

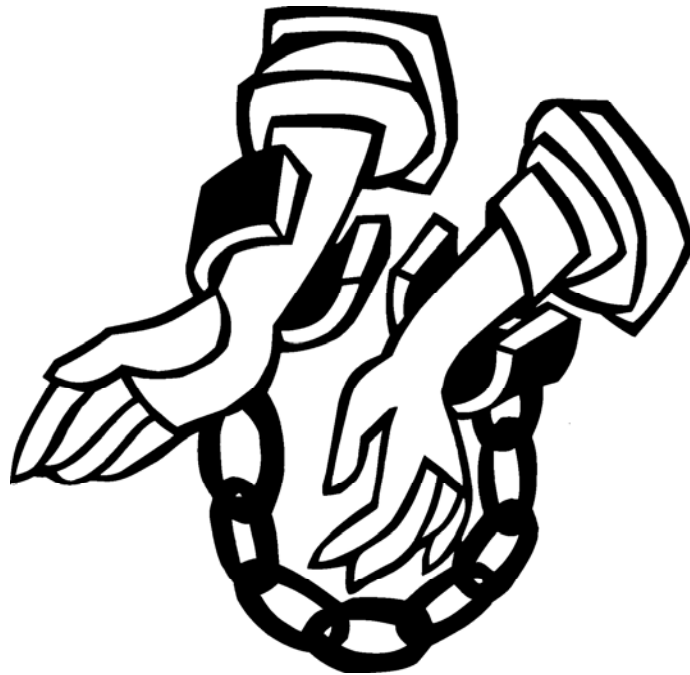


Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name**

Third Sunday after Epiphany

10:15 a.m., January 26, 2025



God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | www.faithlutheransrq.com

All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.

The flowers on the altar today are presented by Pastor Eric and Lisa Olsen in honor of Olaf & Catherine Olsen's anniversary

Ministers

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. Larry Wright

Lector

Michael Leonhardt

Cantor

Jesse V. Martin, Hannah Boyd

Flutist

Julianne Geysler

Crucifer

Deacon Mark Greenwood

Music Director

Andi Zdrava

Greeters & Ushers

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz,
Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre,
Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard,
Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Scott Rice,
Jane Sanks, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

Media Team

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell,
Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood

Sunday School Teacher

Emily Holst

Altar Guild

Linda Fewell, Dottie Gustavson,
Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson,
Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan

Congregational Council

Scott Rice, president; Lauren Wardach, vice
president; Mark Nelson, secretary; Anita Wooton,
treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant treasurer; Jerry
Cooper; Quyen Dang; Ann Greenwood; Peggy
Ragan; Joan Searles

* * * * *

Pastor

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

Assistant to the Pastor

Rev. Larry Wright

Retired Pastors in Residence

Rev. John Hilficker
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. John Spittal

**Executive Assistant to the Pastor
for Administration**

Heidi Floyd

- Noted throughout the service - P: Presiding Minister L: Lector C: **Congregation**
- Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING TESTIMONY

Jane Sanks

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WE STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and
by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain

Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,

tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

GREETING

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.

KYRIE

We sing together

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.




- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTICLE

We sing together

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*



This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

L: A reading from Nehemiah.

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding.

This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 19: 7

To begin, the organist plays the refrain once, the cantor sings it once and then we all sing it together.



Psalm 19:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

PSALMODY: Psalm 19

L: ¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork. ² One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. ³ Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,⁴ their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun. ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. ⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

C: Refrain

L: ⁷ The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple. ⁸ The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

C: Refrain

L: ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults. ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense. ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

C: Refrain

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord.

