



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Dec. 18, 2022, 8:00 a.m.



Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

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
Marianne Powrie.
Awaiting the coming of Emmanuel, God with Us.



Presiding Ministers:	Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Lector:	Ron Walter
Director of Music/Organist:	David V. Patrick
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
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

WE STAND

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 Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

(Silence for confession and self-examination)

P: God of new beginnings,

C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN**CANTICLE OF THE TURNING**

ELW 723

Verses 1 & 4

See next page

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

L: A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,

¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.

¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.

¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 80:7

Refrain: Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up on the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

Refrain

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call up on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD! God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Refrain



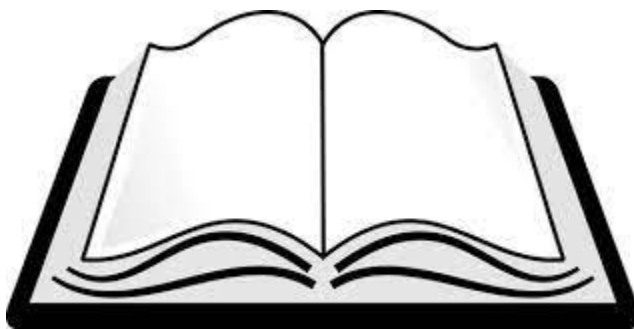
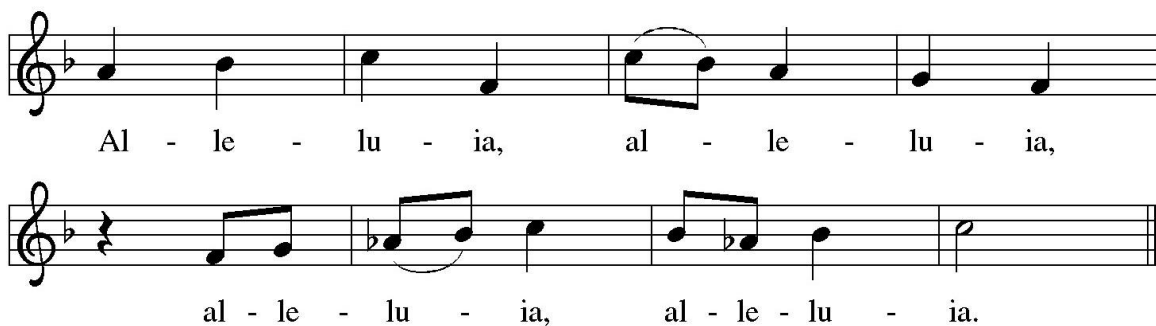
SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

L: A READING FROM ROMANS

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart
for the gospel of God,
²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,
³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David
according to the flesh
⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of
holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,
⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the
obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,
⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P:

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
Verses 1, 2 & 4
See next page

ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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NICENE CREED

P: Let us together confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: 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: 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 our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now silently or aloud. [PAUSE FOR RESPONSE] God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. 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, join our prayers with those 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

