



# Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members  
and visitors in Jesus' name!**

**First Sunday of Christmas**  
January 1, 2023, 10:15 a.m.



As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

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

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:

Mildred Carroll

In loving memory of Dennis Pappalardo.



**Presiding Ministers:**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen, Pastor  
Rev. Larry Wright, Assistant Pastor

**Lector:**

Kathy Schilio

**Director of Music/Organist:**

David V. Patrick

**Cantor:**

Tom Tryon

**Vocals:**

Voices of Faith Choir

**Greeters & Ushers:**

Thomas & Amanda Bright, Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Jan Phillips, 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

**Retired Pastors in Residence:**

Rev. Van C. Miller  
Rev. Marianne Powrie  
Rev. John Spittal

**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****OPENING LITURGY**

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of life,

**C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**

## Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

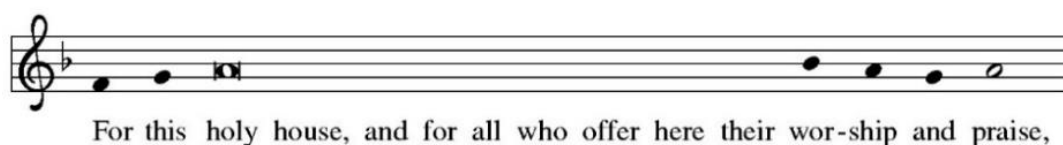
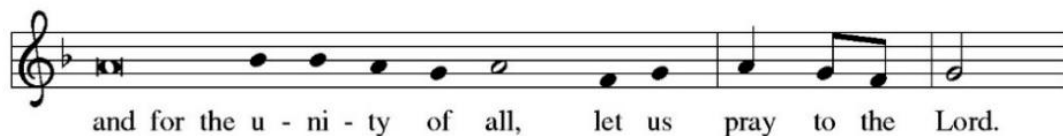
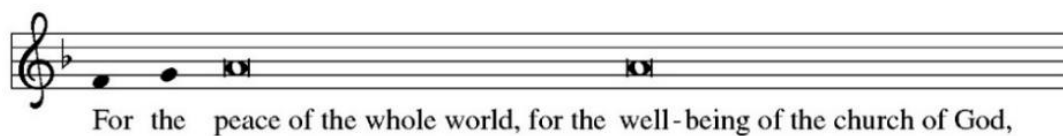
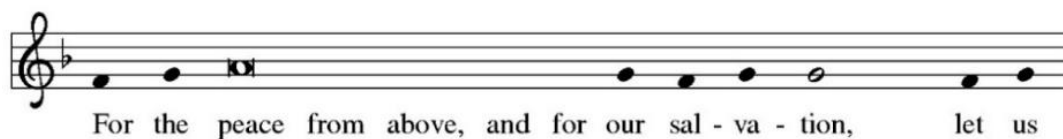
WE STAND

GREETING

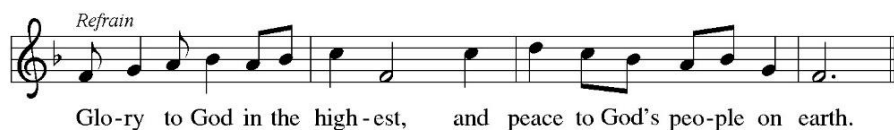
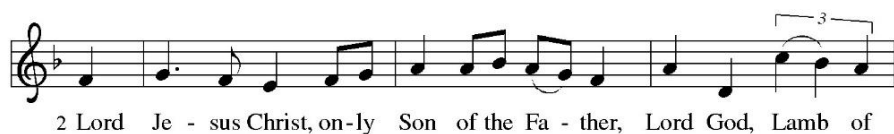
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

# KYRIE



# GLORIA



P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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 63:7-9**

L: A READING FROM ISAIAH

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely";  
and he became their savior

