



**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, Aidan, Alyson &

Jarrett, Ann, Anna, Arlene, Austin Wagner, Barry & Shelby, Bert, Betty, Betty Shaw, Beth, Bev, Bill, Bob, Brad, Brayton, Brenda, Brett, Carol, Cazmyre, Chancy, Chase, Cindy, Claudine, Connie, Courtney, Darlene, Darrell, Debi, Delene, Denise, Diane, Dianne, Dick, Dodi, Don, Don & Harriet, Donna, Dona H., Doug, Edith, Eric Murphy & Family, Eloise, Emily & Family, Erik, Evelyn, Florence, Gabe, Gail, Gary, Gary McGuire & Family, Gavin, George, Gloria & Robert, Heidi, Inez, Irene, Jacki, Jackie, Jackie M., Jackson, Jaleena, Jammie, Jan, Jan N., Janet, Janice, Janie, Jen, Jennifer, Jered, Jim H., Joann, John, Judy M., Julia, Julie, June, Kamyra, Karen Anderson, Kate, Kayla, Kelli, Kenny, Kosmatka Family, Laura, Lauri, Larry, Leah, Leila, Linda, Lori, Mandy, Marcy Schwarz, Marion, Matt, Meri, Mike, Mike H., Mikey Murphy, Missy, Nanci, Nancy, Nap, Nate, Nick, Pat, Paula, Pam, Payton, Rich, Robert, Roger, Ruth, Ruthie, Ryan McGuire & Family, Sandy Buzzo, Sara & Family, Scott, Sharon, Shelly, Sherry Lou, Shirley, Steve, Sue, Susie, Tallen, Tammi, Tammy, Tara, Tari B. & Family, Ted & Rosalie Zierath, Terri, Terrie K., Terry, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tom Audrey, Tom Nelson, Teresa, Tracy, Trisha, Tristan & Alexis, Val, Vicky, Violet, Vivian & Family, Wayne, Zach, Zoey



## Happy January Birthday!

**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 & welcome to join us!*



## Faith Lutheran Church

*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ*  
**Sunday, January 5, 2020 ~ 9:30 am**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...

John 1:14, ESV

**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

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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: Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### *Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church*

**We are happy to have you worship with us today!** 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. Or mail it to: 1305 Blackhawk Blvd., South Beloit, IL 61080 and mark "offering" on the envelope for 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!

**Hello & welcome**

The congregation of Faith Lutheran would like to extend a warm welcome to our new musician, JoAnn Medernach. She hails from Rockton, has played piano & organ for many years and in many churches. We welcome you, JoAnn!



Today's altar flowers have been donated by Gerry Cliffe  
 To honor and remember Fran Cliffe on what would have been their 67th Anniversary

### Today's Worship Leaders

**Altar Guild** - Carol and Roger Frey

**Computer Tech** - Todd Strasser

**Offering Video** - Anne Strasser

**Reader** - Nicole Blakeman

**Counters** - Roger and Carol Frey

**Fellowship** - Tammy Dunkel & Tina

**Greeters** - Sue Brunson & Vi Thostenson

**Musician** - JoAnn Medernach

**Ushers** - Doug Congdon & George Brunson

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

### Financials for Sunday, December 29, 2019 - Week #52

Attendance - 60

Actual Offering	\$3,192.00
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,150.00
2019 YTD Actual Offering	\$118,459.03
2019 YTD Offering Needed	\$111,800.00

## CLOSING HYMN

### The Bells of Christmas



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



guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly  
find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a



dwel - lings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.  
man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.

5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,  
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,  
great David's Son, great David's Lord:  
6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,  
and keep your Christmas in our breast;  
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,  
shall swell our jubilee of song.

Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**C: you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah, the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain,

the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Amen.**

### **A Responsive Reading From Psalm 147**

R: Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

**C: who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

R: God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**C: God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

R: God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

**C: God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

R: The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**C: God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

R: The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

C: **Amen.**



## ~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~ "LOVE" by We Are Messengers

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**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.*

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.**

## 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.)* Holy God, you make your presence known to the church in every land. Give to us a desire and will to support the diverse work of the church throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Generous Creator, in you all things came into being and without you not one thing exists. We praise you for the snow and rain that water the earth. Move us to care for the well-being of the work of your hands. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Savior of the nations, you gather in your care people of every age and ability, from lands near and far. Inspire the leaders of the nations to work for peace within their countries and in all the world. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Saving God, provide for your people who begin this new year in need. Grant shelter to those who are homeless, comfort to all who are lonely, and a strong sense of your presence to those who are sick *(especially)*. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Word of truth, your good news of salvation is proclaimed among us. Bless all who proclaim your word in this community, especially teachers, pastors, deacons, musicians, and lectors. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Gracious One, your light shines in the darkness and it is not overcome. We thank you for the witnesses who have testified to your light *(especially)*. May their lives continue to inspire us. 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.**

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**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: John 1:1-18

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

### C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

### C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

*"The Good Ol' Gospel in a Brand New Decade"*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### 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!



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



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

### *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.*