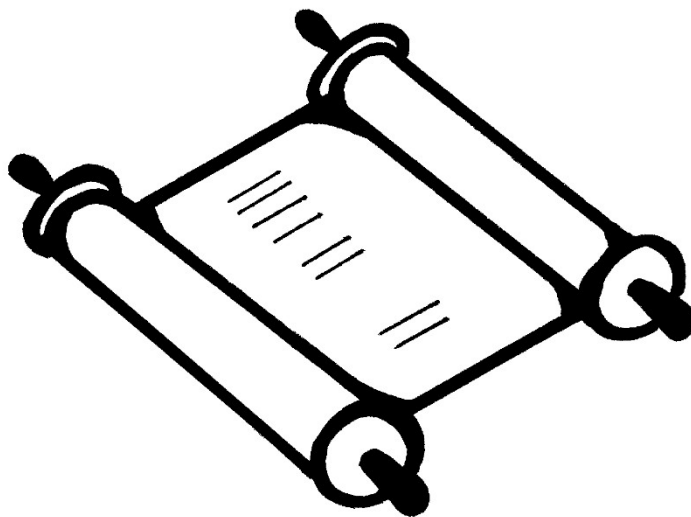
C: Praise to you, O Christ

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND



We sing together

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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APOSTLES' CREED

P: Together, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

L: As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. Give courage to faith leaders who speak truth to power. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. We ask you to guide President Trump and all leaders of this country and the world. And we also pray for a just and enduring peace in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Russia, Ukraine, Haiti and all areas of the world that are rocked by unrest. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss, including their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery. We especially lift up to you those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, silently or aloud (*pause*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, especially Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe, as well as beloved friends and family who have died, especially Marilyn Hirsch. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

WE STAND

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.

WE SIT

OFFERTORY



The offering is collected at this time. You also can give online by scanning the QR Code printed here or via the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*As the Deer
Voices of Faith Choir*

Nysrtom, Martin

WE STAND

We sing together

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score consists of five lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The first line ends with a fermata over the word "might". The second line ends with a fermata over "glo-ry". The third line ends with a fermata over "high -". The fourth line ends with a fermata over "Lord". The fifth line ends with a fermata over "highest".

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

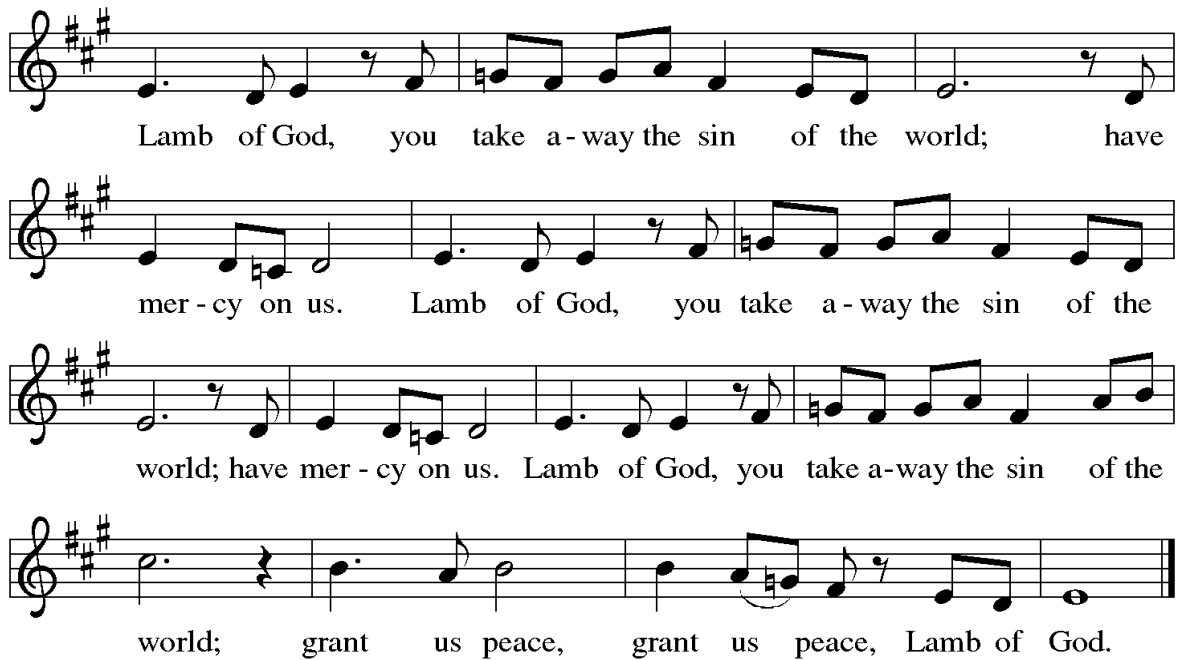
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good. All are welcome to the Lord's Table.

