



Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name!
Second Sunday of Advent**

December 4, 2022, 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.



At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Welcome to worship at Faith Lutheran Church
Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34238 | (941) 924-4664 | www.faithlutheransrq.com

All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.



The flowers on the altar today are given by
Joan Searles to the glory of God and
in honor of her son Scott's birthday.



Presiding Minister:	Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Lector:	8 a.m. Ron Walter 10:15 a.m. Lauren Wardach
Director of Music/Organist:	David V. Patrick
Cantor:	Hannah Boyd
Vocals:	Voices of Faith Choir
Crucifer:	Brandon Ragan
Greeters & Ushers:	Thomas & Amanda Bright, Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Scott Rice, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach
Videography:	Andrea & Sergio Gamboa
Altar Guild:	Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Janet Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan
Congregation Council:	Ann Greenwood (President), Scott Rice (Vice President), Peggy Ragan (Secretary), Janet Petersen (Congregation Treasurer), Amanda Bright, Sandra Brinker, Eloise Dettmer, Grace Kaarre, Gail Lidinsky, Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen, Joan Searles, Anita Wooton
Office Administrator:	Cate Teague
Sunday Sexton:	Thomas Bright
Lead Cantor/Music Librarian:	Tom Tryon
Artist in Residence:	Dr. Joseph Holt

Noted throughout the service - P: Presiding Minister L: Lector **C: Congregation**
Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s)also are enabled.
NOTE: This service is being live-streamed. While we try to avoid filming congregants, it may happen at times.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for;

Mary Frances "Fran" Perkins, Sandy Gerber, Christine "Kris" Sullivan, Helen and Elmer Leroy "Lee" Kolhafé, Karla Lewis and Michael Leonhardt, Kevin and Linda Fewell, Carolyn Francis and Eugine (Skip) Halsey, James Pease and Virginia Link-Pease, Christina M. and Brian S. Paul, and George Zimmerman

one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism and joining our Faith family.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: I ask you along with the assembly to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

C: Amen.



GATHERING HYMN

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

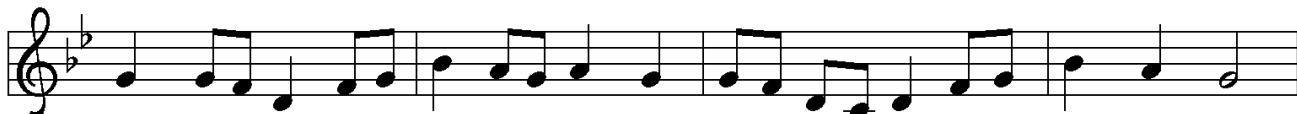
ELW 254

See next page

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

GLORIA

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



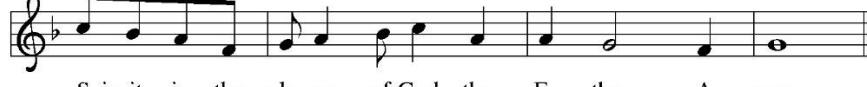
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

L: A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

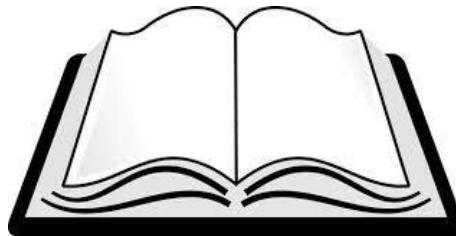
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 72:7

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of six measures. The first measure has two eighth notes. The second measure has one quarter note. The third measure has one quarter note. The fourth measure has two eighth notes. The fifth measure has a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The sixth measure has one eighth note. The lyrics "May the righ - teous flour - ish;" are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of eight measures. The first measure has one eighth note. The second measure has one eighth note. The third measure has one eighth note. The fourth measure has two eighth notes. The fifth measure has one eighth note. The sixth measure has one eighth note. The seventh measure has one eighth note. The eighth measure has one eighth note. The lyrics "let there be an a - bun - dance of peace." are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Psalm 72:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

C: Refrain

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

C: Refrain

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(when children are present)

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

L: A READING FROM ROMANS

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,
so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures
we might have hope.

