



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ
Sunday, December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ 9:30 am

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. *(A brief pause.)*
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.

Monday, December 24
5pm
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Please bring a neighbor,
friend and your family!

Sunday, December 30
9:30am

OPENING HYMN Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav' n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

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 OF THE DAY

P: Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion - with high delight - "we proclaim the Lord's death."

C: Amen.

Take-home sheets with our shut-in member's addresses are on the bulletin board for you to take! Kindly remember them with a Christmas card!



May you know the Christ of Christmas as...
The God who sings over you and with you in joy
The God who rejoices over you and with you in love.
The God whose mountains and hills break forth before you into singing; and all the trees of His fields clap their hands
The God who walks beside you, delighting with you as He directs your every step.

May you know this Lord of Love as...
The God who compassionately comforts you as a Father in all your troubles
The God who strengthens your inner man by His Spirit that is always with you.
The God who is your strength, your refuge, and a very evident and present help.
The God who is your shield and protection when you are under attack.
The ever-present God who is eternally your peace.
—Unknown



Today we pray for our friends, families, all service personnel, homeless and unemployed, our shut-ins, college students, and: Aaron, Adam, Al, Alyson & Jarrett, Alyssa, Aunt Bettie, Austin

Wagner, Barry & Shelby, Barry Webster, Bert Lucie, Bert E., Beverly, Bill, Bob, Boyd & Inez, Brad, Brayton, Brenda, Brett, Brian, Cindy, Claudine, Connie, Courtney, Cynthia, Darrell, Debi, Denise, Diane, Dick, Dolly, Don, Doug, Drew, Emma, Eric, Family of Daniel Mears, Family of Stan Taylor, Florence, Gail, Gary, Gary & Steve Lampher, Gavin, Gayle, George, Harriet & Don, Heidi, Irene, Irene A., Jacki, Jan, Janet, Janie, Janis, Jean, Jeff, Jered, Jess, Jessica, Jim, Jimmy, Jo, Joanie, June, Kamyra, Kathy Mears, Kayla, Kaylee, Kelly, Ken, Kenny, Kris, Larry, Laurie Wicks-Swanson, Lawrence, Linda, Lori, Lucy, Marion, Matt, Maureen, Melissa, Mike, Mike Hill, Nancy, Nathan, Nick, Nicole, Pat, Patricia Sarabia, Patti, Penny, Pete, Rich, Roger, Ruthann, Ryan, Brynn & Ellis McGuire, Sandy, Sharon, Shelly, Shirley, Steve, Tammy, Ted, Teresa, Terri, Tiana, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tony Sherman, Tracy, Vicki, Victor, Violet Thostenson, Vivian, Zach

Happy Birthday To You!

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

2 - Irene Balk
5 - Kim Burton
10 - Hannah Guffey
12 - Betty Bonner
20 - Viola Thostenson
23 - Amy McCormick
27 - Samantha Guffey
27 - Victor Lipinski
30 - Craig Miller

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*
- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesus, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny.
From depths of hell your people save.
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

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 binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.





"Our Family Memories of Christmas"

Narrators - Hannah Guffey & Hayden Gruenberg
Memory Sharer - Erika Stinson
Readers - Aubrey Miller and Anna Hatch
Mary - Samantha Guffey
Joseph - Nate Blakeman
Innkeeper - Thomas Schuller
Shepherd 1 - Thomas Schuller
Shepherd 2 - Nate Blakeman
Shepherd 3 - Samantha Guffey
Angel - Kaylie Schuller and Adrianna Schuller
Choral Readers: Erika Stinson, Lucy Naff,
Kaylie Schuller, Aly Hatch, Aubrey Miller,
Aaron Blakeman, Samantha Guffey, Grady Naff,
Anna Hatch, Nate Blakeman, Thomas Schuller

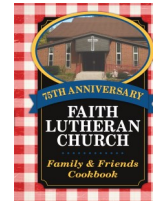
Songs during the program:

"Away In A Manger" (sung by kids)
"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"
(3 verses by the Congregation)
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
(3 verses by the Congregation)
"Little Drummer Boy" (sung by kids)
"All I Want For Christmas" (sung by kids)

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey
Computer Technician - Anne and Rachel Strasser
Offering Video - Anne and Rachel Strasser
Counters - Roger & Carol Frey
Fellowship -
Greeters - Patti Dunaway, Karen Murr, Dawn Witte
Musician - Betty Comins
Ushers - Doug Congdon and Shawn Guffey
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier

You are needed! We are in need of readers. The sign-up sheet is empty!



REMEMBER to give a Faith Lutheran 75th Anniversary Cookbook to a friend, neighbor, or family member for a great Christmas gift that keeps giving! - \$15



We would like to thank our Sunday School teachers, Anne Strasser & Amanda Guffey, for the excellent Christmas program today. And to the entire cast of "Our Family Memories of Christmas" we say, "GREAT JOB!" Thanks to the parents, grandparents and all who helped to make this program possible.

Condolences ❤️ **Our sympathy and prayers go out to Gail Krause and her family in the death of her son, Michael Krause, 52, Beloit, who passed away Sunday at Agrace Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, Janesville. Arrangements are pending. Brian G. Mark Funeral Home, Beloit, is assisting the family.**

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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.



Today's altar flowers are donated by
Alice and Larry Olson
In celebration of their 47th Anniversary

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 for Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018 - Week 50

Attendance - 103

Weekly Offering Actual	\$1,861.30
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2018 YTD Actual Offering	\$110,605.35
2018 YTD Offering Needed	\$108,800.00

In case of a pastoral need, contact Pastor Rick Meier
Cell: 815-566-5247

Home: 815-227-4679 Email: pastorr1@comcast.net

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.)*

Faithful Lord, you keep your promises. Move your church
to sing like Mary and rejoice like Elizabeth. Teach us to
sing of your faithfulness all our days. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Ancient of Days, with joy you danced over the waters and
birthed creation. Give us joy in caring for the soil beneath
us, the water around us, and the sky above us.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Prince of peace, your sacrifice gives abundant life to all.
Raise up leaders in every nation whose goals are health
and well-being for all people and creation. Grant them
wisdom and compassion to serve as you would have
them serve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Good Shepherd, you feed your flock. Fill the hungry with
good things. Lift up the lowly. Accompany the refugee.
Comfort the lonely. Heal the sick *(especially)*. Send us in
haste to surround them with your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the
cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live
with depression, grief, or heartache in this season.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Ever-living God, you are Alpha and Omega. We thank you
for all who sing now in the heavenly choir, especially
those dear to us. Join our voices with theirs in praise of
the Christ child. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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 ~

“Mary, Did You Know?” by Pentatonix



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 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.

CLOSING HYMN “Joy To The World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**