



# Faith Lutheran Church

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

## **Baptism of Our Lord**

10:15 a.m., January 12, 2025



Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

***Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others***

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://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 generously given by Deb Masser in memory of Bill Masser's Birthday!***

**Ministers**

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

**Lector**

Lauren Wardach

**Cantor**

Jesse V. Martin, Hannah Boyd

**Flutist**

Julianne Geyser

**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

**Altar Guild**

**Sunday School Teacher**

Emily Holst

**Volunteer Sunday School Assistant**

Christian Jones

**Congregation Council**

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

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

#### Children's Moment

Giving testimony – Mike and Julie Geysler

### *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.**

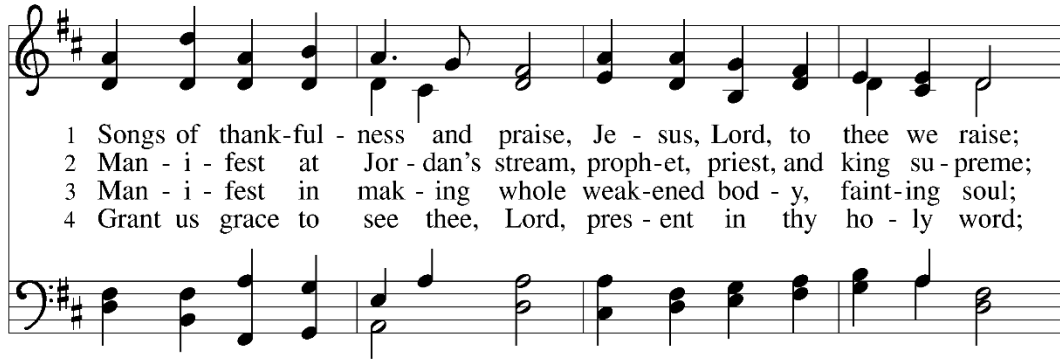
P: Most merciful God,

**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.**

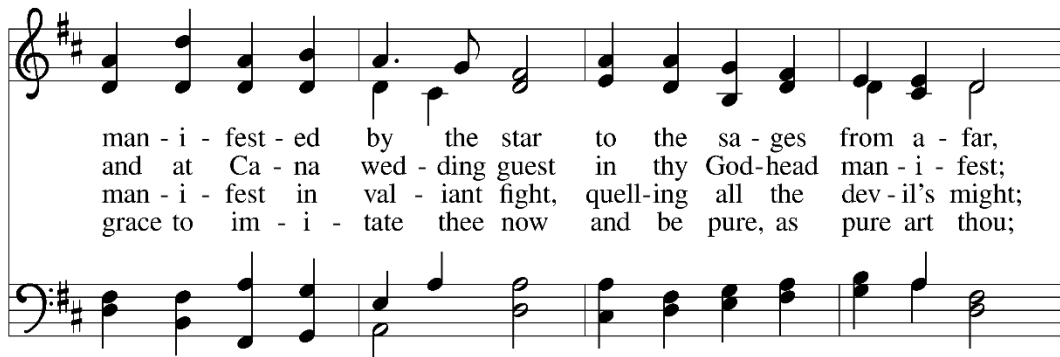
**C: Amen.**

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.