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in
harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,

⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the
glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf
of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the
patriarchs,

⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

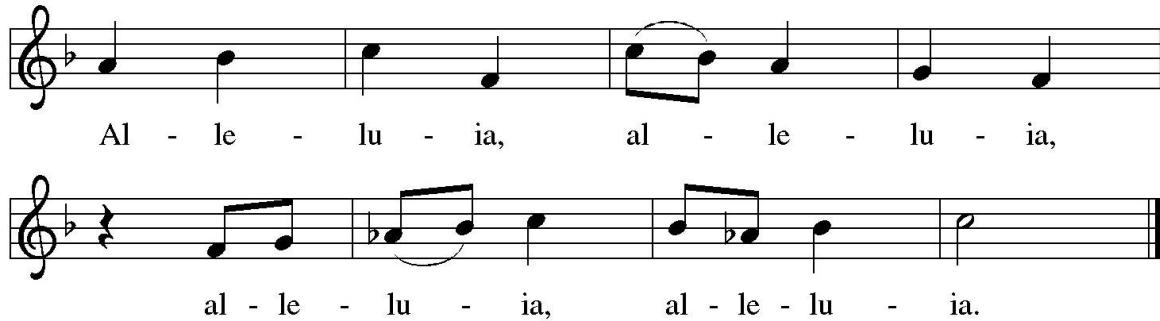
¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: Jesus said to the disciples,

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,
proclaiming,

²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist,
and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him,
and all the region along the Jordan,

⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism,
he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the
wrath to come?

⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance.

⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’;
for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does
not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I
is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will
gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with
unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vour the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de - liv-ered from our self - ish schemes.
 as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease,
 Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
 the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

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WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

L: God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. We especially pray for a just remedy in curtailing the causes of red tide. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones and sick, especially those on our prayer list and those we name now silently or aloud. (Pause for congregational responses.). God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WE STAND

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Feel free to greet your neighbor with a word of peace.

WE SIT

OFFERTORY

BORN TO SET US FREE
Voices of Faith Choir

Jay Althouse

The offering is collected at this time. Online giving also is available at www.faithlutheransrq.com. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in support of Faith Lutheran's ministries. When the offering plates are brought forward, the congregation stands and sings.

