answer that question. A "Family Friendly Core Team" has been formed to guide the process. Members of the Core Team are Pastor Mitchell, Pastor Kuhlman, Jonathan Bertermann, Robert and Liesl Cruz, Carol and Dave Ebeling, Bill Pfrommer, Jean Scott, and Laurie Stellwagen. The team will keep you informed through brief announcements and newsletter articles.

For Sunday, November 13, 2011

WE'RE A FAMILY FRIENDLY CONGREGATION

As a "Family Friendly" congregation, the Core Team and other Family Champions will be attending Faith formation workshops three times a year from January, 2012 through April, 2014. These training sessions will be led by Professor Ben Freudenburg, chair of the Family Life Ministry Department at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, MI. After each event, you will hear about what the team has learned and you'll be invited to become involved.

For Sunday, November 20, 2011

A FAMILY FRIENDLY PARTNERSHIP

Faith has formed a partnership with nine other Indiana District congregations to form a ***Family Friendly Partners Network*** (FFPN). We will train together, pray together and encourage each other. **FFPN exists to train and equip churches to partner with homes to strengthen and pass on faith in Jesus Christ to the third and fourth generation.** Our partner congregations are Trinity/Crown Point; St. Peter's/North Judson; Messiah/Indianapolis; Calvary/Indianapolis; Grace/Columbus; Zion/Seymour; Grace/Lafayette, Zion/New Palestine, and Our Savior/Louisville.

For Sunday, December 4, 2011

CANDLES ON YOUR TABLE

The Advent Wreath is a graphic way to visualize the meaning of the Advent Season. As you worship each Sunday from now through Christmas, you'll see the church's Advent Wreath next to the altar, with an additional candle lit each week. Continue this tradition by making and using a simple one for your home. It takes just four candles, or five, if you place a white candle in the center for Christmas Day. It doesn't have to be fancy. If you live alone, or you are empty nesters, or you have a large family, lighting

the candles daily on an Advent Wreath provides a daily reminder of why we celebrate Christmas. Learn how to make one – and what it means -- at this website:

<http://christianity.about.com/od/christmas/qt/adventwreath.htm>

For Sunday, December 11, 2011

“MY DEVOTIONS” ARE FOR HOME USE

Parents, the winter quarter edition of My Devotions, written especially for children in elementary grades, has been distributed. Children in grades 1-6 have received a personal copy in Sunday School or Jesus Company. Locate your child’s copy. Encourage your child to place it in a handy place and read it daily. The age-appropriate stories, the prayers, and the faith-forming messages are daily reminders of God’s love through Jesus. If your child is not likely to read it on his or her own, intentionally take time to read it with them every day, perhaps at mealtime or bedtime. Extra copies and some back issues are on the table in the narthex. Members and guests of Faith congregation are invited to take these extras for grandchildren, friends, or for children not enrolled in Sunday School or Jesus Company.

For Sunday, December 18, 2011

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Christmas family traditions may be the most remembered of all childhood experiences. Were the presents opened on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Did you always have a certain menu for Christmas dinner? Can you recall where the cookies and milk were left for Santa? Which worship services, if any, did your family always attend together? Whatever the traditions were for us as adults, we are likely to pass some of them on to our children. This year, be intentional in the traditions you start or continue that remind the members of your household that it is the Christ of Christmas that is most important. Sing carols, read the Christmas story out loud from Luke 2 or children’s books, light the center white candle on your Advent wreath. Remind your family members that the birth of Christ is so very important because “God so loved the world that He gave...!” (You know the rest.) If you have not built some “Christ traditions” in with your “Christmas traditions,” plan to add at least one this year.

For Sunday, January 1, 2012

“THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION”

The mission of our congregation as a Family Friendly church is to be in partnership with homes of our members “to strengthen and pass on faith in Jesus Christ to the third and fourth generation”. What is the source of that phrase, “third and fourth generations”? These are God’s own words to Moses as he gave the Ten Commandments. Luther quoted them in his Close of the Commandments (see your Catechism or turn to page 322 in the front of the hymnal). From Exodus 20:5-6, “I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto **the third and fourth generation** of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” Passing on the faith in God’s mercy through Jesus Christ is a family responsibility and also a commitment of this congregation to encourage and assist you in doing so.