<sup>9</sup>in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

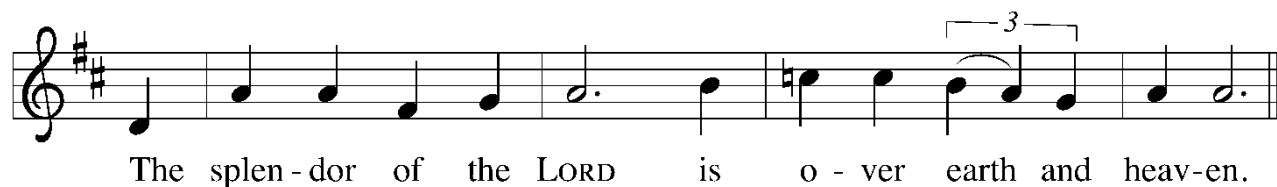
Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**(whenever children are present)**

## PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 148:13



Psalm 148:13

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

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### Psalm: Psalm 148

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup>Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
- <sup>3</sup>Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup>Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.
- <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,
- <sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.

#### Refrain

- <sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- <sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
- <sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;
- <sup>10</sup>wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;
- <sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;
- <sup>12</sup>young men and maidens,  
old and young together.

#### Refrain

- <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord,



whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

### **Refrain**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18**

### **L: A READING FROM HEBREWS**

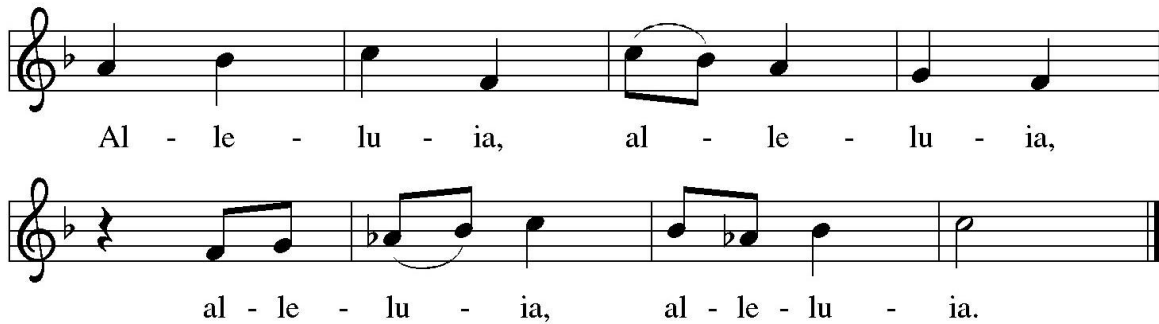
<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.  
<sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,  
<sup>12</sup>saying,  
"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."  
<sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him."  
And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."  
<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,  
<sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.  
<sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.  
<sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.  
<sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

WE STAND

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

<sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,

<sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

<sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

<sup>20</sup>"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

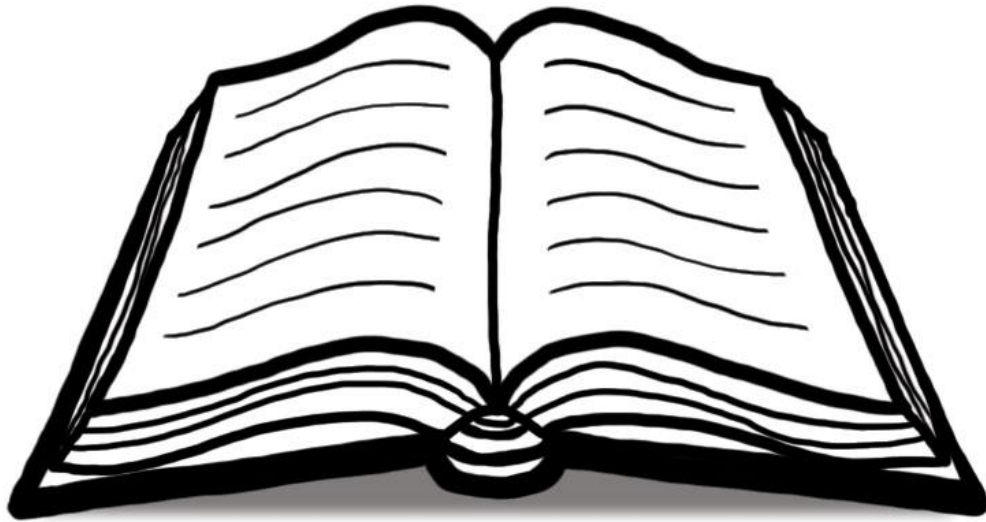
<sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

<sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**



WE SIT

**SERMON**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900



## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WE SIT

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

L: Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Lutheran Services of Florida. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air. Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further harm to the environment. Locally, we pray for advocacy and action that will lead to the eradication of red tide. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict throughout the world. We pray especially for a just peace for Ukraine, the end of Russian aggression, and for a de-escalation of tension between Taiwan and China. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need, especially individuals and families living in poverty. Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Enrich our worship and deepen our faith. Sustain Pastors Eric and Larry and all who minister in your name. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Healing God, bless all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. We ask for you to extend your healing grace to all on our prayer list and those we name before you now in silence or aloud. [PAUSE FOR RESPONSES]. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**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 ANTHEM**

Panis Angelicus

Cesar Franck

Tom Tryon, solo

*The offering is collected at this time. Online giving also is available at [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://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

# Create in Me a Clean Heart

## *Offering Song*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of the musical score consists of a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a melodic line with some ties, and the bass staff continues with chordal support. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system shows the continuation of the musical piece. The treble staff includes a melodic phrase that ends with a tie to the next system. The bass staff maintains the harmonic foundation.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the musical progression. The treble staff features a melodic line with a final note tied to the next system. The bass staff provides accompaniment.

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth and final system of the score concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a final chord, and the bass staff provides a concluding accompaniment. The lyrics are completed in this system.



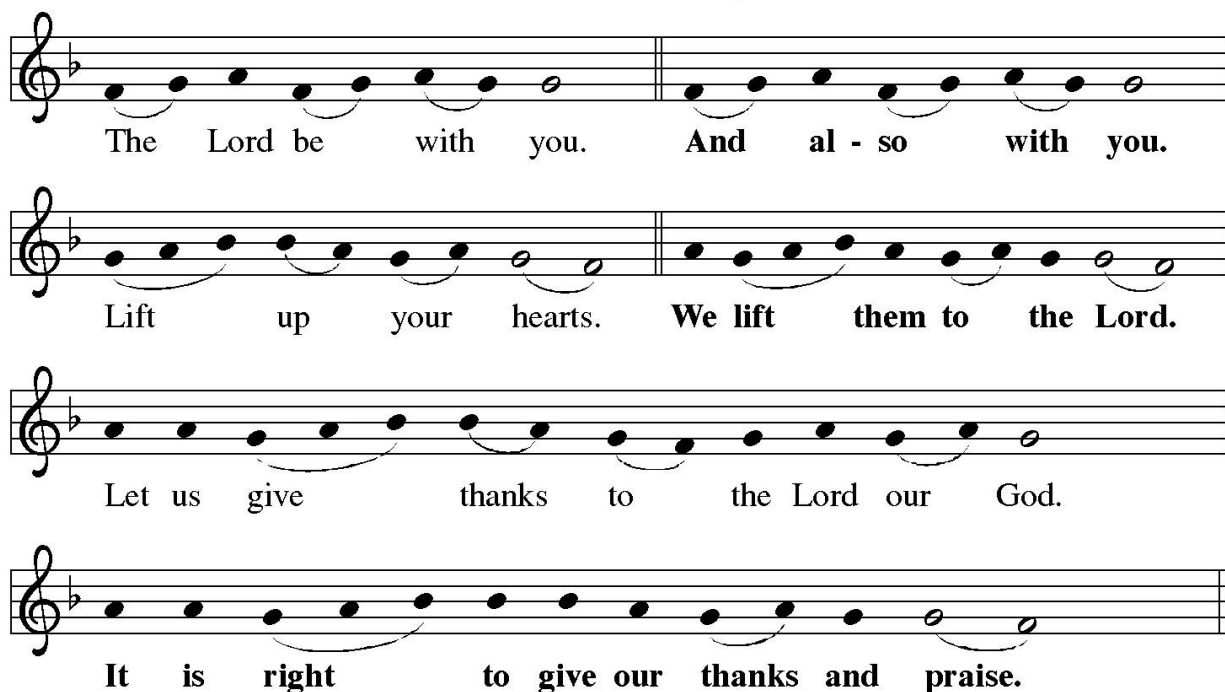
## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