WE STAND

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

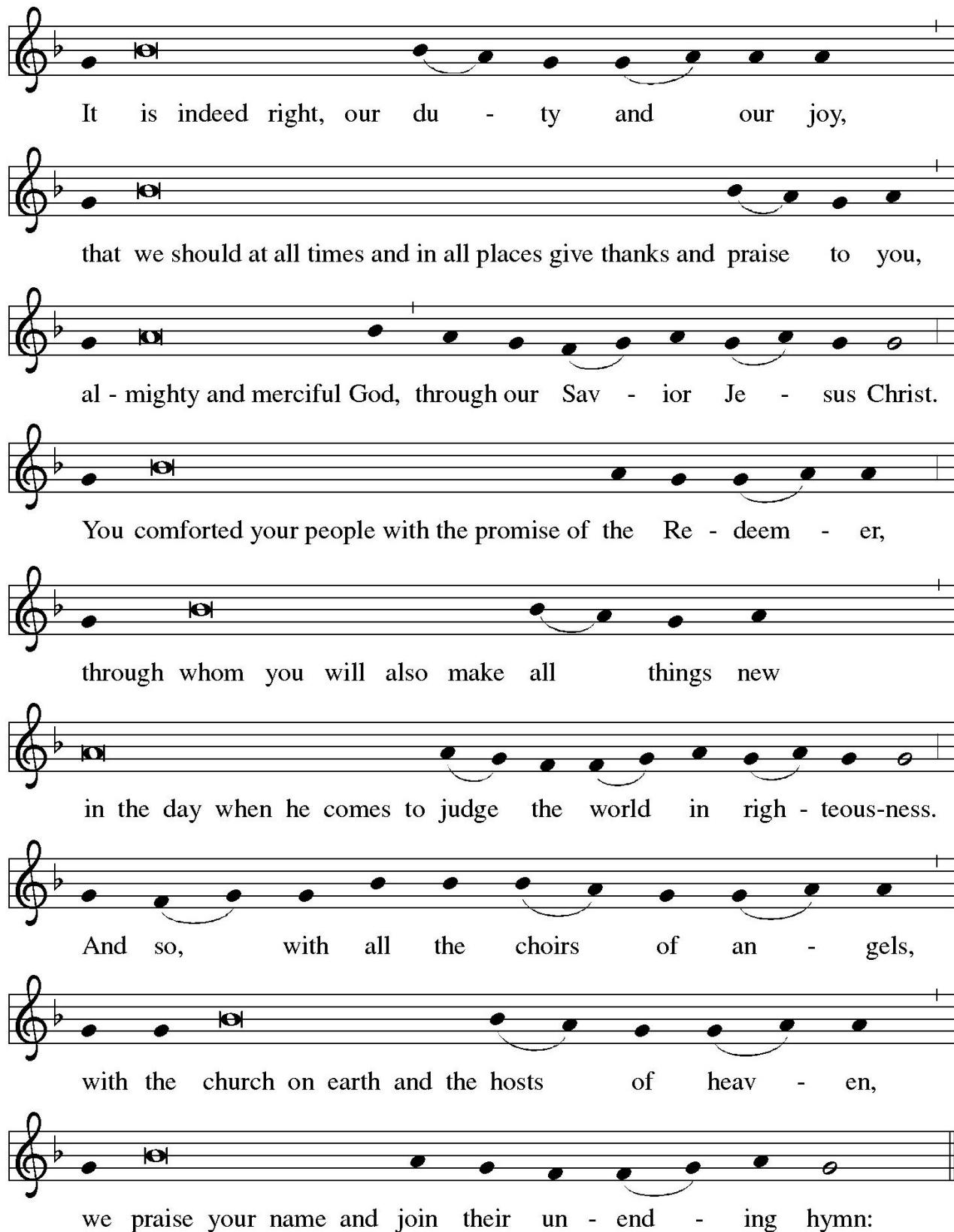
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

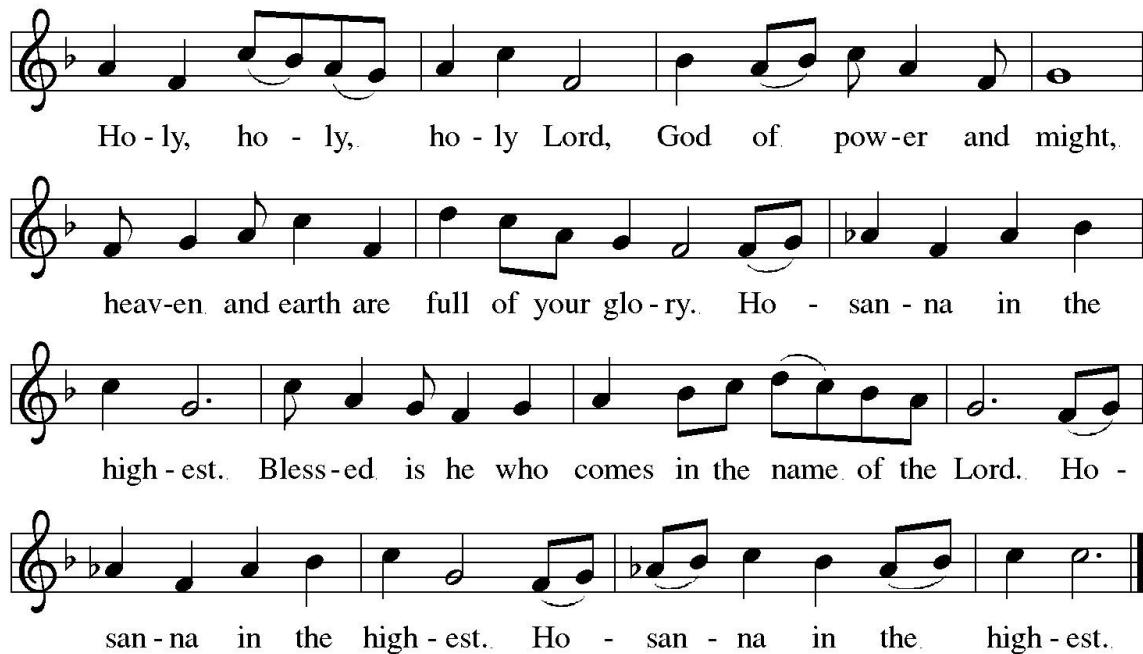
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

