



**Tell Your  
Friends and  
Family, too!**

***Saturday, March 2***

**Faith Lutheran Church's  
2nd Annual Dinner & Trivia Night**  
**Start getting your table of 8 together!**  
**Limited number of tables available.**  
**A great time was had by all last year!**  
**We will again begin with a delicious  
Italian dinner from Anna Maria's, salad,  
beverage & homemade dessert.**  
**TRIVIA begins afterwards.**

***We are asking for donations of  
gift baskets for the silent auction.***



## **Faith Lutheran Church**

*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ*  
Sunday, December 30, 2018  
First Sunday after Christmas ~ 9:30 am

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**



**P:** Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion and bears gifts of mercy for all.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness. *(A brief silence.)*  
God, wonderful counselor,

**C: We confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.**

**P:** God's loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God gives you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

**C: Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

### Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

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: On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

C: **Amen.**



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

Bettie, Austin Wagner, Bailee, Barry & Shelby, Barry Webster, Bert Lucie, Bert E., Beverly, Bill, Bob, Boyd & Inez, Brad, Brayton, Brenda, Brett, Brian, Cindy, Claudine, Connie, Cookie, Courtney, Cynthia, Danny, Darrell, Debbie, Debi, Denise, Diane, Dick, Dolly, Don, Doug, Drew, Dustin, 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., Iris, Jacki, Jackie, Jan, Janet, Janie, Janis, Jean, Jeff, Jered, Jerry, Jess, Jessica, Jim, Jimmy, Jo, Joanie, June, Kamya, Kathy Mears, Kayla, Kaylee, Kelly, Ken, Kenny, Kim, Kris, Larry, Laurie Wicks-Swanson, Lawrence, Linda, Linda Melby & Family, Lisa, Lori, Lucy, Marion, Matt, Maureen, Melissa, Mike, Mike H., 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, Tanya, Ted, Teresa, Terri, Tiana, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tony Sherman, Tracy, Vicki, Victor, Violet Thostenson, Vivian, Zach



Pastor Rick, Helen, Betty & Sue would like to thank the congregation for your Christmas cards & gifts they received, and they wish you a happy and blessed new year in 2019!

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

Home: 815-227-4679 Email: [pastorr1@comcast.net](mailto:pastorr1@comcast.net)



**DECEMBER 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 & Victor Lipinski,  
30 - Craig Miller**

## DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

**C: Peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

**We are happy to have you worship with us today!**

*Join us 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. 23, 2018 - Week 51

Attendance - 117

Weekly Offering Actual           \$2,633.00

Weekly Offering Budget           \$2,176.00

2018 YTD Actual Offering       \$114,271.35

2018 YTD Offering Needed       \$110,976.00

### Financials for Christmas Eve - Monday, Dec. 23, 2018

Attendance - 147   Offering - \$1,033.00

### Today's Worship Leaders

**Altar Guild** - Carol & Roger Frey

**Videographer** - Helen Meier

**PowerPoint Tech** - Mike Banker

**Counters** - Roger & Carol Frey

**Reader** - Sue Brunson

**Fellowship** - Kathy & Bob Strasser

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

**Musician** - Betty Comins

**Ushers** - Doug Congdon and Shawn Guffey

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



Sunshine Committee - Karen Murr & Patti Dunaway will send Sympathy, Graduation, and Get Well cards upon notification. Call Patti at 815-389-8957 or Karen at 815-389-2353 or email Patti at pkdunaway7@gmail.com.

Did you know they delivered 60+ Christmas cards to residents at Fair Oaks on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church every year? We sincerely thank them for that and for all their outreach. 

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**C: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **A RESPONSIVE READING FROM PSALM 148**

R: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**C: Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

R: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**C: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

R: Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

**C: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

R: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**C: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

R: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**C: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

R: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**C: young men and maidens, old and young together.**

R: Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**C: The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

### SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look up on you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN

#### Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad-ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
2 Proph-e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

*Refrain*



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

*“Go Tell”* by The Martins

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

### OFFERING PRAYER

P: Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger, and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love, come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

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.

P: Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

Let every heart receive your Savior.

C: Amen!

## 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 ~

## 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 2:41-52

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

***“Has Your Faith Grown with Your Stature?”***

## Hymn of the Day

## 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!

## 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: Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

*(A brief silence.)* God of wisdom, open our ears to hear your grace through the words and deeds of children.

Inspire the youngest and oldest in our midst to learn from one another with humility and patience. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of creation, praise to you for hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests, animals wild and tame, sea monsters, birds, and reptiles. Spark delight in our hearts for all that you have made. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of hope, call us to peace and bind us together in perfect unity. Make wars to cease. Guide the leaders of the nations in your way of wisdom, compassion, and tolerance. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of healing, mend the broken hearts of those who suffer this day. Treasure everyone who struggles with addiction, loneliness, hunger, unemployment, mental illness, or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of life, draw us into the body of Christ and make us grow in faith and hope. Fill us with hearts of thanksgiving made visible in our words and actions for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of delight, fill us with songs of praise and hope even in the midst of despair and death. Comfort the grieving (*especially*). Strengthen our faith until the day we will be gathered around your throne singing in eternal praise. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**