



Please take your Advent devotional book (1 per family), "God With Us" by David Boyd, for every day. We have a special Advent calendar for the children, and a choice of 2 keytags for adults.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



Once again this year we will be asking you to be taking one of the 75 angels from the Salvation Army Angel Tree and bring in your UNWRAPPED gifts and toys by Sunday, December 16th. We'll have 2 barrels again. Thank you!  
Karen Murr & Patti Dunaway

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 - 12 noon to 2pm

*Secret Sister Luncheon/Reveal/Welcome New Sisters* Bring your final gift and a side dish or dessert. Main dish will be provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board!

### SATURDAY, December 15

*"Eli's Bethlehem Inn"* Dinner Theater at 6pm; a free event BUT reservations are necessary—sign up or call the church office at 815-389-1824

### MONDAY, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship Service at 5pm

### TUESDAY, December 25 Merry Christmas!

### December & January Birthdays

**DECEMBER:** 2 – Gail Krause, 5 – MaryAnn Mueller,

13 – Mike Murphy, 16 – Rachel Schuller, 18 – Sandy Johnson,

24 – Nicole Blakeman, 25 – Kathy Strasser, 31 – Pat Schnurr

**JANUARY:** 2 – Irene Balk, 10 – Hannah Guffey, 12 – Betty Bonner,

19 – Thomas Rowlett, 20 – Viola Thostenson, 23 – Amy McCormick,

27 – Samantha Guffey, 27 – Victor Lipinski, 30 – Craig Miller,

30 – Justin Brown



## Faith Lutheran Church

*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ*

Sunday, December 2, 2018 ~ 9:30 am

First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed by the Holy Trinity, + one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come before God in confession. To you, O God,

C: we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your path; and lead us in justice and truth., for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior..  
Amen.

P: Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin washed away in the name of + Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your hearts! The reign of God is near.

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.

**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 TO THE DAY

**P:** Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent our Lord in word and supper.

**C:** Amen.



*We pray for the homeless, unemployed, those with mental struggles, our shut-ins & all of our students, military personnel & their families. We pray for our friends, families & our loved ones:*

Adam, Alyson & Jarret, Aunt Bettie, Audrey Seeley, Austin Wagner, Barry & Shelby, Bill, Bob, Boyd, Christine, Claudine, Daniel Mears, Darrel, Debi, Denise, Don & Harriet, Eloise, Family of Tammie Frank, Gary, Gavin, George, Irene, Jalæna, Janie, Jean, Jeff, Julia, Kathy Mears, Kenny, Kim's mom, Kris, Lauri, Linda, Matt, Mike, Missy, Nancy, Noble, Rachel, Rich, Robert, Ruthann, Ryan, Brynn & Ellis McGuire, Sandy, Sharon, Steve, Ted, Terri, Tim, Todd, Vic, Vicki, Vivian, Zarah



**Christmas Poinsettia Order Forms** are in the office, Fellowship and in the narthex. \$12.50 each; your choice of red, pink or white flowers. Deadline is Friday, December 14th.

### Today's Worship Leaders

**Altar Guild** - Carol and Roger Frey

**Computer Tech** - Helen Meier

**Offering Video** - Mike Banker

**Reader** - Becky Gruenberg

**Counters** - Roger and Carol Frey

**Fellowship** - Pat & Bernie Parisot

**Greeters** - Patti Dunaway, Karen Murr, Dawn Witte

**Musician** - Betty Comins

**Ushers** - Doug Congdon & Shawn Guffey

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

**In case of a pastoral need, please contact Pastor Rick**  
Cell: 815-566-5247 Home: 815-227-4679  
Email: [pastorr1@comcast.net](mailto:pastorr1@comcast.net)



## Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

We are happy to have you worship with us today! Join us after worship in our Fellowship Room for a bite to eat & drink.

**COMMUNION** ~ Receive your bread or gluten-free wafer, take a small cup of wine (dark) or grape juice (light). Dispose of your cup in the receptacle on your way back to your seat.

**OFFERING** ~ If you are unable to attend worship, please make sure to catch up with your offering or mail it in. Thanks for being so faithful in giving generously to God's work at Faith Lutheran.

### Financials Sunday, November 25, 2018 - Week #47

Attendance - 78

Actual Offering	\$1,727.50
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2018 YTD Actual Offering	\$103,006.35
2018 YTD Offering Needed	\$102,272.00



## *You Are Cordially Invited to A Special Dinner Theater Christmas Event 'Eli's Bethlehem Inn'*

**Saturday, December 15, 2018  
Faith Lutheran Church ~ 6:00 pm**

**Reservations are required. Please make your reservations either on the sign-up sheet or by calling the Church office at 815-389-1824**

**A free-will offering will be taken at the event. Open to the public.**



## LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
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. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

A reading from Jeremiah, the 33rd chapter.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

## A Responsive Reading From Psalm 25

R: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

R: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those  
be put to shame who are treacherous.

C: Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

R: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of  
my salvation; in you have trusted all the day long.

C: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are  
from everlasting.

R: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the  
sake of your goodness, O LORD.

C: You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach  
sinners in your way.

R: You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

C: All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to  
those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from 1st Thessalonians, the 3rd chapter.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy  
that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we  
pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and  
restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and  
Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And  
may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one  
another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And  
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be  
blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our  
Lord Jesus with all his saints.

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

## CLOSING HYMN

### Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Date _____	Envelope # _____
	
<i>My Offering to My Church</i>	
Name _____	Amount \$ _____
Address _____	

**Please remember to stop in the  
back of church and get your  
2019 Offering box. Thank you!**

*We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be  
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
May we thou bounties thus, as stewards true receive,  
And gladly as thou blessed us, to thee our first fruits give.*

#### OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your son, our Savior and Lord.

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: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

#### BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

#### ALLELUIA

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior open now your saving word!  
Let it burn like fire within us; Speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord we sing for the good news that you bring.*

#### GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### SERMON

"SIGNS OF THE SEASON"

## 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.***

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**P:** As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation. *(A brief silence.)*  
Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all who are sick *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs *(especially)*. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light, and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of 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 ~  
*"I Need A Silent Night" by Amy Grant*