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

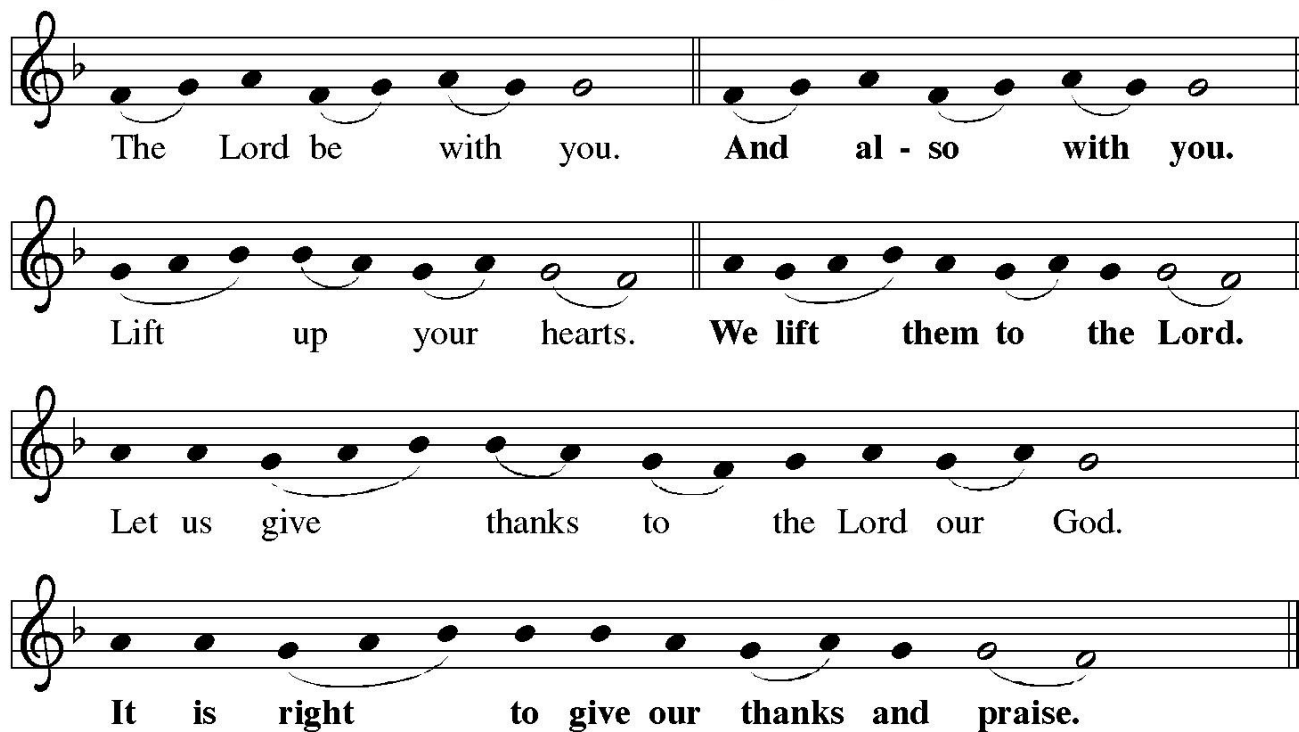
OFFERING PRAYER

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 (*Spoken*)



The Great Thanksgiving is a spoken prayer with a simple melody. The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The melody is simple and easy to sing, with a consistent rhythm of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are: "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."

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

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

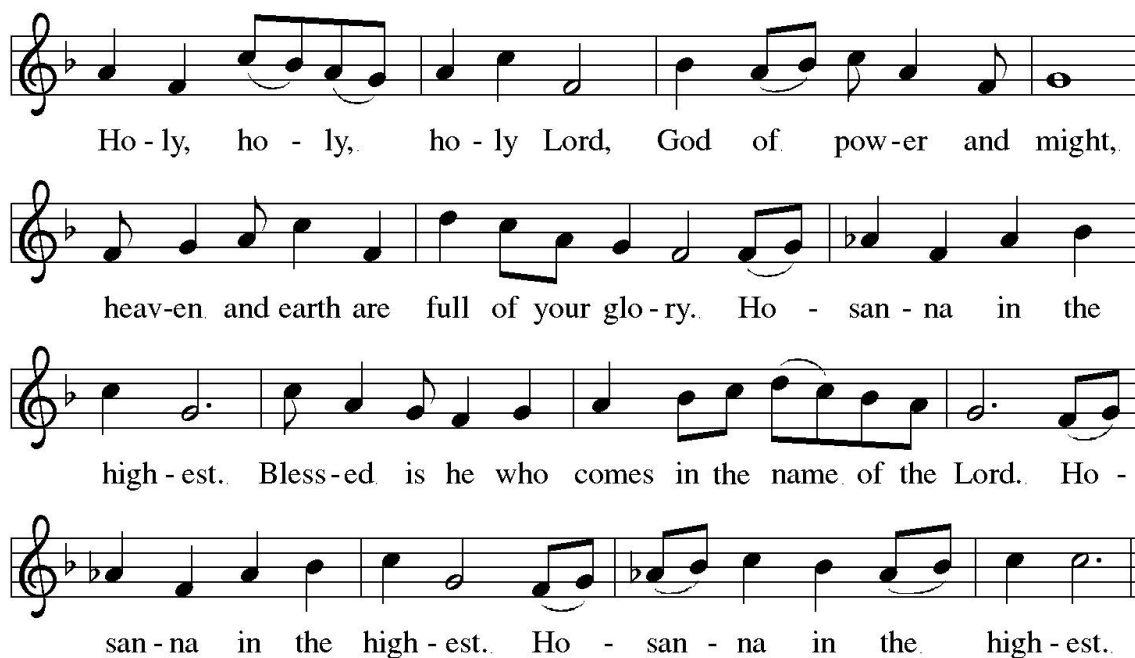
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