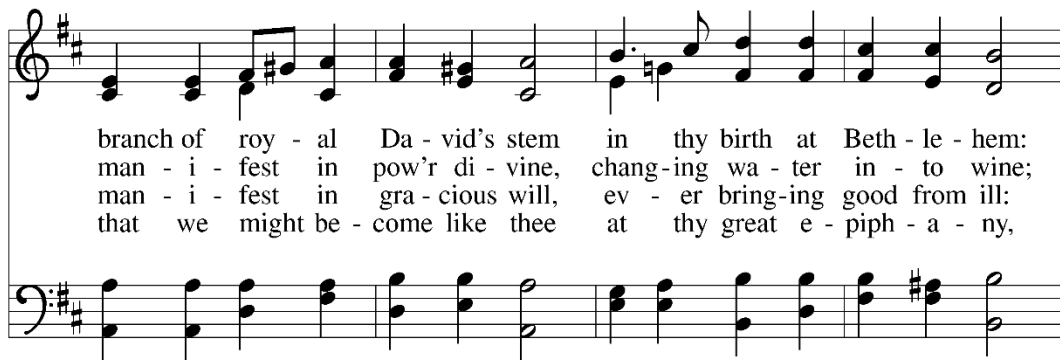
**C: Amen.**



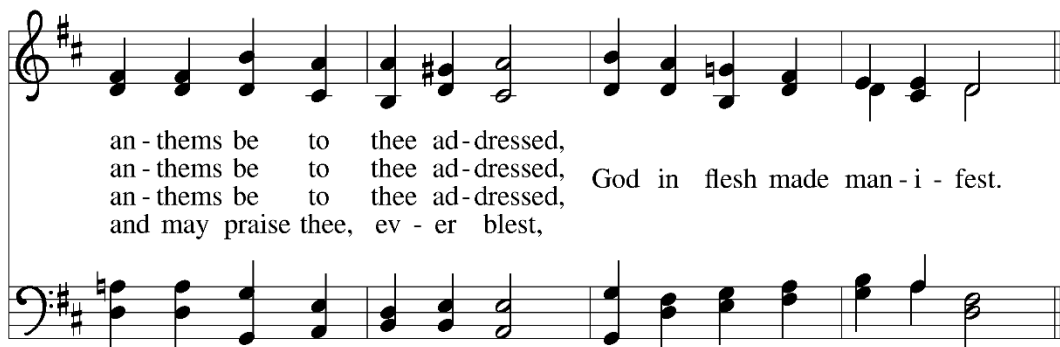
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;  
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;  
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885. alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## 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



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.

*Refrain*

# 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

*Refrain*




hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. 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. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*WE SIT*

## **First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7**

A reading from Isaiah

L: <sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup> For I the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## Psalmody: Psalm 29



Psalm 29:3

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

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### **R**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. <sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. <sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. <sup>4</sup>The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

### **R**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; <sup>6</sup>the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. <sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes. <sup>8</sup>The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

### **R**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!" <sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore. <sup>11</sup>O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

### **R**

## **Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17**

L: A reading from Acts.

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. The word of the Lord.

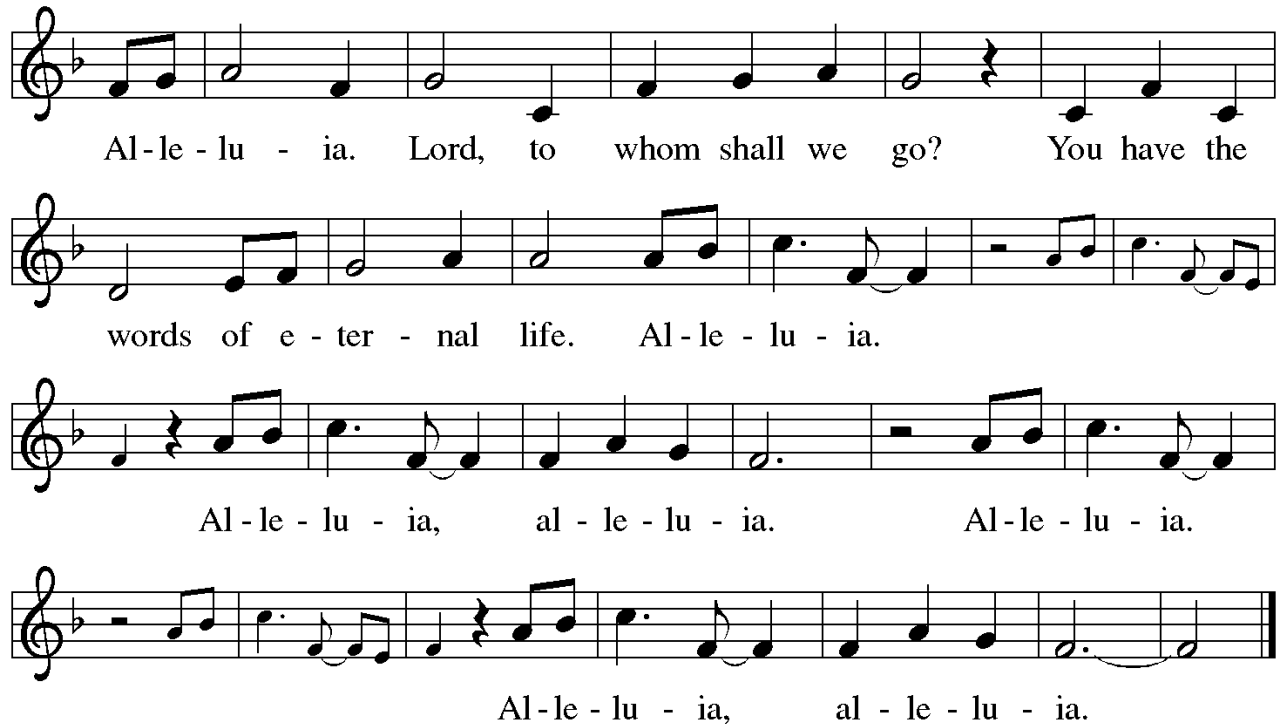
**C: Thanks be to God**

*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 3:15-17, 21-22**

P: The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: <sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

