



Today we pray for our friends and families:
 Adam, Angella, Aunt Pat, Bailey, Beth, Bev,
 Bill, Bob, Boyd & Inez Miller, Brayton, Brett,
 Brian, Carl, Cindy, Claudine, Connie, Debi, Denise, Dick, Dodi,
 Don, Donna Porter, Dorothy, Dustin Insko, Elaine, Emily,
 Family of Nikko Zollar, Florence, Funk Family, Gail, Gary,
 George, Harriet, Heidi, Ian, Irene, Jalen, Janet, Janie, Jean,
 Jeff, Jen, Jessica, Jim, Jim Bazier Family, John, Joyce, Kelli,
 Kelli Hedrington, Ken, Kim, Kim S., Kurt, Larry, Linda, Lori,
 Lyla Williams, Marion, Mark, Mary, Maureen, Nancy, Nancy &
 Geoff, at, Payton, Rich, Ricky, Roger, Ron Porter, Sandy, Sara,
 Shalom, Shannon, Sharon, Shelby, Shirley, Steve, Sue,
 Tammy, Ted, Teresa, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tracy, Trisha,
 Tristan, Vance, Vicki, Viola, Vivian, Zach, Zak, Zoey, all service
 men and women, all homeless and unemployed, our shut-ins,
 our college students, and those in the military and their
 families, that God will keep them in his grace and care.

Happy Birthday To You!

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

10 - Hannah Guffey
 12 - Betty Bonner
 20 - Viola Thostenson
 23 - Amy McCormick
 27 - Samantha Guffey
 27 - Victor Lipinski
 30 - Craig Miller

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



Sunday, Dec. 24 ~ 5pm
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 NO 9:30am SERVICE

Sunday, December 31
 Second Sunday of Christmas
 9:30am Worship
 Happy New Year's Eve!



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ
 Sunday, December 17, 2017
 Third 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.



OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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: God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus.

Worship

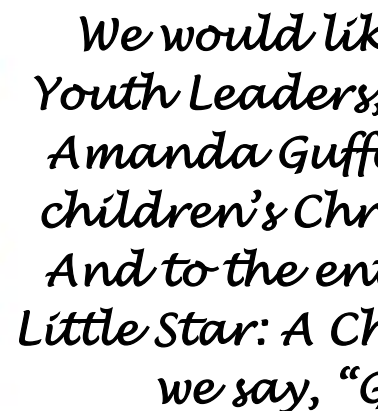
Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church. We are happy to have you worship with us today! Please join us in our Fellowship Room for beverages, snacks and conversation after worship. **Communion** is by intinction. Come forward by rows to receive the bread with an open hand then dip it in the wine (dark) or juice (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** next week. Or, if you'd like, 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. 10, 2017 - Week 50

Attendance - 115

Weekly Offering Actual	\$3,353.00
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,111.00
2017 YTD Actual Offering	\$105,105.19
2017 YTD Offering Needed	\$105,550.00
Offerings YTD Toward Roof Loan	\$9,617.63



*We would like to thank our
 Youth Leaders, Anne Strasser &
 Amanda Guffey for the superb
 children's Christmas program.
 And to the entire cast of "The
 Little Star: A Christmas Fantasy"
 we say, "GREAT JOB!"*

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. Christ is with you.
C: Thanks be to God.



Today's Worship Leaders

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



She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

C: Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen.

**ADVENT HYMN, LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE
Verses 1, 2, and 3**

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



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



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. 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. *(A brief silence.)*

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Program



The Little Star: A Christmas Fantasy

Time: - the evening of the First Christmas

CAST

Narrator - Taylor Gruenberg

Starlighter - Alexis Rice-Devlin

Little Star - Erika Stinson

Talking Stars - Hannah Guffey, Nate Blakeman,
Hayden Gruenberg, Samantha Guffey

Mary - Kamya Robison

Joseph - Tyson Williams

Angels - Mariah & Lily Schlegel, Ava Williams,
Aubrey Miller, Aly Hatch

Shepherds - Bennet & Autumn Marty,
Aaron Blakeman, Liam Cihlar

Wise Men - Reece Binder, Tallen Baker, Lucy Naff

Song verses to sing during "The Little Star" program

1. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, o come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel.

That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the son of God appear;
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel;
shall ransom thee, O Israel.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

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.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: You bring down the powerful and raise up the lowly. Where war rages, shatter hatred with forgiveness and peace. Where fear rules, make your all-powerful and eternal presence known.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You remember us with mercy, Lord, as you have done for all generations. Fill us, comfort us, strengthen us, and enlighten us. Make your will known to all in need. Today we pray especially for

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You called Mary to bear your Son. We pray for pregnant women, for mothers and fathers of infants and small children, and especially for couples who bear the pain of infertility, miscarriage, or stillbirth. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your kingdom has no end. With your servants throughout time, women and men, old and young, unite us forever in your reign of peace and joy. 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.

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“Mary, Did You Know?” by Texas Tenors

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.

2. O Little Town of Bethlehem

O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above the deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonite.

3. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on Earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

4. We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar.
Field and fountains, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of might;
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Morning Has Broken

Morning is breaking like the first morning,
Born like the new light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise this new morning,
God's re-creation of the new day.
This is the morning, time re-beginning,
World without ending now has begun.
Praise him with singing on this glad morning.,
The newborn Savior smiles at the sun.

“ALLELUIA”



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON: "Proclaiming God's Greatness

Hymn of the Day My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for (*A brief silence.*) Your eternal reign has come into the world. Give us ears to hear your call to serve your kingdom, and send us out to those who are hurting and in need of good news. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: You created the mystery and beauty of the earth. Replenish rivers, lakes, seas, and all bodies of water, so that plants, animals, and humans can have life and be refreshed.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**