



DECEMBER: 2 – Gail Krause, **5** – MaryAnn Mueller, **13** – Mike Murphy, **16** – Rachel Schuller, **18** – Sandy Johnson, **24** – Nicole Blakeman, **24** – Ruth Anderson, **25** – Kathy Strasser, **31** – Pat Schnurr

JANUARY: 2 – Irene Balk, **10** – Hannah Guffey, **12** – Betty Bonner, **20** – Viola Thostenson, **23** – Amy McCormick, **27** – Samantha Guffey, **27** – Victor Lipinski, **30** – Craig Miller, **30** – Justin Brown



The OUT TO DINNER GROUP will be meeting at Benedetti's Supper Club, 3232 Riverside Dr., Beloit, WI on Friday, January 24th at 6pm. Please sign up by Jan. 19th. All are invited and welcome to join in. Sign up today!



Pastor Rick and Helen wish to thank the Faith Congregation for your love and generosity received again this Christmas. We are blessed with your gifts and your faithfulness to the church.

Thanks to everyone for the nice gift of Christmas money! You're all a blessing to me! Sue Brunson, Church Secretary



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ
 Sunday, December 29, 2019 ~ 9:30 am
First Sunday of Christmas

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, love from the beginning, Word made flesh, breath of heaven.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love. *(A brief silence.)* Merciful God,

C: we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

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 TO THE DAY

P: As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

C: Amen.

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol and Roger Frey

Computer Tech - Mike Banker

Offering Video - Helen Meier

Reader - Sue Brunson

Counters - Roger and Carol Frey

Fellowship - Eloise Manley

Greeters - Tammy Dunkel and Tina Hatch

Musician - Helen Meier

Ushers - Doug Congdon & Tina Hatch

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier



Today's altar flowers
are donated by
Bob & Kathy Strasser
in honor and memory
of their loved ones.

Financials for Sunday, December 22, 2019 - Week #51

Attendance - 104

Actual Offering	\$2,153.00
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,150.00
2019 YTD Actual Offering	\$115,399.03
2019 YTD Offering Needed	\$109,650.00

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE ATTENDANCE ~ 160



We pray for the homeless, unemployed, those with mental struggles, our shut-ins, our students, all military personnel & their families, First Responders and their families. We pray for our friends, families & our loved ones, especially: Adam, Alyson & Jarrett,

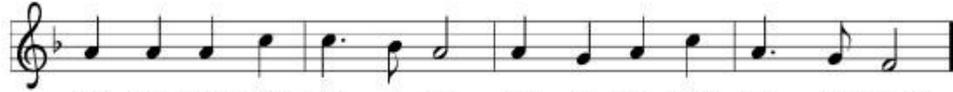
Austin Wagner, Barry & Shelby, Bert, Betty, Betty Shaw, Bill, Bob, Brad, Cazmyre, Chancy, Chase, Claudine, Connie, Darrell, Debi, Denise, Diane, Dianne, Dick, Dodi, Don, Don & Harriet, Donna, Eric Murphy & Family, Emily & Family, Erik, Evelyn, Florence, Gail, Gary, Gary McGuire & Family, Gavin, George, Gloria & Robert, Heidi, Irene, Jacki, Jackie, Jackson, Jaleena, Jan, Jan N., Janet, Janice, Janie, Jen, John, Judy M., Julia, Julie, June, Kamya, Kate, Kayla, Kelli, Kenny, Kosmatka Family, Lauri, Larry, Leah, Linda, Mandy, Matt, Mikey Murphy, Missy, Nanci, Nancy, Nap, Nate, Paula, Pam, Rich, Robert, Ruthie, Ryan McGuire & Family, Sandy Buzzo, Sara & Family, Scott, Sharon, Sherry Lou, Shirley, Steve, Sue, Tara, Tari B. & Family, Ted & Rosalie, Terri, Terry, Tim, Todd, Tom, Tom Nelson, Trisha, Violet, Wayne, Zach, Zierath, Zoey

CLOSING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



DISMISSAL

P: Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

We are happy to have you worship with us today! Please join us for beverages, snacks and conversation after worship.

OFFERING ~ If you are unable to attend worship, please make sure to catch up with your **offering** next week. Mail it to the church office and write "offering" on the envelope to be included in that week's offering, seen only by designated counters. Thanks for being so faithful in giving generously to God's work at Faith Lutheran Church.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

A reading from Isaiah, the 63rd chapter.

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Amen.**

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: Hebrews 2:10-18

A reading from Hebrews, the 2nd chapter.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God, you have given us life, this community,
and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your
grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to
bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ
our 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

~ COMMUNION ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and
breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in
service to this world that you love, telling the amazing
news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✚ Child in
the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings
for you today and always.

C: Amen.



P: O Holy One, you overcame death and freed us from all fear. Give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way (*especially*). Give patience and compassion to those who provide care. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Nurturing God, you care for your children in any danger. Grant courage to our congregation, that we are present with children who need our love and protection, with parents who grieve the loss of children, and with those who seek safety from hurtful situations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Light of life, you claim us as your children forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through 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 ~

“Come & See What’s Happening in the Barn”

By the Gaither Vocal Band

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*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.*

and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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: Matthew 2:13-23

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Good News, Bad News, Faith News"

HYMN OF THE DAY

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.

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: Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*)

Praise is on our lips and in our hearts, Holy One, for the gracious deeds and acts that you have bestowed upon your church. Give to your whole church open hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Praise to you, Creator of all, for you have created a rich diversity of nature and creatures: sun, moon, stars, mountains and all hills, oceans and rivers. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: We bless you, Ruler of all, for the communities and nations of which we are a part. Gather into your arms the many peoples of the world and grant humility to all leaders, so that all may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**