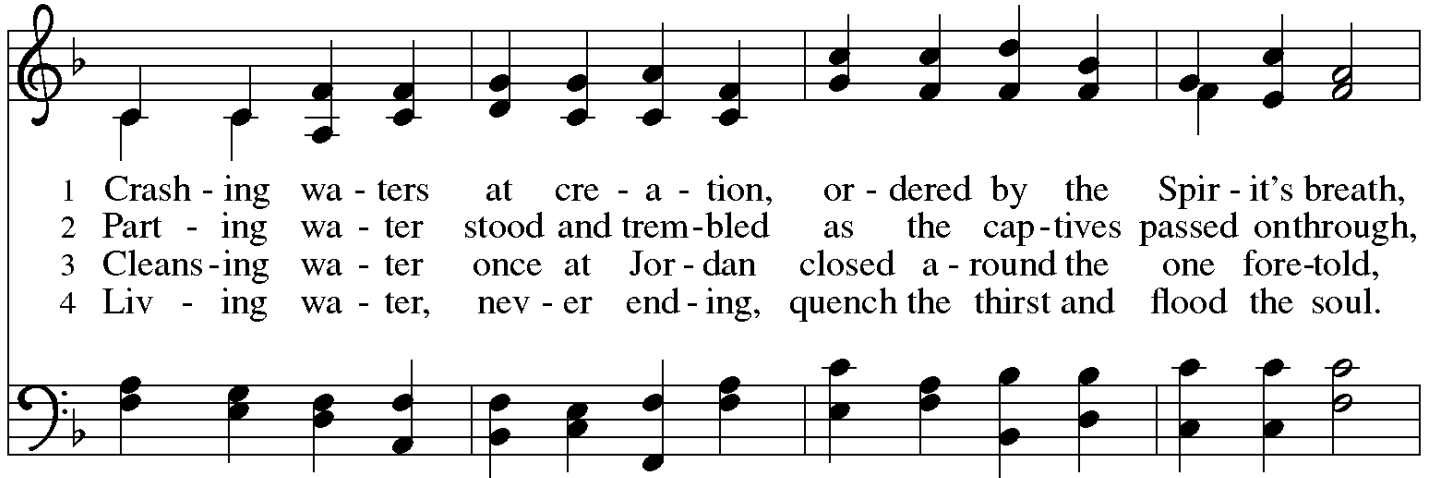
*WE SIT*

**Sermon**

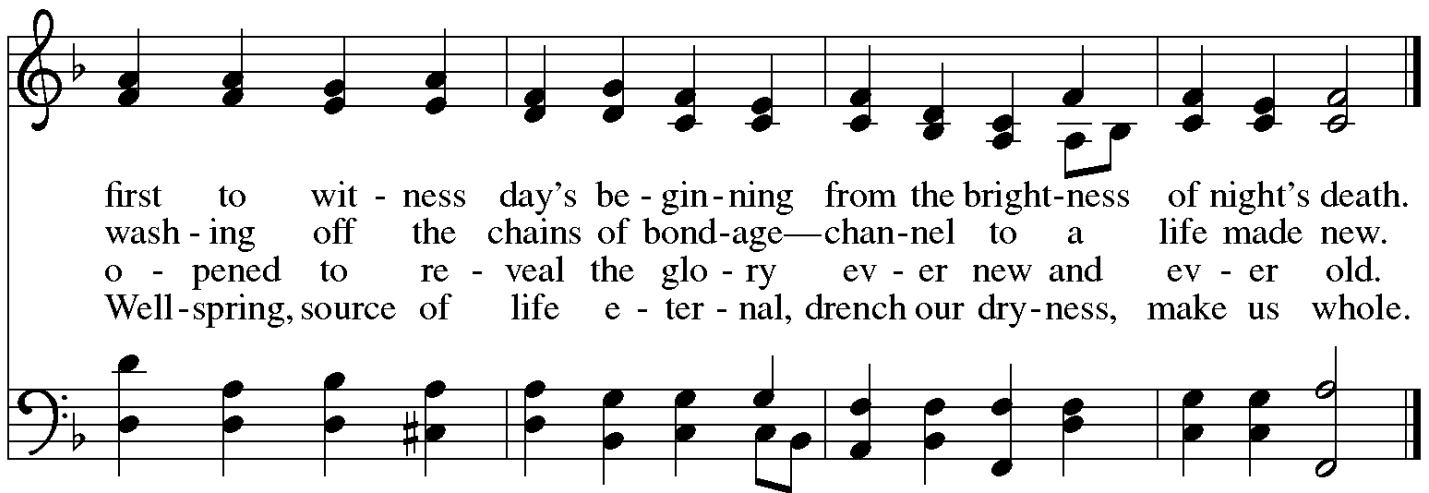
Rev. Eric Olsen

*WE STAND*

*We sing together*



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,  
 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem-bled as the cap-tives passed onthrough,  
 3 Cleans-ing wa - ter once at Jor-dan closed a - round the one fore-told,  
 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end-ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin-ning from the bright-ness of night's death.  
 wash - ing off the chains of bond-age—chan-nel to a life made new.  
 o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
 Well-spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry-ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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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: You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide nations and people around the world. We especially pray for a just peace in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Russia, Ukraine, and Haiti. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. We especially lift up to you those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, silently and aloud (*pause*). Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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](http://faithlutheransrq.com). We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.*

Offertory Anthem

Come to Me

*Dan Forrest*  
Cantor Hanah Boyd

*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

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