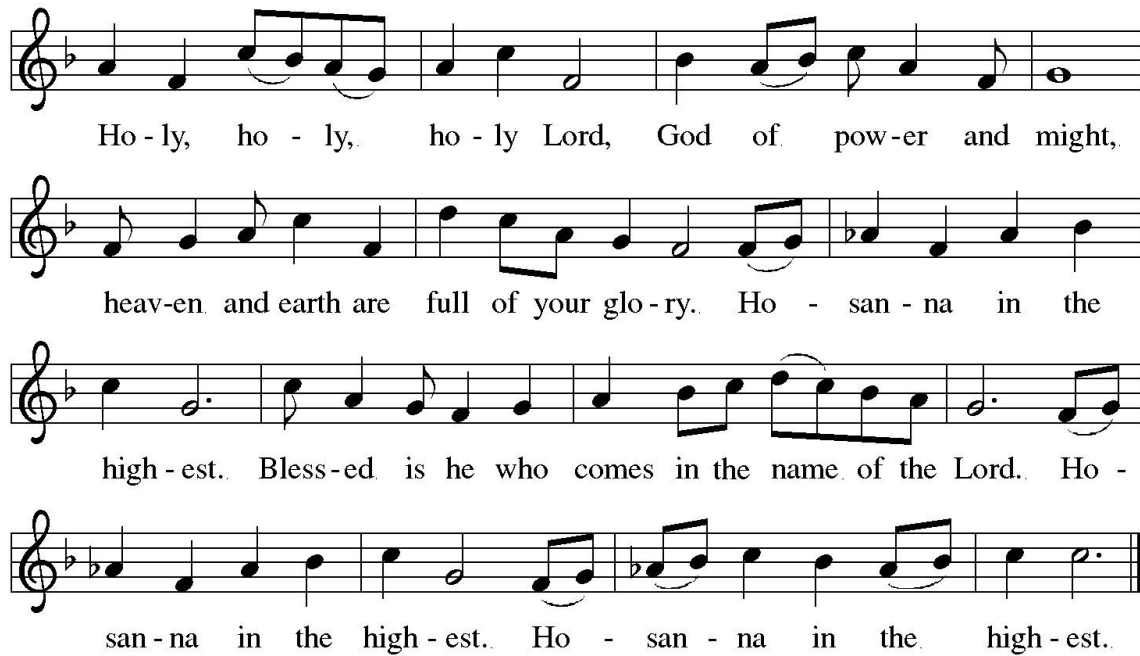
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



## 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.  
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened  
the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vis - ion of your glo - ry,  
that be - holding the God made vis - i - ble,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we can - not see.  
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



