



# Faith Lutheran Church

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

## **Fifth Sunday After Epiphany**

8 a.m., February 4, 2024



In Isaiah, the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So, in Jesus' healing work, we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service. Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless. Like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

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](http://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 Hirsch  
in loving memory of Hal Hirsch.



**Presiding Ministers**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen  
Rev. Marianne Powrie

**Lector**

Ron Walter

**Director of Music/Organist**

David V. Patrick

**Greeters & Ushers**

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz,  
Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre,  
Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard,  
Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Scott Rice,  
Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

**Media Team**

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell,  
Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood

**Altar Guild**

Linda Fewell, Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard,  
Mark Nelson, Steve & Peggy Ragan,  
Jan Phillips

**Congregation Council**

Scott Rice, president; Ann Greenwood, vice  
president; Peggy Ragan, secretary; Anita  
Wooton, treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant  
treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Gail Lidinsky;  
Mark Nelson; Joan Searles; Lauren Wardach

\* \* \* \* \*

**Pastor**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

**Assistant to the Pastor**

Rev. Larry Wright

**Retired Pastors in Residence**

Rev. John Hilficker

Rev. Marianne Powrie

Rev. John Spittal

Rev. David Wagner

**Director of Family and Child Ministry**

Deborah Dornemann

**Lead Cantor/Music Librarian**

Tom Tryon

**Operations Administrator**

Jennifer Shaffer

**Communications Administrator**

Linda Fewell

- 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.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WE STAND*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister  
of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you  
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 858

*First and last verses*

*We sing together*



- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

## 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. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.  
Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made  
known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

*WE SIT*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31**

L: A Reading from Isaiah.

- <sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.
- <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
- <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
- <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
- <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

L: We read verses from Psalm 147 responsively.

The Lord heals the brokenhearted.

**C: The Lord heals the brokenhearted.**

L: <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.

**C: The Lord heals the brokenhearted.**

L: <sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.  
<sup>6</sup>The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.  
<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,  
<sup>8</sup>who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.

**C: The Lord heals the brokenhearted.**

L: <sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.  
<sup>10</sup>God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,  
<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love.  
<sup>20c</sup> Hallelujah!

**C: The Lord heals the brokenhearted.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

L: A Reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!

<sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.

<sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.

<sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.

<sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law.

<sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.

<sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*WE STAND*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*We sing together*



## GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

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

P: <sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

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

*WE SIT*

**SERMON**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

*WE STAND*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

ELW 834

*See next page*

*We sing together*

*First and last verses*

## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

## APOSTLES' CREED

**P:** Together, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

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.

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.

**Amen.**



## WE SIT

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*We respond following each prayer petition*

P: ... God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## WE STAND

### PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.*

## WE SIT

### OFFERTORY



*The offering is collected at this time. Online giving is available by scanning the QR Code printed here or at [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com). We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.*

## WE STAND

*We sing together*

**Create in Me a Clean Heart**

*Offering Song*

A musical score for a hymn, featuring two systems of music. Each system consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup, you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we may receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times...

*The presiding minister continues ...*

*The presiding minister concludes...*

... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life ...

*The presiding minister continues.*

*The presiding minister concludes ...*

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

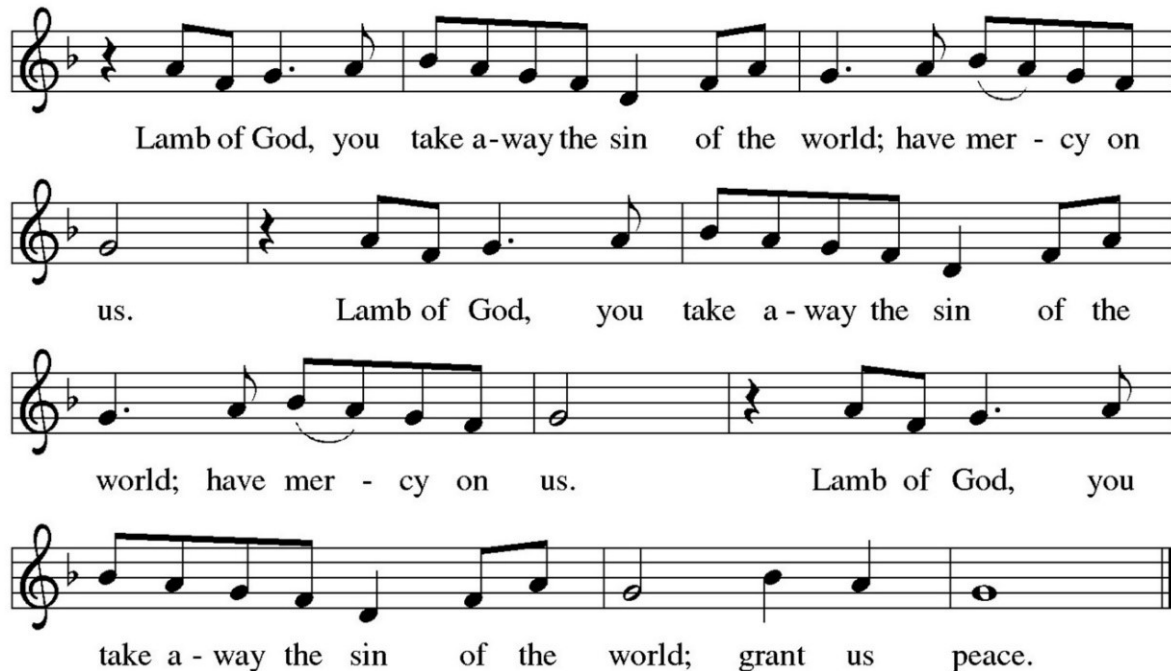
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