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### **Offering Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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 treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is in common time and features a simple, hymn-like melody.

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.

## **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.

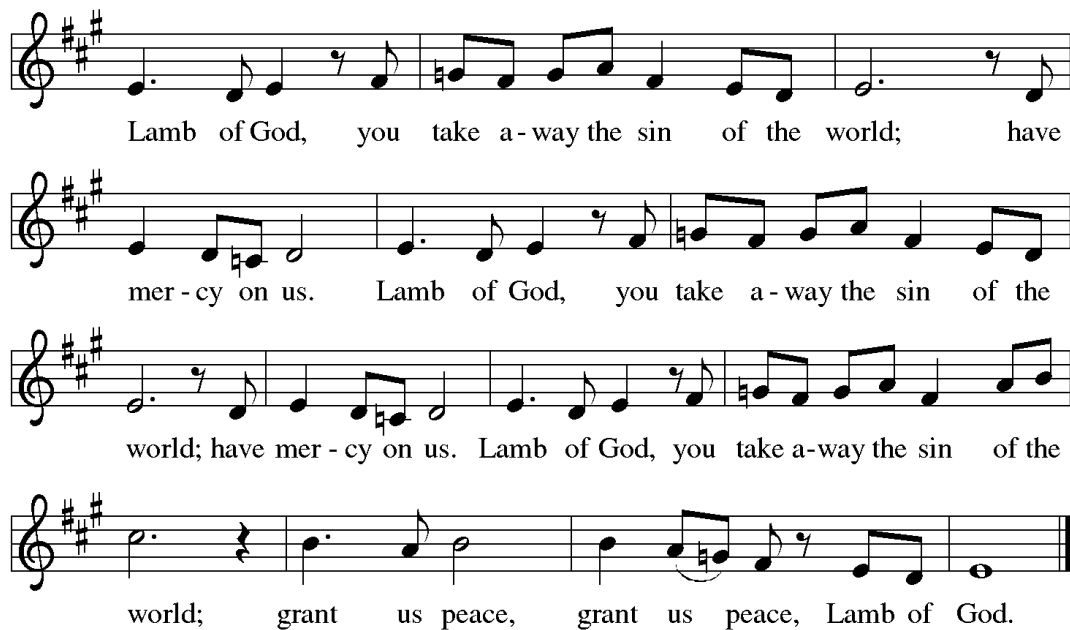
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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

*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**

**Panis Angelicus**

*Cesar Frank*

*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.**

### **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**



*We sing together*

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House  
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

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.

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### *Join in Prayer and Bible Study*

- **Adult Forum** - January 13<sup>th</sup> with Volume 13 – 5 Lessons “Israel’s Mission”. The lesson will be *Lesson 2 – Israel at Sinai: The First Commission*. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> will feature *Lesson 3 – Jesus renews his Mission: Seeking the Lost*.
- **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at **8:30 a.m. each Tuesday**. *During month of January, please meet at **The Toasted Yolk, 3750 S. Tamiami Trl.***
- **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."
- **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.