## 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.**

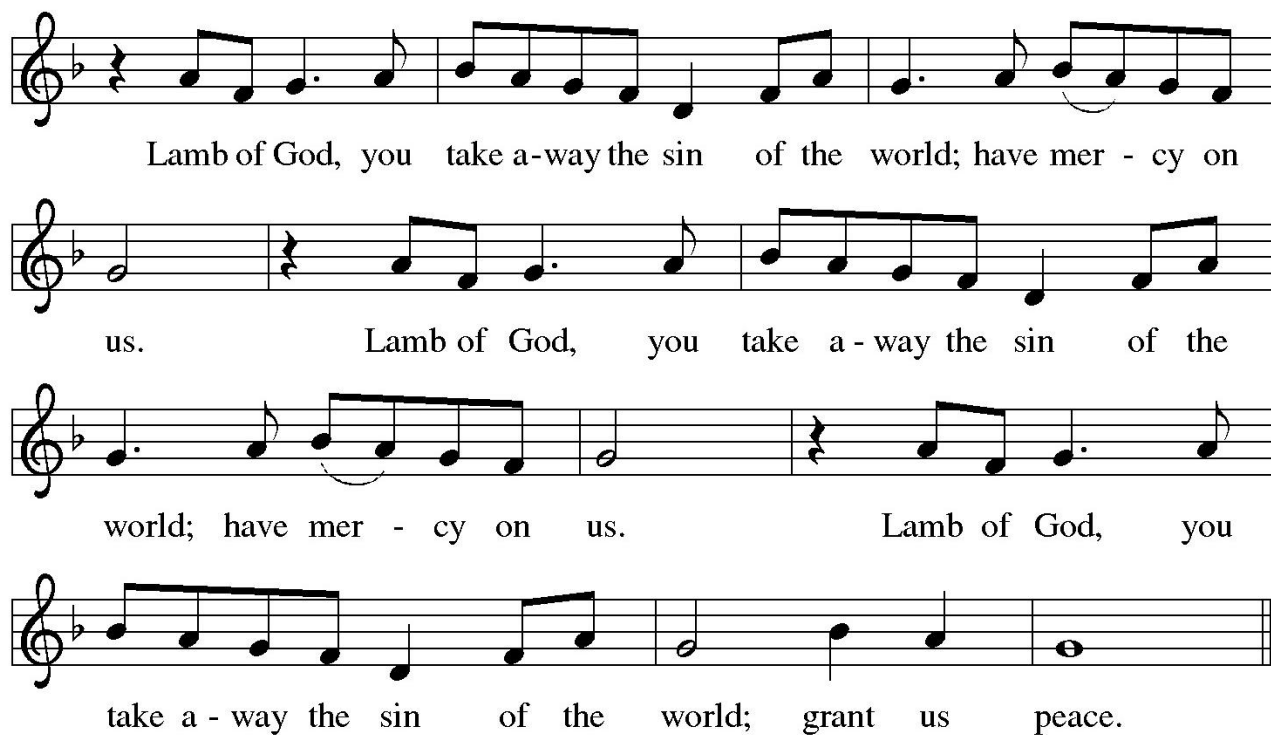
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