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.**

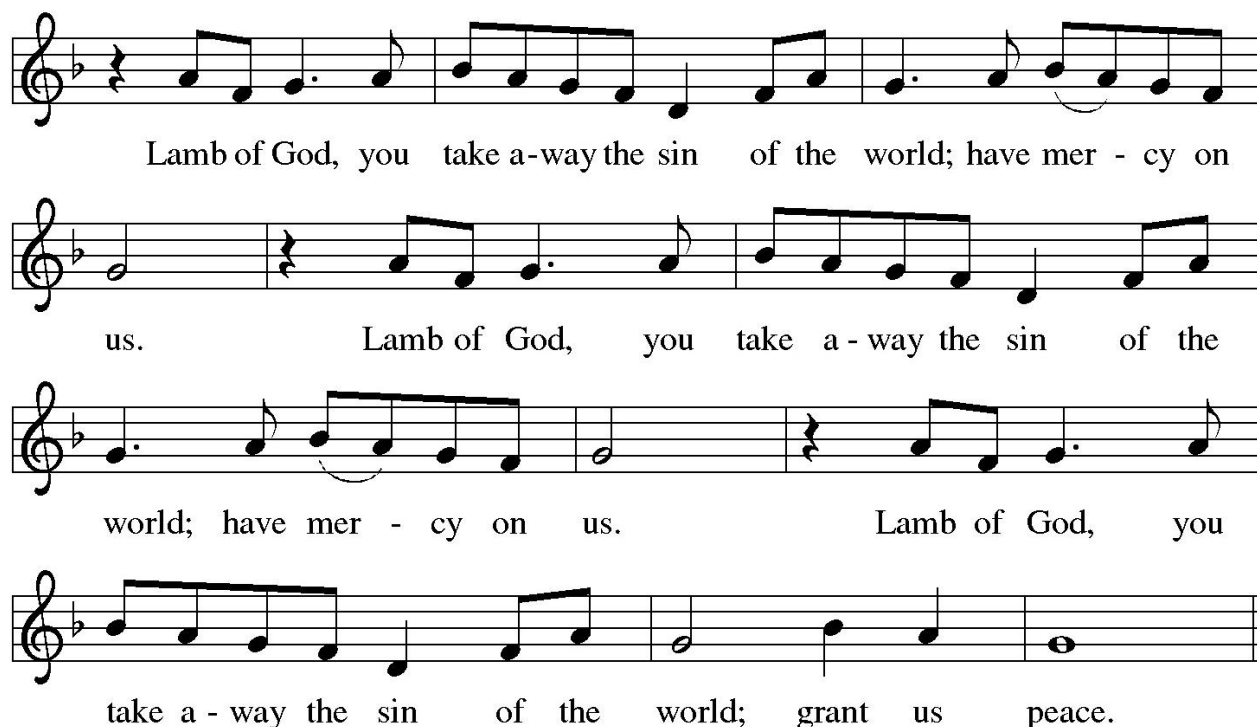
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

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

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

ELW 631

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TRUMPET PROCESSIONAL IN G

DAVID LASKY

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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, Dec. 11, Online views: 54

Sunday, Dec. 11, Attendance: 150

Next: Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022

Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12

God comes to restore the people

Psalms 97

Light dawns for the righteous, and
joy for the honest of heart. (Ps. 97:11)