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### **Investing for Time and Eternity**

So “investing for time and eternity” includes how we use our “time” and “talents.” It also includes the use of our “treasure.” We are managers and stewards, not owners. God owns it all! When we give, we are simply giving back to God that which rightfully belongs to God.

Think about Sundays — your church life and the motivation you receive.

Think about your children and their future. And their children’s future.

Think about your neighborhood — unreached individuals by the hundreds.

Think about the possibilities of radio or television outreach, Faith’s Food Pantry, increased “Worship-to-go outreach”, increasing the service use of our Community Center! What’s it worth?

Deciding whether something is worth the cost requires intense, effective, prevailing prayer, as well as the hard work of objective thinking. And then it requires courage to act on God’s clear direction.

As you consider your time, your talents and your treasure, will you be one who is “investing for time and eternity” by courageously stepping out by faith in response to God’s direction in your life?

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## ***A THANK YOU NOTE FROM PASTOR LARRY***

The Adult Bible Study class is looking forward to a study “Witness at the Cross”, as we move towards the season of Lent and Holy Week.

My heart is most grateful, not only for the opportunity to continue to be one of the leaders of Bible Study at Faith, but to Learn along with my sisters and brothers in Christ, and to enjoy this way of being the body of Christ together.

Words do not fully describe my gratitude to all of you; those participating in our class sessions, and other in the congregation who have offered many kind words and given generous gifts, often anonymously. Ann and I are humbled by them and are truly blessed.

Thank you dear ones, Gracious!

Attendees shall gather again, beginning on Wed., January 15<sup>th</sup>, to read from study books, from the Bible, and to sit at the feet of Professor Amy-Jill Levine, and first timers are strongly encouraged to attend. Will you consider joining us as we seek to grow in faith together? A blessed Christmastide to all as we look toward Epiphany. Peace and joy!

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### ***Immediately FOLLOWING Worship Today, You’ll Learn About the New Pictorial Church Directory***

Immediately after the close of each worship service today in the sanctuary, you’ll be treated to information about Faith’s new and long-awaited pictorial church directory. During the season, you’ll learn how to use Faith’s safe and secure church software system to:

- Keep your own record up to date.
- See your donations to Faith.
- Choose what personal information you would like to share in the new pictorial directory.
- View digital pictorial directory that includes your church friends. Paper copies will be available upon request.
- Schedule a directory photo appointment with our own Kelly Ashlock by choosing a time on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

If you have not done so already, please be sure to fill out a Household Email Form. The forms were distributed as you entered the sanctuary several Sundays ago in October, and copies are available in the narthex. You can complete the form and place it in the offering plate.

For more information you may speak to Lauren Wardach.

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### ***Bereavement Group Meets Wednesdays***

***Bereavement Group will meet at 3:15 p.m.*** on Wednesdays in the chapel. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.

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### ***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.**

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## ***Experiencing the Joy of Generosity! The Joy of Receiving God's Blessings***

A spiritual gift is a God-given ability for service that God wants us to use to minister to others.

### ***Investing for Time and Eternity***

“... store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matt. 6:20-21

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## ***Worship to Go Needs Your Help!!***

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

- **1:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>**, at Sarabella, Senior Living, 5650 Gantt Road. Volunteers will meet at 12:45 in the Faith Chapel and will car pool to the facility.
  - **10:45 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>**, at Elance Senior Living (Barclay), 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd. Volunteers will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.
  - **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>**, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore. Volunteers will meet at 12:45 p.m. in the chapel and will carpool to the facility.
- To join in, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055. No experience necessary!
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## ***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.

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## ***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 1/26, 2/16, 3/02.** 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](http://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.*

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### ***Zumba Class***

***Zumba Class*** Mondays at 6:00 p.m. 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!!!

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### ***Book Club***

The Book Club next meets on Mon., January 27<sup>th</sup> with the book *The Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner. If you would like to join us please contact Janet Petersen at [luvstitches55@gmail.com](mailto:luvstitches55@gmail.com)

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### ***Misson Endowment Committee wishes to share a message with you during the season of gratitude.***

We are passionate about opportunities to grow new ministries and further develop our faith into actionable steps of support and expansion. We remain ready and willing, eager to see our church family and broader community feel the love of Christ in our work. We are updating our brochure, which will be available for you in the next couple of weeks. There will also be some placed on the narthex table when they are finished as well. Today, we celebrate you, as we cannot grow without our loving congregation. Your gifts, of any amount, give us a means to have a perpetual fund that extends beyond us and our lifetime in support of ministry at Faith Lutheran Church. Our Committee members, including Patty McKee, Denise Kirkeeng, Marlene Radesk, Terry Copper, Pastor John Spittal, Karen Kolschowsky, Pastor Eric, and myself are all available to talk with you about any potential grant ideas or ways for you to contribute your valuable treasures with this fund. Again, thank you deeply for your generosity, support and ideas of ways to deepen our faith and spreading of God's love.

