



~ OPENING HYMN ~

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;  
 now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je-sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for-ev-er-more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-last-ing hall.



Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

C: Amen

**INTRODUCTION**

P: On this Christmas morning, the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh - in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

C: Amen

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, December 18, 2016 - Week 51

**Attendance - 92**

<b>Weekly Offering Actual</b>	<b>\$1,426.00</b>
<b>Weekly Offering Budget</b>	<b>\$2,068.00</b>
<b>2016 YTD Actual Offering</b>	<b>\$101,511.00</b>
<b>2016 YTD Offering Needed</b>	<b>\$103,400.00</b>
<b>Offerings YTD Toward Roof Loan</b>	<b>\$5,569.50</b>

Today's Worship Leaders

- Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey**
- Computer Technician - Mike Banker**
- Offering Video - Rachel Strasser**
- Counters - Roger & Carol Frey**
- Fellowship - George and Sue Brunson**
- Greeters - Viola Thostenson, George & Sue Brunson**
- Musician - Betty Comins**
- Reader - Kathy Strasser**
- Ushers - Doug Congdon and Craig Miller**
- Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier**

## CLOSING HYMN

### Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (A brief silence.)

C: **Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from Isaiah, the 52<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 98 ~ A Responsive Reading

R: Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

C: **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

R: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

C: **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

R: Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

C: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

R: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

**C: Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

R: The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

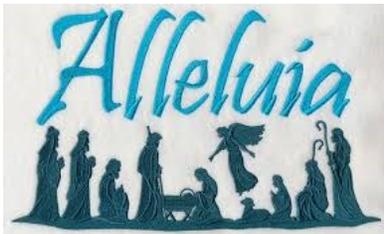
A reading from Hebrews, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### “ALLELUIA”



## 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

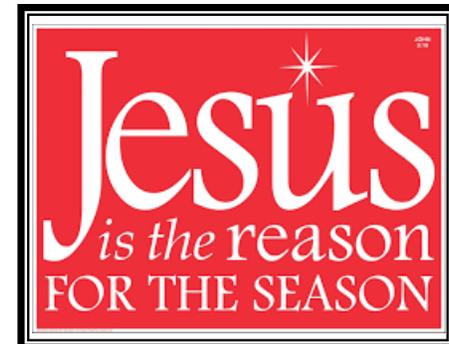
P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

### BLESSING

P: May Christ who by his incarnation has filled us with a grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**



P: Holy God, you show your love and faithfulness in every generation. Through the witness of our ancestors in the faith, you have shown us how to testify to your grace and truth.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“Mary, Did You Know?” by Straight No Chaser

### 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: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

**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.**

### GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

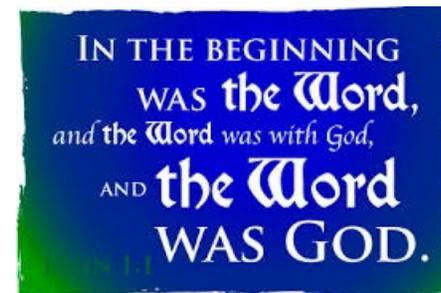
P: The holy gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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



### SERMON

“Christ for All Times”

~ Hymn of the Day ~

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

**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:** Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation. (A brief silence.) Holy God, you raise up leaders throughout the church to proclaim your word of hope. Unite the church through the good news of salvation, so that all will know and experience your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Holy God, you created mountains and hills, seas and rivers, and all creatures. Reveal to us the goodness of all you have made so that we live wisely with these your gifts.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Holy God, you desire that all people live in peace. Guide all in positions of authority to lead with equity, and give courage to advocates who speak for the voiceless.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Holy God, you sent your Son to be our physician and remedy. Strengthen medical professionals and counselors to care for the sick and grieving (*especially*), so that all people experience healing and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Holy God, you gather us together in community, blessing us with friends and family. Make yourself known to all who participate in worship today, and send us forth to serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**