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

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

## 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: God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

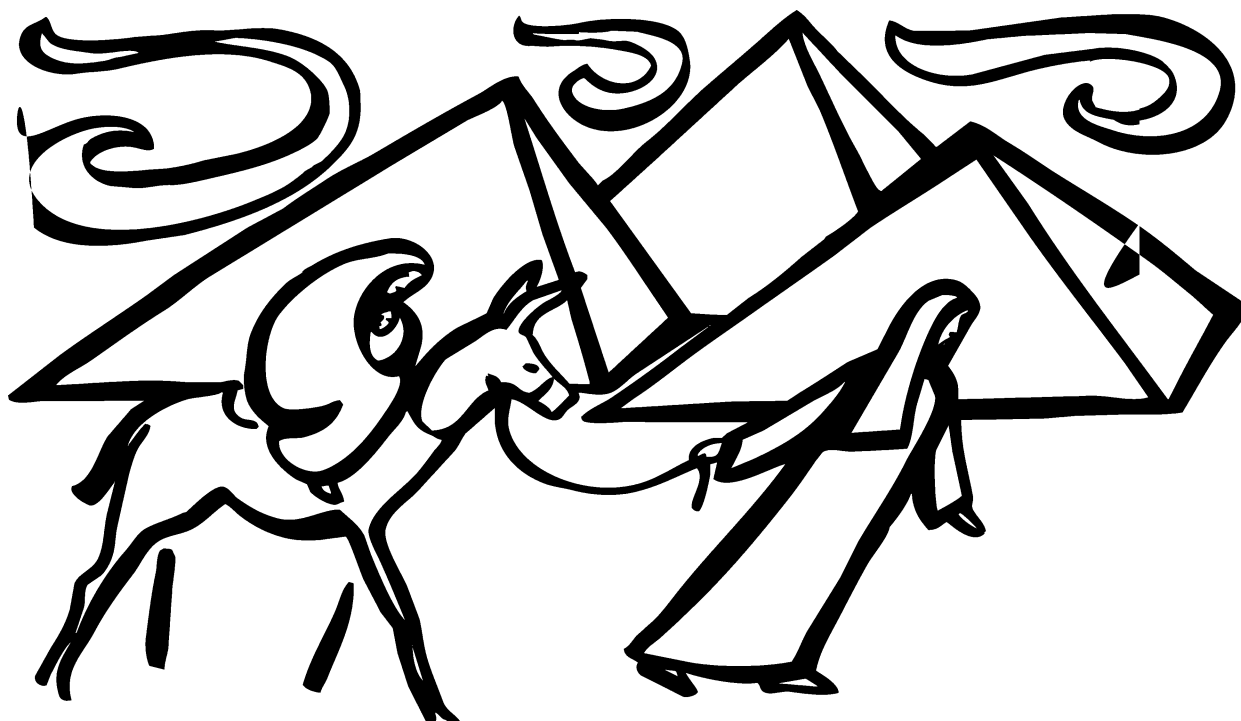
## BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,  
✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

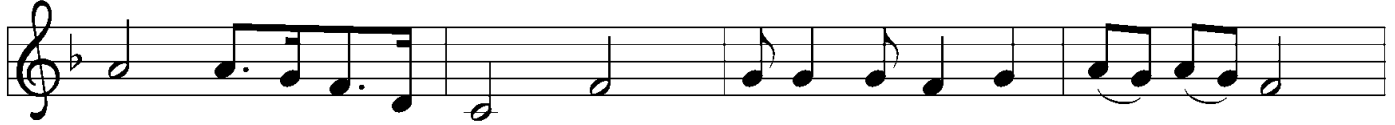
Go Tell It on the Mountain  
*See Next Page*

ELW 290



# Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young



## 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](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service)

Saturday, Dec. 24, Online views: 122

Saturday, Dec. 24, Attendance: 294

Sunday, Dec. 25, Online views: 44

Sunday, Dec. 25, Attendance: 85

<b>Next: Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023</b>
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### Baptism of Our Lord Lectionary 1, Year A

#### Isaiah 42:1-9

The servant of the Lord brings justice

#### Psalms 29

The voice of the Lord is upon the  
waters. (Ps. 29:3)

#### Acts 10:34-43

Jesus' ministry after his baptism

#### Matthew 3:13-17

Revelation of Christ as God's servant

### This Week at Faith

#### Monday, Jan. 2

Office Closed

#### Tuesday, Jan. 3

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith, prayer  
breakfast at Skillet's

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, library

6:00 p.m. Diversity: Voices of Sarasota  
Choir, sanctuary

#### Wednesday, Jan. 4

10:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting &  
Communion, chapel

1 p.m. Bereavement Group,  
chapel

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, choir room

#### Thursday, Jan. 5

1 p.m. Stitch 'n' Chatter

6 p.m. Jazzercise, gym

#### Friday, Jan. 6

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

#### Saturday, Jan. 7

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

#### Sunday, Jan. 8

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

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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## Confirmation Class



Our class time is **4:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays**. Our next class is **Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>**. 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).

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## Choir News to Note!

The Voices of Faith Choir has scheduled the following Wednesday evening rehearsals:

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

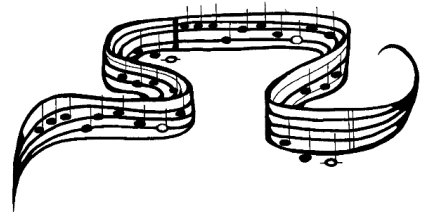
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

All rehearsals are held in the Choir Room from 6:30P to 8:00P. We also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:15A.