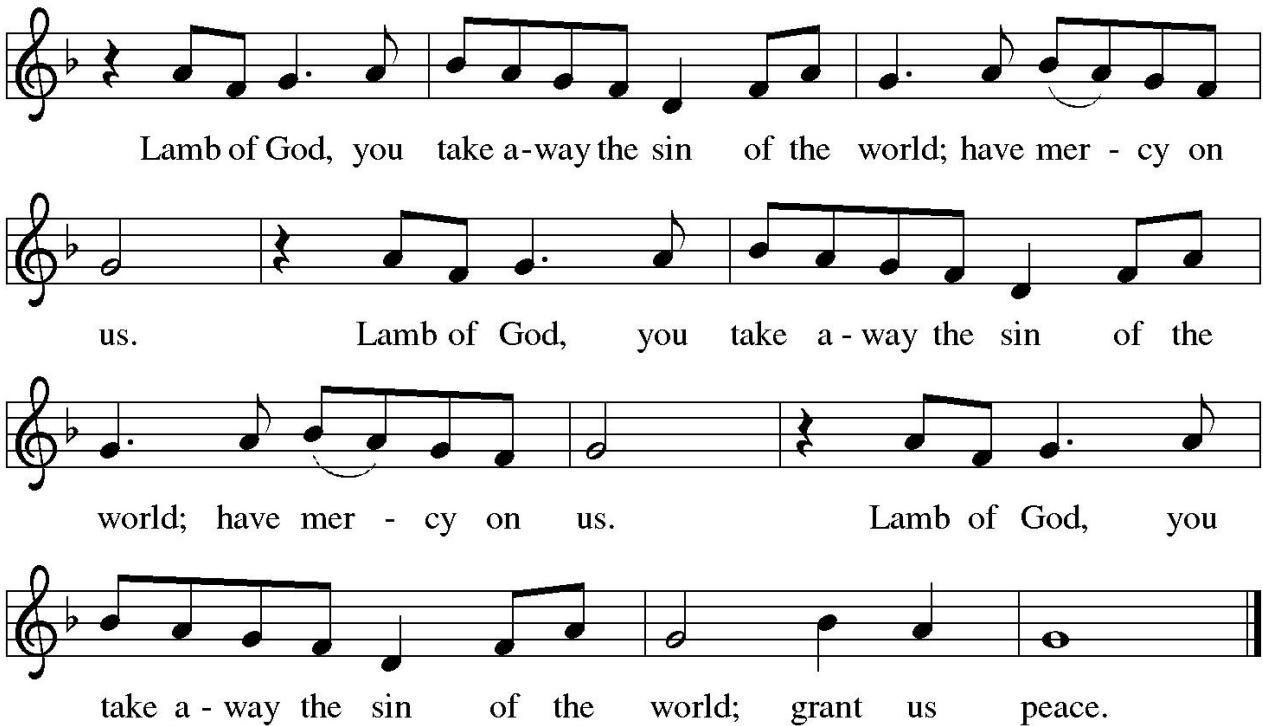
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

WE STAND

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

C: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, **+** bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

THE KING SHALL COME

ELW 260

The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

CORNET PROCESSIONAL

David P. Dahl

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Worship Services

Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.*

In-Person & *Live-Streamed at

www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service

Sunday, Nov. 27, Online views: 62

Sunday, Nov. 27, Attendance: 114

Next: Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022

The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert blooms as God's people return from exile

