



## Faith Lutheran Church

*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ*

Sunday, November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent ~ 9:30 am

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Temple Talk - Doug Congdon

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. (A brief silence.) God of all time,

**C: We confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

P: Comfort, o comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

**C: Amen.**



## ~ OPENING HYMN ~

### Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song,  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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.**

## INTRODUCTION

P: The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

**C: Amen**

## Making A Life

**JORDAN**  
**ELCA.org/**  
**disaster**



In the last year, a record number of people have fled unimaginable conflict and war in Syria. Many Syrians have found refuge in one of the largest refugee camps in the world, the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. Among them is Louie, 19, and his family. While the majority of his family wants to go back to Syria, Louie has other ideas. "I think it'd be very difficult to go back to Syria," Louie says. "I just want to go somewhere that is safe, where I can make a life for myself." Louie and a business partner have a barbershop in the Za'atari camp. Having already had some experience working in a salon, he eagerly accepted when given the opportunity to participate in the barber classes offered through a life-skills training program. This program is made possible in part through gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response in partnership with The Lutheran World Federation. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are providing life skills to people like Louie but are also providing protection, shelter, education, basic relief, water and sanitation to thousands of refugees living in the Za'atari camp. For Louie, your gifts have helped him provide for his family and have given him a chance to make a life for himself when he's somewhere safe, wherever that may be. Because of you, Lutheran Disaster Response continues to bring God's hope and healing to Louie and others like him.

# Happy Birthday To You!

## NOVEMBER

4 – Sarah Miller  
7 – George Brunson  
10 – Judy Jenner  
15 – Eloise Manley  
19 – Eunice Marks  
20 – Karen Murr  
28 – Terri Schoepski

## DECEMBER

2 – Gail Krause  
5 – Mary Ann Mueller  
13 – Mike Murphy  
16 – Rachel Schuller  
24 – Nicole Blakeman  
25 – Kathy Strasser  
31 – Pat Schnurr

If your birthday is not listed, please see Sue or leave a note!



We have a few tags left on our Salvation Army Angel Tree. We are also collecting unwrapped toys for all ages - no Angel tag is needed. Thank you for your generosity!

**If you haven't picked up your 2017 envelopes, they're on the back table in Fellowship.**

*Please receive your Advent devotional book (1 per family), "From Heaven Above", by Michael Hoy. It is for every day use during Advent. We have key tags, either Advent or a 2017 calendar. For the children, we have a special Advent calendar.*

On Sunday, December 11, Thrivent representatives will be with us to explain how service projects can be supported with \$250 gift cards.

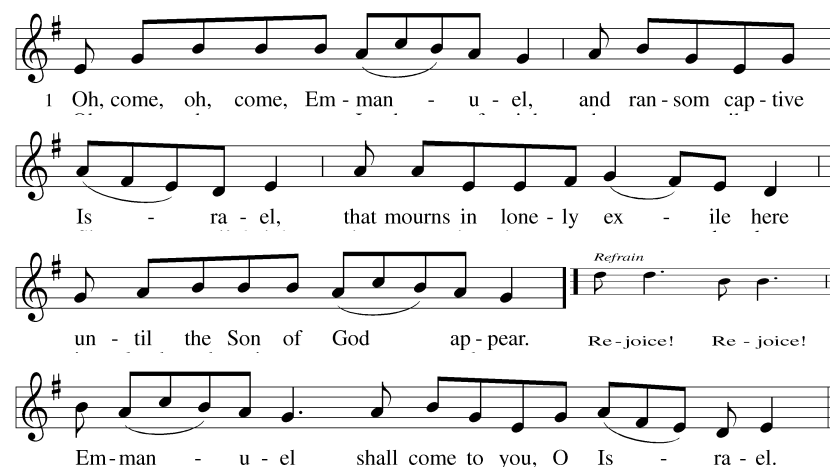
**Next Saturday, December 3 is the Secret Sister brunch and gift exchange in the Fellowship Room 11-1pm. All Faith women are invited to come! The "All About Me" forms to fill out to draw names from are on the table in the narthex. See you there!**

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen**

## ADVENT HYMN, LIGHTING OF FIRST CANDLE



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**ALL:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Church

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### PSALM 122 ~ A RESPONSIVE READING

R: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

C: **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

R: Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

C: **To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

R: For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

C: **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

R: Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

C: **For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

R: Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

### SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God!**



## First, We Give of Ourselves Giving in Generosity

Dear Members of Faith,

Thanks be to God for the generous outpouring of gifts that Faith Lutheran Church experienced this past Sunday as we celebrated the commitment of gifts for our ministry next year. Over these past number of weeks, our discipleship and stewardship emphasis, **First, We Give of Ourselves**, has led us in conversation about being disciples of Jesus and growing in giving. We celebrate each day God's rich grace in our lives and how we give of ourselves in response to God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ. Our Celebration and Commitment Sunday was a day of joy, delight, and thanksgiving as we received commitments totaling \$1,529.56 per week pledged, with 41 Pledge Cards received, toward our mission and ministry for the coming year at Faith Lutheran Church.

If you haven't returned your Pledge Card or Time and Talent Sheet as yet, please do so today or at your earliest convenience.

Thanks be to God for all that is happening at Faith Lutheran Church! Thank you too, for all you do in our ministry together.