COMMUNION SONG

We sing together



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

One Bread One Body
Voices of Faith Choir

Hayes, Mark

WE STAND

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

NUPTIAL BLESSING

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.

SENDING SONG

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 576

We sing together

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Welcome, Visitors!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by signing our guestbook and/or filling out a Visitor Card located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

Women of Faith

Please join the **Women of Faith** for breakfast, prayer, and camaraderie at 8:30 a.m., Monday, Feb. 3, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail. See Pastor Marianne with questions.

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** meets between the two morning worship services in the conference room to study “Israel’s Mission.” All are welcome!
 - **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at 8:30 a.m. this Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Skilletts, 8635 S Tamiami Trail.
 - **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women’s Bible study** meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the library to focus on "Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength."
 - **Adult Bible Study with Pastor Larry** meets 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays through Feb. 19 in the second floor classroom across from the elevator. Participants sit at the feet of Professor Amy-Jill Levine as they read from study books and the Bible. First timers are warmly welcome!
 - **The Prayer Group** meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel to pray for all in need, our community, nation and world, and to share Holy Communion.
 - **The Bereavement Group** meets at 3:15 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.
 - **Mary Circle** next meets at noon, Tuesday, Feb. 11, in fellowship hall. All women are warmly invited. Bring your lunch. Dessert is provided.
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Investing for Time and Eternity

As you consider our annual stewardship emphasis, “Investing for Time and Eternity,” and as you consider how God has blessed your life and, perhaps even more importantly, as you consider the year which lies ahead and your commitment to the

Lord to give to this ministry, what will you ... by faith ... promise to give in the coming year? **Please plan to be present on Pledge Sunday, Feb. 2**, as we offer our Pledge Cards in thanksgiving for God's blessings in the past and in anticipation of God's provisions in the future. "Remember this: Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

Need a Ride to Church?

Faith will pay for Uber or Lyft to bring you or others to worship or other events. Contact Pastor Eric to make arrangements, 716-352-0055.

Coffee Hour Is Important! Please Volunteer!

Coffee hour needs additional volunteers. All you have to do is provide and put out snacks, and clean up afterward. Faith can cover the cost of the snacks if you would like to volunteer but don't have resources to purchase them. **Sign up on the sheet beside the coffee pot in fellowship hall.**

Christ Lutheran Church Invites You to a Free Organ Concert

A free organ concert begins at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 16, at Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood. The concert celebrates the installation of a new 400 seven rank pipe. Dr. Richard Benedum, professor emeritus of music at the University of Dayton, will be at the keyboard. Dr. Benedum is the organist at Christ Lutheran. He is the former music director of the Dayton Bach Society chorus and orchestra, and has conducted numerous cantatas of Bach and other major works from the 17th to the 20th centuries. He has also directed 15 summer seminars for teachers in Vienna, Austria. He has studied organ and conducted with Helmuth Rilling (Stuttgart, Germany) and has studied musicology with Christoph Wolff at Harvard University. He has recently retired as artistic director of the Sarasota-Manatee Bach Festival. A free-will offering will be received and a reception will follow.

Worship to Go Needs Your Help!!

Worship to Go needs additional helpers! You can participate at:

- **10:30 a.m. tomorrow, Monday, Jan. 27**, at Goldton at Venice, 108 Bella Verde Blvd, Nokomis.
- **10:45 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11**, at Elancé, 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd., Tiffany Room.
- **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18**, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore Ave.
- **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25**, at Avavilla Memory Care, 3251 Proctor Road.

Volunteers will meet in the chapel and can carpool to the facility (30 minutes prior). To join in, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055, or show up at the chapel. No experience necessary!

Pictorial Directory

Please remember to have your photo taken! You may sign up at the studio door at the rear of sanctuary. Thank you! Questions? Contact Lauren Wardach, lrwardach@gmail.com.

Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory

Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with “altar flowers” in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, choose an alternate date. **The next open dates are Feb. 16, March 9 and March 30.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday. To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with payment, and place it in the offering plate. Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.
- By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
- By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com.

If you have questions or specific requests about who or what organization should receive flowers that you purchased and choose to donate, contact Joan Hirsch, 941-726-7885.

Join in Fun Exercise During Zumba Class

Zumba class begins at 6 p.m. Mondays in the Community Center (gym). All fitness levels are welcome! It is free for congregation members, and a voluntary donation from non-members is appreciated. Join in the fun!

Readers Club Meets Jan. 27

Readers Club next meets tomorrow, Monday, Jan. 27 to discuss *The Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner. Interested in joining? Contact Janet Peterson, 941-923-7382 or luvstitches55@gmail.com.

Look for Year-End Giving Statement, Pick Up Giving Envelopes

- Year-end giving statements from Faith were sent out Jan. 8-9, either by email or USPS per your opt in/out preferences. Check your spam or junk folder if you did not receive an email. Or contact the church office if you did not receive a letter in the mail.
- 2025 Giving Envelopes are available for pick up in the narthex.
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact Patty McKee, 941-228-1192 (cell), 941-921-3709, or financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com.

Check out our New Contemporary Service at 5 p.m. Sundays

Please consider donating to Faith's Food Pantry!

Save the Dates

Jazz & Love will be in the air in February

As part of the Lutheran Concert Series, don't miss The Sean Fitzpatrick Trio with Emma Apse's hypnotic vocals at 7 p.m., Feb. 15 at Faith. In lieu of our contemporary worship service, Sean and Emma will also lead us in a special Jazz Mass at 6 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 16.

Brunch & Learn

Please join us as Dr. Richard Crank, board certified orthopedic surgeon, shares vital information and practices that lead to enhanced wellbeing. Breakfast is served at 9:30 a.m. and presentations begin at 10 a.m. on two upcoming Saturdays in fellowship hall.

- Feb. 22: Bursitis, tendonitis and fasciitis – understanding your options.
 - March 1: Bone health and fall prevention – what can you do?
-

Dedicate a Memorial Garden Bench to a Loved One

The safety and property teams have removed the old, rusty benches from the memorial garden and have procured 10 new weatherproof benches that will soon be delivered and installed. You are invited to dedicate a bench in honor of a loved one or to the Glory of God. Bench dedications are \$500 each and are available on a first come basis while supplies last. Please understand that we expect that there will be more interest in dedication than benches available. To dedicate a bench, bring a check or cash to Faith Lutheran's office during office hours. Thank you!

Plan to Attend the Feb. 23 Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 23, following the 10:15 a.m. worship service. All voting members are encouraged to attend either in person, by video, or by phone (call-in):

- Attend in person at Faith Lutheran in the sanctuary. Voting will be anonymous.
- Attend by video using the Zoom program on your computer, tablet or phone. During the meeting, a Zoom coordinator will seek an anonymous vote from each person separately. To connect via Zoom on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. (before the meeting begins), type or copy the following link into your internet browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88459156804?pwd=aDscxBRY1NCx9AcG5n915DbHscUt7d.1>
Meeting ID: 884 5915 6804, Passcode: 729720

- Attend by phone (voice only) by calling +1 646 558 8656 at 11:30 a.m. (before the meeting begins). You will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID 884 5915 6804 and Passcode 729720. You will then be able to hear and participate in the live meeting. Please note that this option does not allow for anonymous voting. You will be able to vote if you wish, but it will not be anonymous.

Those attending the meeting by video or phone should log in or call at 11:30 a.m. so we can run the virtual side of this meeting with ease and make sure that everyone is linked up appropriately.

Worship and Service Calendar

Services

Sundays at 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. in person.
Live streamed and recorded at
www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service.

Sunday, Jan. 19

Online views	286
8 a.m. in person	42
10:15 a.m. in person	123
5 p.m. in person	15

Next Sunday, Feb. 2

Malachi 3:1-4
My messenger is a refiner and purifier.

Psalm 84
*How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord. (Ps. 84:1)*

Hebrews 2:14-18
Jesus shares human flesh and sufferings.