Psalm 146:5-10

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

James 5:7-10

Patience until the coming of the Lord

Matthew 11:2-11

The forerunner of Christ

This Week at Faith

Monday, Dec. 5

Tuesday, Dec. 6

10 a.m. Men of Faith, chapel

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, church library

Wednesday, Dec. 7

11 a.m. Midweek Advent Worship and Lunch, sanctuary and fellowship hall

1 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, Dec. 8

1 p.m. Stitch 'n' Chatter

6 p.m. Jazercise, gym

Friday, Dec. 9

8:30 a.m. Jazercise, gym

Saturday, Dec. 10

8:30 a.m. Jazercise, gym

Sunday, Dec. 11

9:10 a.m. Adult Forum, conference room

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, choir room

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. **Please let us know that you visited by filling out a Visitor Card**, located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

Let Us Pray

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

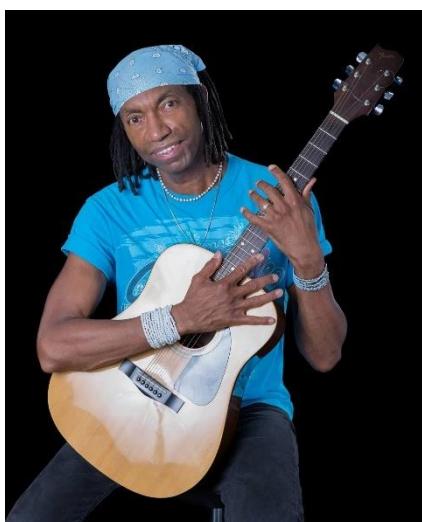
Hurricane Ian Relief Fundraiser TODAY, Dec. 4

You don't want to miss the event of the year! Faith is hosting a Hurricane Ian Relief Fundraiser Dec. 4. Doors open at 3 p.m. The event starts at 4 p.m.

All proceeds from a free will offering will assist those affected by Hurricane Ian. Donations up to \$15,000 will be matched by an anonymous donor.

Some amazing donors are providing awesome items for raffle baskets.

Entertainment by legendary singer/songwriter Karlus Trapp and Sarasota's king of comedy Al Ernst will highlight the evening.



An original songwriter, a diverse troubadour, and a musical educator, Karlus views music as a healing gift from God. Al's calling from God is to make you laugh until you cry tears of joy! With more than 30 years of experience, including appearances on major networks and cable channels, he will tickle your funny bone.



Adult Forum Resumes Dec. 4



Adult Forum will resume on Sunday Dec 4th with Lesson 2 "Piercing the Darkness" of "That the World May Know" video series. We will meet in the conference room between the two morning worship services from 9:10 – 9:50am. Pack your bags! We're going on a journey with Ray Vander Laan, a Biblical scholar. A quest to uncover Scripture and its meaning across history. Filmed on location in Israel and throughout the Middle East, the Faith Lessons Digital series is an adventure in biblical learning. You will discover why Jesus turned the world upside down with his compelling call to follow Him. The insights you gain will transform your reading of the Gospels and inspire a deeper faith commitment.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund Needs Your Help

Pastor Eric often is in conversation with members of the congregation or the community about specific needs and aid they might require. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund provides him the means to help financially, when necessary.

Thank you for the strong congregational response thus far! If you are able, please consider a donation so vulnerable members of our community can continue to receive emergency assistance.

Following Hurricane Ian, requests for assistance have grown substantially.