May God bless your generosity!



## Today's Worship Leaders

**Altar Guild** - Kathy Strasser & Terry Schrupp

**Computer Technician** - Mike Banker

**Offering Video** - Helen Meier

**Counters** - Roger & Carol Frey

**Fellowship** -

**Greeters** - Dick Hedrington, Sandy & Don Dittmer

**Musician** - Betty Comins

**Reader** - Ellen Olson

**Ushers** - Doug Congdon and Todd Strasser

**Pastor** - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier



Today we pray for our friends and family here at Faith Lutheran Church, as well as: Adam, Alyson, Amy, Audrey, Barb, Barry, Barry & Shelby, Ben, Bev, Bill, Bob, Bob Quinn and Family, Bonnie, Bonnie Cliffe, Brayton, Brian, Carl, Cindy, Claudine, Colleen, Connie, Connie & Denny Price, Courtney, Dave, Debi, Denise, Dennis, Dick, Don, Emily, Ethel, Evelyn, Florence, Funk Family, Gary, Gavin, George, Gere, Harriet, Heidi, Helen Meier, Howard, Ian, Irene A., Jaleena, Janet, Jarrett, Jean, Jeff, Jenni Jo, Jeremy, Jessica, Jimmy, Joe, Joyce, Joyce H., Joyce Hatch, Judy, Judy Webster and family, Kaci, Kamya, Karla, Kathy Mears, Kelli, Larry, Leroy, Lisa, Lisa Wright, Logan, Louise, Marion, Margie, Mark B., Mary, Mary Lou, Maureen M., Nancy, Nash, Nikko, Penny, Rich, Ricky, Robin, Robyn, Roger, Sam, Sara, Sarah, Scott Wright, Shalom, Shannon, Sharon, Shelly, Sue, Teresa, Terri, Terri M., Terry, Tim, Todd, Tom, Tommy, Trisha & Noah, Tristan, Vance, Vic, Vicki & Rick, Viola, Zach, Zoey all service men and women, all homeless and unemployed.

## **"ALLELUIA"**



## **GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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



# SERMON

## "How Shall We Keep Awake?"

### ~ Hymn of the Day ~

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## Worship

**Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church.** We are so happy to have you worship with us today! Please join us after worship in our Fellowship Room for beverages, snacks and conversation.

**Communion** is by intinction. Come forward as directed by the ushers, receive the bread with an open hand then dip it in the wine (dark) or juice (light). If you accidentally eat the bread before dipping or drop it, please ask for another piece. You do not have to be a member of Faith or be Lutheran to take Communion. Christ is the host of the meal and ALL baptized believers are welcome!

**Offering** ~ As always, if you are unable to attend worship, please make sure to catch up with your **offering** the next week. Or, if you'd like, please mail it to the church office and write "offering" on the envelope and it will be included in that week's offering and seen only by the designated counters for the day. Thank you for being faithful in giving generously to God's work here at Faith Lutheran!

### Financials for Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016 - Week 47

Attendance - 87

Weekly Offering Actual	\$1,741.50
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,068.00
2016 YTD Actual Offering	\$94,177.80
2016 YTD Offering Needed	\$97,196.00
Offerings YTD Toward Roof Loan	\$5,274.50

**Thanks to everyone who donated canned goods to our Thanksgiving Food Drive. All of it was taken to Caritas & was appreciated!**  
**Patti Dunaway & Karen Murr**



Please plan on staying for a bit to help decorate our Christmas tree next Sun., December 4th, following worship.

## BLESSING

P: May Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path.  
Almighty God, Father , + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

## CLOSING HYMN “Choral Benediction”

May the light of God shine on us today.  
May the light of God shine on us today.  
May it show us where to travel,  
lead us back if we should stray.  
May the light of God shine on us today.

May the love of God live in us today.  
May the love of God live in us today.  
May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.  
May the love of God live in us today.

May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**On this Thanksgiving weekend, we have an opportunity to express our gratitude to God for our blessings by giving a door offering to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.**



*Today's altar flowers are presented by: George & Sue Brunson, in honor of George's & Sue's Mom's birthdays*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need. (A brief silence.) For the church and its leaders, and for all who work for the unity of the gospel; that the compassion of Christ break down all divisions, let us pray.

C: **Have mercy, O God.**

P: For the well-being of creation, for mountains and hills, lakes and rivers, snow and sunshine, plants and animals, and for all who care for the earth; that God raise up stewards to protect this good creation, let us pray.

C: **Have mercy, O God.**

P: For peace among nations, for those who lead all levels of government, for judges and magistrates, and for those who speak for the voiceless; that all are treated with equity and fairness, let us pray.

C: **Have mercy, O God.**

P: For those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned, for those in any need (*especially*); that the compassion shown by Christ be embodied in caregivers and advocates, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

P: For those who gather for word and sacrament, for those who travel, and for our holiday preparations; that in all our activities we give thanks to the Lord, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

P: In thanksgiving for those who have died and are at rest; that their witness to the gospel serve as examples of living the life of faith, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### SHARING PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~  
"I Need A Silent Night" By Amy Grant

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

### OFFERING PRAYER

P: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

**C: Amen**

### DIALOGUE

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 and praise to the Lord our God.

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

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

~ COMMUNION ~

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**