We have room for you!



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## Men of Faith Meet Tuesday at Skillet's



Join us for a hearty breakfast, prayer, and fellowship at Skillet's, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail on **Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** at **8:30 a.m.**

All are welcome!

Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Eric at [pastor@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:pastor@faithlutheransrq.com) or call the church office!

## Adult Forum resumes meeting on January 8th

Adult Forum will not meet on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Happy New Year!

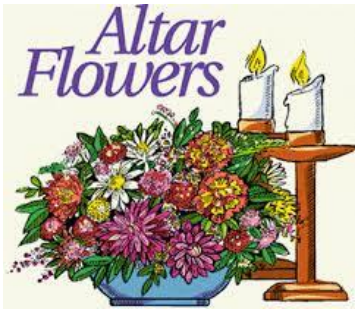
We will meet again on **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**.

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.



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## 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 **Jan. 8.**

**After the second service on Sunday, you may take your flowers home or donate them to a person or place of your choice. Indicate your wish on the flower donation board in the fellowship hall or on our webpage.**

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## G.I.F.T.S. Resumes meeting on 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. May Christmas Joy fill your hearts.



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## Readers Club



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**, they will discuss *Haven Point* by Virginia Hume.

For more information, contact Kathy Schilio, [schilmo@yahoo.com](mailto:schilmo@yahoo.com). **Please join!**

## Bereavement Group Shares Strength and Hope

Faith's Bereavement Group meets at **1 p.m. Wednesdays** 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.



## Let's Pray!



Looking for a time to pray with members of our Faith family? Join us at **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays** in the chapel.

We will pray for ourselves, loved ones, those in need, our church community, the larger community that we serve, our nation and the world. Bring your concerns and your desire to connect with our loving heavenly Father! We will conclude with Holy Communion.

Can't attend in person? NOTE: If you need the sacrament brought to your house, please let us know or take consecrated elements home with you on Sunday if you are in town.

Please join us via Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting: **Meeting ID: 871 4720 3661, Passcode: 041291**

## 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



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 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.**

## Faith Financial Corner

Thank you for your contributions to our Church and Faith Family. Each of you has allowed us to sustain our mission in making a difference in the community of Our Lord God and Savior! The financial status of Faith through your giving to the General Operating Fund, the special outreach causes such as the Refuge Support, the fabulous giving for Hurricane Ian Relief, and all the many improvements made to our beautiful building are just some examples of your love and commitment to our Lord and church family. Your goodness, gifts of time, talent, and money are deeply appreciated!



**Giving Envelopes for 2023:** Find them in the Narthex on the table through the end of the year. If you didn't receive a packet and want one, please sign on the form on the narthex table, or contact me at 941-921-3709 H; 941-228-1192 C; pattymckee15@gmail.com. Indicate if you wish for a full packet or just special offering packet.

**Year End Giving Statements:** They will be sent out in bulk to all via email or USPS mail as you have indicated, AFTER January 11, but before January 23, 2023. However, requests for individual statements will be honored as received...pattymckee15@gmail.com.

**Speaking of Year End...Year End Giving:** Have you considered Win-Win Ways to Give? That is, Giving Options that benefit not only the recipient, but also the donor in a Tax-Advantaged Way! Consult with your tax advisor to be fully informed. Wonder where you are regarding your 2022-23 Pledge to Faith? I can help! Contact pattymckee15@gmail.com or the church office @ 941-228-1192 and leave a message for me.

Merry Christmas everyone! Blessings to all and those you love! May Joy and Peace fill your hearts in all the days to come! - Patty McKee, Financial Secretary

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## Please Consider Serving on the Congregational Council



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.