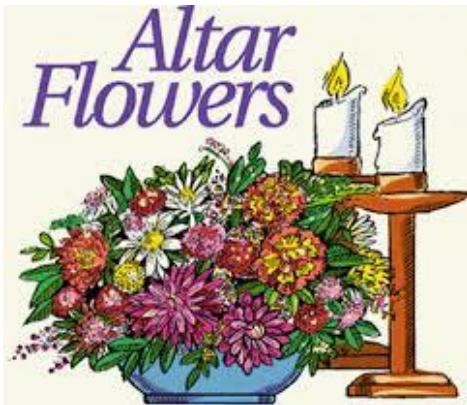


Faith's Food Pantry Needs Ready-to-Eat Options



We continue to work with All Faiths Food Bank to begin food pantry operations. In the meantime, we still are collecting food for All Faiths. Please consider donating ready-to-eat canned foods such as tuna and canned fruit. However, you are welcome to bring in any nonperishables for others who may need them. A large barrel in the narthex is waiting for your donations. **Following the two recent hurricanes, many in our community are in need of donated food.**

Altar Flowers: A Beautiful Way to Honor People and Events



Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The price is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two vases. The next available Sunday is **January 8**.

You can take your flowers home or donate them to a person or place of your choice after the second service on Sunday. Please indicate your wish either on the flower donation board in the fellowship hall or on our webpage.

Readers Club – No Meeting in December

Readers Club meets at 2 p.m. on the last Monday of the month in the church library.

The readers will skip December due to Christmas.

Jan. 30, *Haven Point* by Virginia Hume will be discussed.

For more information, contact Kathy Schilio,
schilmo@yahoo.com. **Please join!**



Women of Faith Gather to Celebrate the Birth of Jesus



Mary Circle invites all women of Faith Lutheran to celebrate the birth of Jesus during a holiday lunch beginning at noon, **Tuesday, Dec. 13**, at Mamma Leone's Italian Restaurant, 2300 N. Tamiami Trail in Nokomis.

You will order off the menu, and separate checks will be issued.

If you plan to be there, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office.

Save the Dates

During the 10:15 a.m. service, Sunday, Dec. 11, David Patrick, our director of music, and Tom Tryon, our lead cantor and music librarian, will be officially installed. A reception will follow.



Meet at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 21, in the fellowship hall at Faith to join a happy throng of singers that will carol at the homes of less-mobile members to spread Christmas cheer.

Bereavement Group Shares Strength and Hope



Faith's Bereavement Group meets at 1 p.m. every Wednesday in the chapel. All are welcome. If you or a friend can use some help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you. There is strength in community. Help spread the word of hope.

Confirmation Class This Week

Confirmation class is 4:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

This comprehensive confirmation program is more than just a class. It seeks to provide experiences and opportunities in which the individual can grow in faith as a Christian (i.e., worship, relationships with peers and mentors, small group experiences, and ministry opportunities).



Choir Rehearsals: There's a Place for You in the Voices of Faith



Choir rehearsals take place at **9:15 a.m. Sunday mornings** in the choir room. All are welcome! Whether you are seasonal or full time; an experienced singer or a novice; a soloist or a shower-singer; a church member or a visitor, you are welcome to join the Voices of Faith Choir. We have a place for you!

Committee Seeks Four People for Council of Faith

It is time to prepare a slate of people who will serve on the Congregational Council of Faith for the next three years.

Four seats need to be filled at a time when there is excitement in the progress that the past year has brought to the renewal of our church. Under Pastor Eric's leadership, Faith again seeks new ways to serve God. In the hymn, "God, When Human Bonds are Broken," we are encouraged to consider serving the church: "Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life. Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith."



Please give prayerful consideration to help Faith continue God's work by serving on the Congregational Council. It can be a blessing to many people, including yourself. If you feel called to serve, please inform one of the nomination committee members listed below. And if you are asked to serve, please say a little prayer before responding.

The members of the nomination committee look forward to presenting a slate of candidates to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in February.

Please feel free to contact any one of them:

Eloise Dettmer – eadettmer@aol.com – 941-021-7381
Sandy Brinker – sbrinker973@verizon.net – 941-966-3209
Grace Kaarre – graceret99@aol.com – 941-468-6850

G.I.F.T.S. - *On Hiatus until Jan. 17*



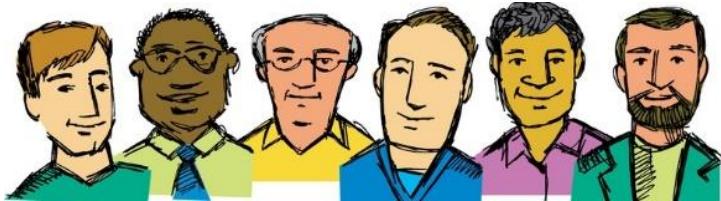
With the holidays fast approaching, the G.I.F.T.S. (Growing In Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible Study will not meet until Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023. The group will resume studying "Be Still and Know" by Deb Burma at 9:30 a.m. **Tuesday, Jan. 17**, in the conference room. We look forward to continuing our exploration of Psalm 46.