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### ***“Faith’s Financial Corner”***

As we continue to celebrate our Lord and Savior's Birth and the New Year and what promises it will bring, we also need to focus on year end financial concerns.

- Year-end giving statements from Faith were sent out on January 8-9th, either by email or USPS per your opted in/out preferences.
  - Please check your spam or junk folder if you did not receive an email or if you do not receive a letter in the mail in the next few days.
  - If you have questions or concerns, please contact Patty McKee, Financial Secretary-FLC, at 941-228-1192 (cell), 941-921-3709, or [financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com). Thank you!
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## ***Giving Envelopes***

The 2025 Giving Envelopes will be available for pick up in the narthex. This includes the special order and regular. If you have questions please see Patty McKee.

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## **Check out our New Contemporary Service!**

Every Sunday at 5 p.m.

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## **Mary Circle**

Mary Circle starts off 2025 on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> with our guest speaker, Pastor Marianne Powrie. She will be entertaining us with her adventures traveling to Turkey and Greece. Please try to join us for this interesting conversation. We meet at 12 in the fellowship hall - bring lunch, dessert will be provided.

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## **Blood Drive at FLC!**

Sun., Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (parking lot)

You can sign up in the fellowship hall or call 1-866-97-BLOOD (866-972-5663)

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## **Please consider donating to Faith's Food Pantry!**

Envelopes are available for you!

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## Services

Sundays at 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. in person.

Live streamed and recorded at

[www.faihlutheransrq.com/live-service](http://www.faihlutheransrq.com/live-service).

## Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>

Online views	193
8 a.m. in person	45
10:15 a.m. in person	120

## Next Sunday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>

### First Reading

#### Isaiah 62:1-5

*As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall  
God rejoice over you*

#### Psalm 36:5-10

*We feast upon the abundance of your  
house, O Lord. (Ps. 36:8)*

#### 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

*There are a variety of gifts but the same  
Spirit*

#### John 2:1-11

*The wedding at Cana*

## This Week at Faith

### Monday, Jan. 13

12:45 p.m. Worship to Go Prep

1:30 p.m. Worship to Go, Sarabella Senior  
Living, 5650 Grannt Road

5 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room

6 p.m. Zumba Class, community center

### Tuesday, Jan. 14

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Breakfast at The  
Toasted Yolk, 3750 S. Tamiami Trl.

9:30 a.m. G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study,  
library

10 a.m. Worship to Go Prep

10:45 a.m. Worship to Go, Elance/The Barclay,  
3260 Lake Pointe Blvd., Tiffany Room

12 p.m. Mary Circle, Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota practice,  
choir room and sanctuary

### Wednesday, Jan. 15

10:30 a.m. Prayer Group, Chapel

12:30 p.m. Property Management Team  
Meeting, Conference Room

3:15 pm Bereavement Group, Chapel

6:30 p.m. Voice of Faith Practice, Choir Room

### Thursday, Jan. 16

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room

4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep, Fellowship Hall

5 p.m. Food Pantry

### Friday, Jan. 17

8 a.m. Jazzersize, Community Center

### Saturday, Jan. 18

8 a.m. Jazzersize, 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  
Tani Banta  
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 &  
friend of Gerri & Terry Copper  
Pete Inkrott  
Jan and Michele  
Jesus & Rita Jimenez  
Alf Kirkeeng  
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk  
Lillian Lapenckas  
Kevin Lasko  
Chick Lehmann, husband of Suzie Lehmann  
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, daughter, granddaughter, & cousin of  
Lynn Clancy  
Leigh Tarantino, friend of Marlene Radesk  
Melissa Thompson, cousin of Lisa Olsen  
Brittany Wanko & her premature newborn  
infants, Olivia Mae & Emmet Walter  
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 (daughter and father), friends of  
Marlene Radesk



