

We pray for: Adam, Alyson & Jarrett, Angie, Aunt Pat, Barbara, Barry & Shelby, Beverly, Bill, Bob, Boyd, Brayton, Brett, Brian, Carl, Chase, Cindy, Claudine, Connie, Debi, Debra, Denise, Don, Donna, Doug, Dustin, Elaine, Eloise, Emily, Harriet, Heidi, Helen, Howard, Irene, Gail, Gary, Gavin, George, Geoff, Ian, Inez, Jackie, Jaleena, Jalen, Janet, Janice, Janie, Jessica, Jim, Jim Blazier Family, Joan, Joyce, Kathy, Kelli, Kelly, Kennadi, Kenny, Kevin, Kim, Krystal, Kurt, Linda, Louise, Lyla, Marion, Mary, Mason, Matt, Mike, Nancy, Nikko, Pat, Ricky, Roger, Sam, Sara, Sarah, Shalom, Sharon, Shelly, Stephanie, Tammie, Tammy, Ted, Teresa, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tracy, Tripp, Tristan, Vance, Vicki, Viola, Vivian, Zach, Zoey, all service men and women, all homeless and unemployed, and our shut-ins. God bless them.

### Today's Worship Leaders

A heartfelt

Altar Guild - Carol and Roger Frey  
Computer Technician - Mike Banker  
Offering Video - Helen Meier



Counters - Roger and Carol Frey  
Fellowship - Kathy and Bob Strasser  
Greeters - Viola Thostenson and Sue Brunson  
Musician - Betty Comins  
Reader - Ellen Olson  
Ushers - Doug Congdon and George Brunson  
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier

TO OUR  
VOLUNTEERS

We ask that all children be present each Sunday for Children's Church so they can rehearse for the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17.  
Thanks! Anne Strasser & Amanda Guffey



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



## Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ  
Sunday, December 10, 2017  
Second Sunday of Advent ~ 9:30 am

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## OPENING HYMN

### Prepare the Royal Highway



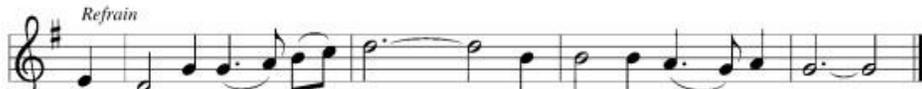
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

**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:** John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

**C:** Amen.

## Worship

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

**Communion** is by intinction. Come forward by rows to receive the bread with an open hand then dip it in the wine (dark) or juice (light).

**GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AN OPTION FOR COMMUNION.**

**Just indicate to Pastor when it's your turn.** If you eat the bread before dipping or drop it, please ask for another piece. You don't have to be a member of Faith or be Lutheran to take Communion. Christ is the host of the meal - 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 to be included in that week's offering, seen only by the designated counters. Thank you for being so faithful in giving generously to God's work here at Faith Lutheran.

### Financials for Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017 - Week 49

**Attendance - 102**

Weekly Offering Actual	\$2,669.10
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,111.00
2017 YTD Actual Offering	\$101,752.00
2017 YTD Offering Needed	103,439.00
Offerings YTD Toward Roof Loan	\$9,617.63



***Poinsettia orders are due no later than this Wednesday, Dec. 13. Each plant is \$12.***



**Please bring in your unwrapped toys and gifts for our Salvation Army drive by Dec. 17.**



**Please mark your calendar  
 Sunday, December 24th:  
 Christmas Candlelight service at 5pm**

**~ NO 9:30AM SERVICE ~**

## 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.**

## 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.**



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord’s way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: **Amen.**

## ADVENT HYMN, LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law



un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joyce! Re - joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Church

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah, the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## A Responsive Reading From Psalm 85

R: You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

R: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

C: **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

R: Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C: **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

## ~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~ "Prepare Ye the Way" by Doug & Jude Krehbiel

### 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 ~

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. (*A brief silence.*) We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**



R: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

**C: Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## “ALLELUIA”



## GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

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

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

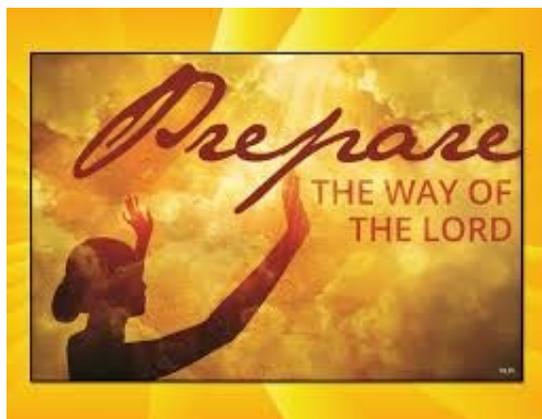
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

"Counter-Cultural Preparation"



## Hymn of the Day

### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## 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.