

~ OPENING HYMN ~

The Bells of Christmas



Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

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: From the beginning, by virtue of our baptism, we are called Christian. We were “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing his name, we share the same Father and are invited to address him intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of the Father. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

C: Amen.



A Message from Pastor Rick

It seems redundant to produce a newsletter, when all your information is included in this bulletin. We’ve reduced our mailing list to those we know are still part of our worshiping congregation, though we can still send this announcement out to those who receive our email. You can help us transmit any other messages.

Finally, please let me take this occasion to wish the Faith family a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year! I thank you for the privilege of continuing to receive me as your pastor. I don’t even use the “interim” title any longer, even though it is technically accurate to do so. However, Helen and I still plan to take our sabbatical retreat during January, going south where it is warm! My friend, Pastor Karl Otto, will cover for me from Jan. 2 -30. I’ll be here on New Year’s Day, and back in the office again on February 1. God’s blessings to you!

Pastor Rick (and Helen) Meier

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 25, 2016 - Week 52

Attendance - 114

Weekly Offering Actual	\$2,581.00
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,068.00
2016 YTD Actual Offering	\$104,092.00
2016 YTD Offering Needed	\$107,536.00
Offerings YTD Toward Roof Loan	\$5,639.50



Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey
Computer Technician - Mike Banker
Offering Video - Helen Meier
Counters - Roger & Carol Frey
Fellowship - George and Sue Brunson
Greeters - Pat and Laurie Wicks
Musician - Betty Comins
Reader - Pat Wicks
Ushers - George Brunson and Craig Miller
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from Numbers, the 6th chapter.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8 – A Responsive Reading

R: O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: You whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

R: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

C: What are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?

R: Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

C: You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

R: All flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

C: The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

R: O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from Galatians, the 4th chapter.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

"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 2:15-21

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN - "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain**

**Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**



DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. 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: 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.

SERMON "The Name Above All Names"

~ Hymn of the Day ~

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes,
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921

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.) Blessed Jesus, your name is proclaimed through preaching, sacraments, music, art, and all forms of creativity. Bring together congregations and leaders from various traditions to make you known.
Lord, in your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Jesus, you reveal yourself through creation, here on earth and throughout the cosmos. Protect endangered species, bring favorable weather, and guide us to be good stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Jesus, you show nations and leaders the way of the humble servant. Guide all in authority to use power for the benefit of all people throughout the world.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Jesus, you attend to the needs of your brothers and sisters. Hear the cry of those who call upon your name (*especially*) and send caregivers to provide help to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Jesus, you shower us with your grace. Accompany students returning to school, workers who rest from a busy holiday season, and your people gathered here for worship.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Jesus, you emptied yourself to take on our likeness and form so we are blessed to become children of God. Inspire us by the witness of the faithful departed to confess your name above all names. 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.

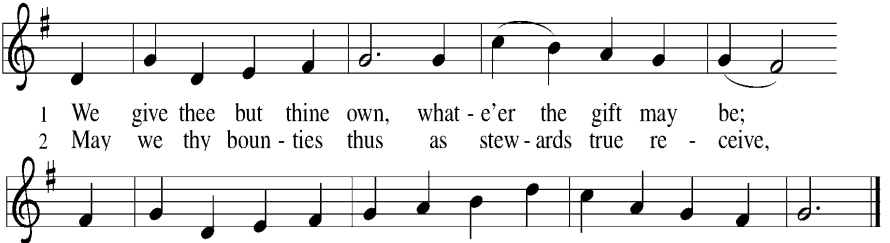
PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~
"Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child!"

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.