## COMMUNION SONG

*We sing together*



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.

*WE SIT*

*Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.*

## 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. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING SONG      Love Divine, All Loves Excelling****ELW 631***First and last verses**We sing together*

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



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy  
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in  
all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -  
spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.  
turn, and nev - er, nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.  
great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -  
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
and O - me - be; end of us faith, as  
as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
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. You are God's beloved.**C:** Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE****Rigaudon from *Idomenee*****Andre Campra**

## ***Welcome, Visitors!***

We are glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by signing our guestbook and/or 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.



## ***Seeking Sunday School Helpers: Learn More During the 10:15 a.m. Service Today and/or Contact Deborah Dornemann***

Could you help with Sunday School? **After the Children's Sermon during the 10:15 a.m. service today**, join Director of Family and Child Ministry Deborah Dornemann and young learners in the classroom to observe and learn more about being a teacher or helper. **You also can contact Deborah, [familyandchild@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:familyandchild@faithlutheransrq.com), to express your interest.**

## ***Adult Forum Meets Between Services***

Adult Forum meets between services, **9:10-9:50 a.m. in the conference room**. Today, the group will focus on Lesson 5, "The Lord Reigns" of Volume 8, "Finding Freedom in the Midst of Life's Trials," in the "That the World May Know" video series.



## ***Today is Commitment Sunday***



Today is Commitment Sunday, the close of our *Experiencing the Joy of Generosity* stewardship emphasis with today's focus on "The Joy of Sharing God's Blessings." God wants our giving and sharing to be joyful and fulfilling. How could we not be joyful when the creator of the universe chooses us to be stewards who care for his creation and gifts to us? How could we not want to express our gratitude through faithful, joyful giving? Our generosity flows out of our understanding that God has created and redeemed us. In spite of our sinful ways,

God loves us and calls us each by name. By God's grace, we can live as forgiven and redeemed people through the blood of Jesus on the cross.

Today, we make our annual commitments and, by doing so, we celebrate the blessings of Jesus Christ in our lives. Through our pledged gifts, we commit to serving him and others through the mission and ministries of our church.

## ***A Cheerful, Giving Heart is a Gift of God***

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

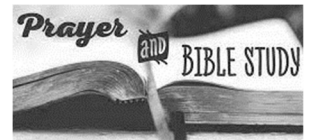
(2 Corinthians 9:7)



### ***Coffee Hour: Volunteer to Set Up, Clean Up***

Coffee hour is an important fellowship ministry at Faith that needs additional volunteers. All you have to do is put out snacks and clean up afterward. Sign up on the sheet beside the coffee pot in fellowship hall or contact Karen Naulty, [knaulty@yahoo.com](mailto:knaulty@yahoo.com) or 406-334-1063; or Denise Kirkeeng, [kirkeengd@verizon.net](mailto:kirkeengd@verizon.net) or 941-468-6668.

### ***Join in Prayer and Bible Study***



- **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at **8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Skillet's, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail.**
- **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible Study** meets at **9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the second-floor library** to focus on "Be Still and Know — A Study of Rest and Refuge."
- **Adult Bible Study of Mark's gospel** meets at **9 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 7, in the upstairs classroom across from the elevator. NOTE: The earlier-than-usual start time allows the group to cover the final two chapters of the study.** Light refreshments! Great discussion! Fun fellowship!
- **The Prayer Group** meets at **10:30 a.m. Wednesday in the chapel** to pray for all in need, our community, our nation and our world. The gathering concludes with Holy Communion. Can't attend in person? Join via Zoom: Meeting ID 871 4720 3661. Passcode 041291. **The group will not meet on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, nor on Wednesdays during Lent. All are encouraged to attend Lenten Wednesday worship, followed by lunch.**



### ***Faith Walk and Talk Steps Off Feb. 10***

Faith Walk and Talk, a group that combines walking and chatting, steps off again at **9:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, outside of Panera Gulf Gate, 6589 S. Tamiami Trail.**

Walkers will set off on a roughly two mile Gulf Gate-area walk and make new friends along the way. Questions? Contact Carolyn Francis, 941-400-0083.