Titus 3:4-7

Saved through water and the Spirit

Luke 2:1-20

The birth of the Messiah revealed to
shepherds

This Week at Faith

Monday, Dec. 19

11 a.m. Finance Committee

Tuesday, Dec. 20

10 a.m. Men of Faith, chapel

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

Wednesday, Dec. 21

10 a.m. Christmas Caroling
Meet in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Dec. 22

1 p.m. Stitch 'n' Chatter

6 p.m. Jazzercise, gym

Friday, Dec. 23

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

Saturday, Dec. 24

4:30 p.m. Musical Prelude followed by
Candlelight Service

6:45 p.m. Musical Prelude followed by
Candlelight Service

Sunday, Dec. 25

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Adult Forum Meets *TODAY, Dec. 18*



Adult Forum will meet TODAY, Sunday Dec 18th with Lesson 4 “City of the Great King-The Temple” 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. **We will not meet on Sunday Dec 25th and Jan 1st.** We will begin meeting again on Sunday Jan 8th. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

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.

Christmas Carols

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.



Christmas Poinsettias



Help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas while honoring or remembering a loved one or special occasion by dedicating one or more Christmas Poinsettias for \$14 each. Last day: **Monday, 12/19**

Men of Faith Meet Tuesday in the Chapel



Men, please join us at **10 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20**, in the chapel for another exciting study of the book of Judges. Consider inviting a friend or two, as well.

No prior Bible study experience necessary, and each study is its own unit, so join us any time!

G.I.F.T.S. (Growing In Faith Through Scripture) *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. May Christmas Joy fill your hearts.



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. **Please join!**

Voices of Faith Choir Rehearsals

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!



Confirmation Class



Our class time 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).

Bereavement Group Shares Strength and Hope

*Please note that the Bereavement Group will be **suspended on 12/21** due to Christmas Caroling. We will **resume on 12/28**. 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 **11:00 a.m. Wednesdays** in the chapel. We will pray for ourselves, our loved ones, those in need, our church community, the larger community that we serve, our nation and the world. We will conclude with Holy Communion.

Bring your concerns and your desire to connect with our loving heavenly Father! Can't attend in person? Please join us via Zoom.

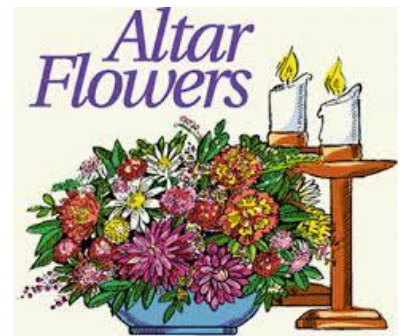
Join Zoom Meeting: **Meeting ID: 871 4720 3661, Passcode: 041291**

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.

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.



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.**

Consider Sharing Soup for Joan's Soup Freezer

Joan's Soup Freezer in the kitchen needs to be restocked. Please consider making a little extra soup to share, put it in a freezer-safe container marked with the type of soup and the date it was prepared, then place it in the kitchen freezer that is labeled "Joan's Soup." All are welcome to take soup from that freezer for yourself, friends or anyone who is struggling or not feeling well.



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 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.**

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.



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 – 941-021-7381

Sandy Brinker – sbrinker973@verizon.net – 941-966-3209

Grace Kaarre – graceret99@aol.com – 941-468-6850

Deepen Your Faith by Becoming a Church Deacon

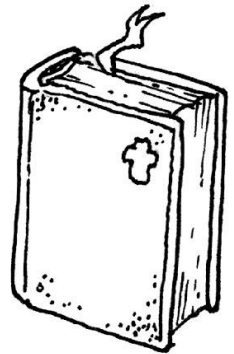


Contact Pastor Eric if you are interested in delving deeper into your faith and becoming a church deacon. We already have three members who will join in study through Diakonia Florida-Bahamas Synod's School of Lay Ministry. The group likely will meet Saturday mornings beginning in January at Faith. Questions?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

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 3rd.**

Pastor Larry will lead this Six-Week study **beginning Wednesday, January 11th**, and continuing each Wednesday **through February 15th**. 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@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.

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www.faithlutheransrq.com

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