Thank You for Angel Tree Donations

Thank you for adopting a Lutheran Services of Florida client for Christmas. Please wrap each gift, place the person's name on it, and leave it under the table in the narthex no later than **Sunday, Dec. 11**. Mary Circle thanks you for generously bringing Christmas cheer to others in our community.



Men of Faith Bible Study Meets Tuesday



Men, please join us at 10 a.m., **Tuesday, Dec. 6**, in the chapel for another exciting study of one of the shortest books of the Bible. Consider inviting a friend or two, as well.

Don't let their size fool you. These short books pack a serious spiritual punch! No prior Bible study experience necessary.

Advent Midweek Services

Join us at 11 a.m. Wednesdays in Advent — Dec. 7 and Dec. 14 — in the sanctuary for a meaningful and joy-filled worship service that centers on Mary's great song of praise, "The Magnificat." A light lunch will follow in fellowship hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Deepen Your Faith by Becoming a Church Deacon



Contact Pastor Eric if you are interested in delving deeper into your faith and becoming a church deacon. We already have three members who will join in study through Diakonia Florida-Bahamas Synod's School of Lay Ministry. The group likely will meet Saturday mornings beginning in January at Faith. Questions? visit diakoniafl.org or contact Deborah Dornemann, 941-914-7553.

Holiday Decorations Available in the Gym

Faith Lutheran's surplus Christmas decorations are available on tables in the gym. Take what you want and donate what you wish. Donations benefit Lutheran Disaster Response. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran with Disaster Relief in the memo line.





Prayer List



Please remember in your prayers this week:

Jeff & Nancy Arntsen	Paul & Debby Maresch
Kevin Beard, friend of Jim Winemiller	Kathryn McLaughlin
Tommy Bright	Judi Melander
Charles Budreau	Ed Miller
Dee Burlingame	Kristin Mohammed
Michael O. Cannon, father of Kay Cannon	Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins
Cheryl Cook	Family & Friends of Dennis Pappalardo
Joan Cotton	Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia
Eloise Dettmer	Fritz Rappold
Megan Fairlie	Family & Friends of Deacon Sue Rice
Family & Friends of Marlene Falconer	Gabriel Rockwell
Elizabeth Farmer	Beverly & Floyd Ryder
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler	Family & Friends of Dick Sanks
Andrea Gamboa	Ken Schell, brother of Mike (Gwen) Schell
Elaine Graham	Rev. John Spittal
Jon Hale	Dieter Smirnow
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen	Cathy Stubenvoll.
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles	Michelle Terrell, niece of Kay Cannon
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of Anita and Jon Wooton	Colette Thornbloom
Mary Janice Holt	Evie Webb
Jesus & Rita Jimenez	Marlene Wiest
Family & Friends Howard King, friend of Powrie's and others	Jon Wooton

Jeremiah 29:12 "Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you."

Contact the church office if:

- You or someone you know would like a **communion visit, hospital or home visit, or to be contacted**.
- You know of someone who would appreciate **receiving a card in the mail**.
- You would like to **serve as a Eucharistic Minister**.
- You have an addition to the Prayer List. Please send an email with the individual's name to officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com. Please send updates when prayers are answered.

ABOUT US

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.

OUR VISION

To be an ELCA congregation that displays the true, unending love of Christ. To promote peace, social justice and grace throughout all we do.

THE ELCA

Faith Lutheran Church is part of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are ecumenical, saved by grace and love Jesus.

7750 Beneva Road
Sarasota, FL 34238
941-924-4664
officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com
www.faithlutheransrq.com

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