## ***Bereavement Group Meets Wednesday***

The Bereavement Group meets at **1 p.m. Wednesday in the chapel**. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, join in. There is strength in community. On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the group will meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and will not meet Wednesday, Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday.



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## ***Stitch 'n' Chatter Meets Thursdays***

Grab your hooks and needles for Stitch 'n' Chatter, **1-2:30 p.m. Thursdays in room 212**.



## ***Confirmation Class Meets Thursday Evenings***

Confirmation Class meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays via Zoom:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054124705?pwd=jkQYOlazk519ubngIAeJxxa6USxWOA.1>, Meeting ID 830 5412 4705, Passcode 688400.  
Contact Pastor Eric with questions.

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## ***Join the Sunday Morning Media Team***

Both of Faith's Sunday services now are live-streamed and recorded, so we need more volunteers to operate the equipment. If you have used a computer, it's easy! Questions or interest? Contact Pastor Marianne, [pastorp2.0@gmail.com](mailto:pastorp2.0@gmail.com) or (330) 464-0985.



## ***Help Advocate for Affordable Housing***

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (S.U.R.E.), a faith-based community organizing entity of which Faith is a covenant member, is focused on **affordable and accessible housing**. Interested in getting involved? Contact Pastor Eric.

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## ***Combat Hunger, Have Fun with Feb. 11 Souper Bowl***

Let's combat hunger, fortify the Faith Food Pantry and have a little fun! **Next Sunday, Feb. 11, you are invited to bring a can of soup or a case of cans and place them on the table in fellowship hall that represents your pick to be the Super Bowl champs!** Will it be the Kansas City Chiefs or the San Francisco 49ers? Let's see if our souper generosity can predict the victor! A big thank you to Judy and John Millard, our Souper Bowl commissioners.





## ***Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory***



Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one, or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, please choose an alternate date. **The next open date is Sunday, March 17.**

When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication will be published in the bulletin on your selected Sunday. To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with your payment, and place it in the offering plate. Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.
- By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
- By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, [faithlutheransrq.com](http://faithlutheransrq.com).

If you have specific requests about who or what facility should receive your donated flowers, contact Judi Melander, [judimelander629@gmail.com](mailto:judimelander629@gmail.com) or 941-927-2502.

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### ***Worship to Go Expands with Your Help***

Worship to Go has expanded to two facilities this year.

The next service at **Elancé** kicks off at **10:45 a.m.**

**Tuesday, Feb. 13, in the independent living facility's Tiffany Room next door to Faith.** Worship to Go volunteers will meet at **10 a.m. Feb. 13 in the Faith chapel** to review the service.

The next service at **Angel Senior Living, 5750 Honore Ave., is set for 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the facility's second-floor theatre.**

Volunteers will meet at **12:45 p.m. in the Faith chapel** and will carpool to the facility.

**We need additional Worship to Go helpers. If you can help, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055. No experience necessary!**

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### ***Faith Welcomes New Members Feb. 11***

Are you contemplating membership at Faith? Please contact Pastor Eric. We will welcome new members during both services next Sunday, Feb. 11.



## ***Accept the Challenge! Help Create Personal-Care Kits***



The simple items of a  
**PERSONAL CARE KIT**  
can bring both hygiene  
and dignity to those  
suffering trying times.



Experts with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) say that personal-care kits are among most-requested items because they make a profound difference for people struggling with poverty. LWR has challenged us to react with compassion, and the women of Mary Circle are leading the effort to take on the challenge!

**Beginning Feb. 14 and throughout the weeks of Lent, please donate bath-size towels, metal nail clippers, 4-5 oz. bars of soap, combs and adult-sized toothbrushes. Don't have time to shop? Monetary contributions to Faith designated for "personal care kits" are welcome.** During 2023, Mary Circle created 60 kits. Can we donate enough for 70 this year? Thanks in advance for responding generously.

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### ***Mary Circle: All Can Help Celebrate 2024 Bold Woman, and Women Are Invited to Feb. 13 Meeting***

- **Sunday, Feb. 11, join coffee hour sponsored by Mary Circle to joyfully celebrate Faith's Bold Woman of 2024.** You'll have the opportunity to donate to the circle's 2024 efforts to help others and support women's ministries.
- **At noon, Tuesday, Feb. 13, all women are invited to Mary Circle's regular meeting.** Following January's fun gathering with sisters from Emmanuel Lutheran Venice, the February meeting will feature Pastor Marianne Powrie, who will speak about opportunities for growth in women's ministries. Please bring your lunch; dessert will be provided.



