

Please take a 2019 calendar or Advent key tag!

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



Today's altar flowers are donated by
Sue and George Brunson for Sue's sister
Nancy's 62nd birthday.



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

Deadline is NEXT SUNDAY, December 16!
Please take an angel from the Salvation
Tree; bring UNWRAPPED gifts. Thank you!
Karen Murr & Patti Dunaway

MONDAY, December 24 - 5PM

Christmas Eve Service - bring family,
friends & neighbors to worship Him!



TUESDAY, December 25

Merry Christmas!



December Birthdays

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



We need some help today after worship
to move furniture and set up tables for
our dinner theater program,
“Eli’s Bethlehem Inn”.



Faith Lutheran Church

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



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSON 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. 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
heats! The reign of God is near.

C: Amen.

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom-ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom-ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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: Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God.

While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

C: Amen.

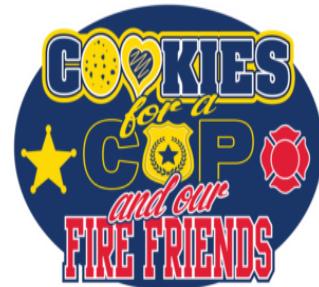


We pray for the homeless, unemployed, those with mental struggles, our shut-ins & all of our students, military & their families. We pray for our friends, families & our loved ones::

Adam N., Alyson & Jarrett, Austin Wagner, Barry & Shelby, Bert, Bev, Bob, Bosh, Boyd & Inez, Brad, Brayton, Brenda, Brett, Brian, Charlie, Christina, Cindy, Claudine, Cookie, Darrell, Dave, Debi, Denise, Diane, Dick, Don, Donald, Donna, Doug, Drew, Emma, Eric, Eloise, Emily & family, Florence, Gail, Gary, Gavin, George, Harriet, Heidi, Irene A., Jackie, Jan, Janet, Janice, Janie, Jean, Jerry, Jess, Jimmy, John, June, Kamya, Kenny, Kim, Kris, Laurie Swanson, Lee, Linda, Linda G., Lori, Lucy, Marion, Matt, Maureen M., Melissa, Mertie, Mike, Nancy, Nate, Pat, Payton, Pete, Roger, Ruthann, Ryann, Brynn & Ellis McGuire, Sandy, Sarah, Scott, Sharon, Shelly, Stephanie, Steve, Sue, Swanson Family, Tammy, Tanya, Ted, Teresa, Tiana, Tim, Tina, Todd, Vicki, Vicky, Violet, Vivian, Zach

**Cookies for South Beloit Cops,
Fire Fighters & Public Workers**

If you could donate some home-made goodies and bring them to church by next Sunday, they'll be delivered by Patti Dunaway & Karen Murr. Church office will be open 9am to Noon Monday-Friday. Thank You!



Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol and Roger Frey

Computer Tech - Anne and Rachel Strasser

Offering Video - Anne and Rachel Strasser

Reader - Mike Marty

Counters - Roger and Carol Frey

Fellowship - Roger and Carol Frey

Greeters - Patti Dunaway, Karen Murr, Dawn Witte

Musician - Betty Comins

Ushers - Doug Congdon & Shawn Guffey

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier

In case of a pastoral need, contact
Pastor Rick Cell: 815-566-5247
Home: 815-227-4679
Email: pastorr1@comcast.net



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 Sunday, December 2, 2018 - Week #48

Attendance - 95

Actual Offering	\$3,785.50
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2018 YTD Actual Offering	\$106,791.05
2018 YTD Offering Needed	\$104,448.00



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER
\$12.50 EACH - THE DEADLINE:
THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH



You Are Cordially Invited to
A Special Dinner Theater Christmas Event
"Eli's Bethlehem Inn"

Saturday, December 15, 2018
Faith Lutheran Church ~ 6:00 pm

Reservations are required - deadline is TODAY!
Sign up on the board before you leave!

This is a free event - A free-will offering will be taken

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi, the 3rd chapter.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading from Luke, the 1st chapter.

R: Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

C: You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

R: Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

C: to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

R: This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

C: free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

R: And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

C: to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

R: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

C: to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians, the 1st chapter.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



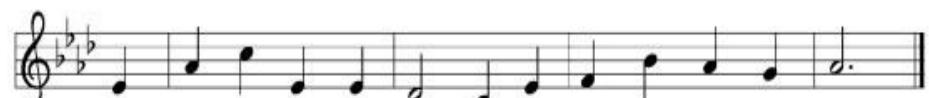
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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 - depm - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.



Please remember to stop in the back of church and get your 2019 Offering box. Thank you!

*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: 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.

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 3:1-6

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Prophetic Preparation"



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 - urge
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'r's 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.

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: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation. (*A brief silence.*) Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God. Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Protect the creation, life-giving God. Sustain the mountains and hills. Restore the rivers. Give us wisdom and compassion to care for wilderness areas and urban ecosystems. Move us to care for your creation in all its forms and richness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Purify the hearts of all people, life-giving God. Remove the hate that lives within us and among us. Mold us into peacemakers. Raise up leaders rooted in your love and fed by your word. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Comfort all who hurt, life-giving God. Wrap them in your tender care. Remember the forgotten and send us out to share your love with them. Be with the wandering, the worried, and the woeful (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Bless this congregation, life-giving God. Give strength and joy to worship leaders, musicians, and our altar guild as they prepare the way for the celebration of the Christ child's coming among us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember the generations who have shown us your faithfulness, life-giving God. Shine your light on those who mourn and prepare us for that day when we will see you face-to-face. 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

"Mary did You Know?" by Pentatonix