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

Eloise Dettmer – [eadettmer@aol.com](mailto:eadettmer@aol.com) – 941-021-7381

Sandy Brinker – [sbrinker973@verizon.net](mailto:sbrinker973@verizon.net) – 941-966-3209

Grace Kaarre – [graceret99@aol.com](mailto:graceret99@aol.com) – 941-468-6850

## Coming Soon! ... Fulfilling God's Purpose!

Next week we will begin our three-week stewardship program called Fulfilling God's Purpose! Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of managing our lives and blessings according to God's will. Stewardship refers to all the activities of our lives. We are stewards in our homes, workplaces, schools, and in our neighborhoods. Stewardship is a daily, ongoing lifestyle that determines how we use all the gifts our Creator has given us. Next week, our focus will be on "Building Relationships." Please join us in both worship and Bible study.



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## Christmas Poinsettias: Donations & Dedications



### Donor

Karen and Gerald Kolschowsky  
Denise and Alf Kirkeeng  
Joan Searles

### Dedication

For blessings received  
God's grace  
Parents: Christian and Clara Fick  
Dorothy Miller and Chris Fick

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## Adult Bible Study to Resume Its Winter Session

"Signs and Wonders"  
A study of Jesus' Miracles

Ever wonder about the stories of Jesus' miracles? Believers are very familiar with Jesus' feeding of the 5,000, and the stilling of the storm. What do we make of these accounts? Actual happenings? Metaphorical stories? Let's explore these questions together. Perhaps the big question is not "did this happen?" but "what does it mean?" Both questions deserve our faithful deliberation and interpretation!

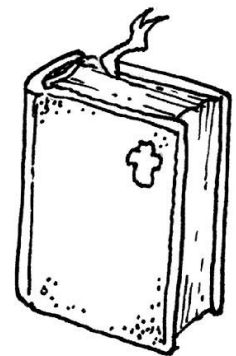
Our theologian in residence, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, will by DVD lecture and student book provide grist for our mill, featuring 6 selected miracle stories. Our Faith Endowment Fund will provide a student book for each who registers for the class.

Please call the Church Office [941-924-4664] and have Cate sign you up for the course.  
**The deadline for registration is January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Pastor Larry will lead this Six-Week study **beginning Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**, and continuing each Wednesday **through February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Each one-hour session begins at 9:30 a.m. and meets in the second-floor classroom in the Community Center across from the elevator.

Welcome All. Refreshments! Great discussion! Fellowship!

**WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE?**









## *Prayer List*



**Please remember in your prayers this week:**

Jeff & Nancy Arntsen  
Kevin Beard, friend of Jim Winemiller  
Tommy Bright  
Charles Budreau  
Dee Burlingame  
Michael O. Cannon, father of Kay Cannon  
Cheryl Cook  
Joan Cotton  
Eloise Dettmer  
Megan Fairlie  
Family & Friends of Marlene Falconer  
Elizabeth Farmer  
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler  
Andrea Gamboa  
Elaine Graham  
Dottie Gustafson, friend of Patricia Lawrence  
Jon Hale  
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen  
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles  
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of Anita and Jon Wooton  
Mary Janice Holt  
Jesus & Rita Jimenez

Family & Friends Howard King,  
friend of Powrie's and others  
Paul & Debby Maresch  
Kathryn McLaughlin  
Judi Melander  
Ed Miller  
Kristin Mohammed  
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins  
Family & Friends of Dennis Pappalardo  
Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia  
Fritz Rappold  
Family & Friends of Deacon Sue Rice  
Gabriel Rockwell  
Beverly & Floyd Ryder  
Family & Friends of Dick Sanks  
Ken Schell, brother of Mike (Gwen) Schell  
Rev. John Spittal  
Dieter Smirnow  
Cathy Stubenvoll  
Michelle Terrell, niece of Kay Cannon  
Colette Thornbloom  
Evie Webb  
Marlene Wiest  
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@faithlutheransra.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransra.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](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com)

[www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com)

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or email us at [officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com).

