

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, 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 8, 2019 ~ 9:30 am
Second Sunday of Advent

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 15th. We'll have 2 barrels again. Thank you!
Karen Murr & Patti Dunaway



SUNDAY, 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.



The Out to Dinner Group will meet Friday December 13, 6:00 PM at the Butterfly Club, 5246 E. County Rd. X, Beloit, WI Sign up by Sun., Dec. 8th. Come join us!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship Service at 5pm

WEDNESDAY, December 25 Merry Christmas!

We express our condolences to the families of Betty Comins and Dorothy Taylor, as they passed away recently. However, we rejoice that they are now in the Lord's eternal care. Both funerals were held at the church this past week.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come before the living God in confession (*a brief silence.*) As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation:

C: we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here + Jesus Christ, our Savior.

. C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near.
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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: At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol and Roger Frey

Computer Tech - Anne Strasser

Offering Video - Todd Strasser

Reader - Mike Marty

Counters - Roger and Carol Frey

Fellowship - Tammy D. & Tina H.

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
Don & Marcy Reedy

Financials Sunday, December 1, 2019 - Week #48

Attendance - 102

Actual Offering \$2,172.00

Weekly Offering Budget \$2,150.00

2019 YTD Actual Offering \$108,388.03

2019 YTD Offering Needed \$103,200.00



Christmas Poinsettia Order Forms

are in the office, Fellowship Room and in the narthex.

\$12.00 each; please indicate your choice of red, pink or white. **Deadline is Friday, December 13th.**



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: Alyson & Jarrett, Austin Wagner, Bary & Joann, Barry & Shelly,

Betty, Bill, Bob, Brad, Chancy, Claudine, Connie, Darrell, Debi, Denise, Diane, Dick, Dodi, Don, Don & Florence, Doug, Earl, Eric Murphy & Family, Evelyn, Gail, Gary, Gary McGuire & Family, Gavin, Heidi, Inez, Irene, Jalenna, Janet, Janie, Jeff, Jen, Jimmy, Julie, Julia, June, Kamyra, Kate, Kathy Mears, Kayla, Kenny, Larry, Lauri, Linda, Lori, Mandy, Mikey Murphy, Missy, Nap, Nate, Pat, Pat W., Paula, Payton, Rich, Ryan McGuire & Family, Ruthie, Sarah, Sharon, Sherry Lou, Shirley, Steve, Terri, Tim, Tina, Tom, Todd, Vickie, Violet, Zach



On Sunday, Dec. 15th we're asking for donations of homemade cookies, bars, or muffins to distribute among the South Beloit Police, Fire Dept. & City Workers as our thank you for all they do. We appreciate your help!

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

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.

in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

C: Amen.



LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah, the 11TH chapter.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 72

R: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

C: that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

R: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

C: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

R: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

C: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

R: In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

"Go Tell" by The Martins

*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: Let us pray. 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

~ COMMUNION ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. (*A brief silence*). God of promise, your reign has come near. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit in the world through acts of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve ecosystems (here local examples may be named), that all life on earth may be sustained. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give to all leaders wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion for the world you so love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: God of the poor, set tables of abundance in all places where hands are empty, where stomachs ache with hunger, and where hearts and minds suffer pain. Feed and heal all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: God of hope, renew in your people all joy and peace in believing, especially those facing anxiety, depression, or alienation. Guide this community of faith to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

C: Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

R: And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

C: Amen

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans, the 15th chapter.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 3:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Voices from the Wilderness"

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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.***