Luke 2:22-40
The child is brought to the temple.

This Week at Faith

Monday, Jan. 27

10 a.m.	Worship to Go prep, chapel
10:30 a.m.	Worship to Go, Goldton at Venice, 108 Bella Verde Blvd., Nokomis
2 p.m.	Readers Club, library
6 p.m.	Zumba, community center

Tuesday, Jan. 28

8:30 a.m.	Men of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami
9:30 a.m.	G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study, library
5 p.m.	Congregation Council, conf. room
6 p.m.	Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir room and sanctuary

Wednesday, Jan. 29

9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study with Pastor Larry, 2 nd floor classroom
10:30 a.m.	Prayer Group, chapel
3:15 pm	Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, Jan. 30

9 a.m.	Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
4:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
5 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
6:30 p.m.	Voices of Faith, choir room

Friday, Jan. 31

8 a.m.	Jazzercise, community center
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Saturday, Feb. 1

8 a.m.	Jazzercise, community center
9 a.m.	Diakonia, conference room

Contact officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com:

- If you or someone you know would appreciate a communion, hospital or home visit; to be contacted; or to receive a card in the mail.
- To add or remove a name from the Prayer List.

Prayer List

Dick Allender, cousin of Gerri Copper
Pastor Steve Anderson, friend of Jan Phillips
Michele Bajor
Tani Banta
Randy Boid
Barbara Brannan, mother of Kim McDonald
Arthur Brucato, friend of Karla Lewis & Michael
Leonhardt
Dee Burlingame
Judy Carlsen
Terry Copper
Evelyn Conlon
Merle Cusmano
Doug Dahlquist, father of Hannah Boyd
Jeanine Davis (nee Molella), granddaughter of Karen
& John White
Eloise Dettmer
Beth & Mary Farmer
Andrea Gamboa
Vicki Goffinet
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles
Patricia Head, mother of Wayne Head
Sonja Hickling, mother of Kelly Ashlock
Becky Hilton Heeps, friend of Lisa Olsen
Bob Hurdle, friend of Gerry & Karen Kolschowsky &
Gerri & Terry Copper
Pete Inkrott
Jan and Michele
Jesus & Rita Jimenez
Alf Kirkeeng
Michael Kolschowsky
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk
Lillian Lapenckas
Kevin Lasko
Friends and family of Marilyn Hirsch
Ruth Levy, sister of Joan Hirsch
Diane Lewis, sister-in-law of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Pat Longo & Ronnie Mojo, friends of Susan Wakefield
Julie & Eli Maresch, niece & grandnephew of Patty
McKee

Paul & Debbie Maresch, brother & sister-in-law of
Patty McKee
Dennis McCaughey, friend of Lois Weaverling
Kim McDonald
Judi Melander
Alison Nommay, friend of Karla Lewis & Michael
Leonhardt
Terry O'Connell, friend of Marlene Radesk
Meghan Ortega, niece of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen
Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan
Sue Ostrom
Pastor Terry Parker, friend of Max & Pastor Marianne
Powrie
Fran Perkins
Carl Petersen
Richard Keith Radcliffe, brother of
Gail Radcliffe Brown
Annabel Ryan
Robin Ryder, daughter of Floyd Ryder &
sister of Gail Murphy
Lorna Sawyers-Sucra, friend of Jeremy & Yvonne
Mullins
Kathy Schilio
Becky Sciranko, niece of Alice Rush
Joan Searles
Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Shirley Schimke
Pastor John Spittal
Pamela Spry, mother of Hannah Boyd
Dr. Heather Stark, friend of Cliff Hornsby
Mark Stengel
Ed & Gail Straight, friends of Nancy Dandino
Tess Stransky, cousin of Lynn Clancy
Leigh Tarantino, friend of Marlene Radesk
Melissa Thompson, cousin of Lisa Olsen
Friends & Family of Paul Wick
Dr. Patty White
Dorothy Wolfe, cousin of Adele Smith
Jessica Uebel, cousin of Adele Smith
Jon Wooton
Celeste & John Yee , friends of Marlene Radesk