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### ***Be There for Feb. 25 Annual Meeting, Note Worship Schedule Change for that Date Only***



Faith's 2024 annual meeting is set for Sunday, Feb. 25. On that Sunday, there will be one worship service at 9 a.m., immediately followed by the meeting. After the meeting adjourns, plan to stay for lunch and fellowship.

# ***Worship and Service Calendar***

## **Worship Services**

Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Live-streamed and recorded at:

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

## **Sunday, Jan. 28**

Online views 35

8 a.m. in person 40

10:15 a.m. in person 155

## **Next Sunday, Feb. 11**

### **First Reading**

2 Kings 2:1-12

Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha

### **Psalmody**

Psalm 50:1-6

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory (*Ps. 50:2*)

### **Second Reading**

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ

### **Gospel**

Mark 9:2-9

Revelation of Christ as God's beloved son

## **This Week at Faith**

### **Monday, Feb. 5**

### **Tuesday, Feb. 6**

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Prayer Breakfast, Skillet's, 8635 S. Tamiami

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, conference room

6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota, Sanctuary

### **Wednesday, Feb. 7**

9 a.m. Adult Bible Study, upstairs classroom

10:30 a.m. Prayer Group, chapel

1 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

6:30 p.m. Voices of Faith Choir Rehearsal, choir room

### **Thursday, Feb. 8**

9 a.m. Receive and Prep Food Delivery, food pantry

1 p.m. Stitch 'n' Chatter, room 212

4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep

5 p.m. Food Pantry Open

6 p.m. Jazzercise, gym

7 p.m. Confirmation, Zoom

### **Friday, Feb. 9**

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

### **Saturday, Feb. 10**

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room

9:30 a.m. Faith Walk and Talk, Panera, 6598 S. Tamiami Trail

### **Sunday, Feb. 11**

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

9:30 a.m. Voices of Faith, choir room

10:25 a.m. Sunday School, classroom

2 p.m. German Congregation Worship and Fellowship



## ***Prayer List***

*Please remember in your prayers this week:*



Marsha Anderson, sister of Gail Murphy  
Rev. Steve Anderson, pastor at  
    Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Tim Anderson, son-in-law of Dick and Jetty Zarfos  
Anna Bancroft, 6-year-old  
    friend of Alyene Weaver  
Chuck Banta  
Chloe Bennenthum, friend of Gail Murphy  
Sean and Rebekah Brett, son and daughter-in-law  
    of Alyene Weaver  
Charles Budreau  
Family & Friends of David Bunce,  
    friend of Kevin & Linda Fewell  
Jason Byrne, friend of Anita Wooton  
Elise Carmona  
Evelyn Conlon  
Jordan Demers, cousin of Hannah Boyd  
Eloise Dettmer  
Philomena Dimichelle, friend of Conrad Zabor  
Ken Dixon  
Ryan and Valerie Donahue  
Elizabeth Farmer  
Judy & Robert Ferguson  
Carolyn & Marty Friedman,  
    friends of Marlene Radesk  
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler  
Andrea Gamboa  
Amanda Gerber,  
    daughter of Sandy Gerber  
Laurie Good, friend of Ann Greenwood  
Elaine Graham  
Paula Haas, friend of Eloise Dettmer  
Jon Hale  
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen  
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles  
Patricia Head, mother of Wayne Head  
Michael Helpin, friend of Marlene Radesk

Christiana Holmes  
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of  
    Anita and Jon Wooton  
Jesus & Rita Jimenez  
Alf Kirkeeng  
Lillian Lapenckass  
Jacqueline Laurent,  
    friend of Margaret Borrows  
Lois Light  
Shirley Manning, friend of Margaret Borrows  
Paul & Debby Maresch  
Vincenzo Mariani, friend of Conrad Zabor  
Kathleen McBride  
Judi Melander  
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins  
Beverly Novak, cousin of Patty McKee  
Olaf Olsen, father of Pastor Eric Olsen  
Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan  
James & Virginia Pease  
Fran Perkins  
Wally Pina  
Kristen Pizan  
Marlene Radesk  
Fritz Rappold  
Gabriel Rockwell  
Ted and Carol Rodi  
Floyd Ryder  
Phillip Schlueter  
Rev. John Spittal  
Dianne Stoll, friend of Dorothy Gustavson  
Cathy Stubenvoll  
Ron and Leigh Tarrantino  
Werner Thomsen, brother of John Thomsen  
Colette Thornbloom  
David Turnbull  
Jon Wooton  
Family & Friends of Angelo Yerace

- **Contact [officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com)** if you or someone you know would appreciate a **communion visit, hospital or home visit, to be contacted or to receive a card in the mail.**
- **Contact [communications@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:communications@faithlutheransrq.com)** if you have an **addition to the Prayer List.** Please send updates when prayers are answered.