



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Second Sunday of Christmas

10:15 a.m., January 5, 2025



Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

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 generously given by Dick & Jetty Zarfos in honor of their anniversary!

Ministers

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

Lector

Jonelle Lutz

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

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.

C: Most merciful God, 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.

We sing together

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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.

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 Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WE SIT

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah.

L: ⁷ Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 147:12-20



Wor - ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem; praise your God, O Zi - on.

Psalm 147:12

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

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L: Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

R

L: ¹² Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, ¹³ who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you. ¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat. ¹⁵ God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

R

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes. ¹⁷ God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold? ¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow. ¹⁹ God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel. ²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

R

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians.

L: ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised

Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

P: The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we

have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.
 The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

WE SIT

Sermon

Rev. Eric Olsen

WE STAND

Hymn of the Day

Angels from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

We sing together

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

L: O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. We especially pray for a just peace in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Russia, Ukraine, and Haiti. God of grace, Give wisdom to our elected officials God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness. We especially lift up to you those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, silently and aloud (*pause*). Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum Mysterium

WE STAND

*We sing together
(Next page)*

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. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

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 in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 7/8 time signature. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. 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."

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.

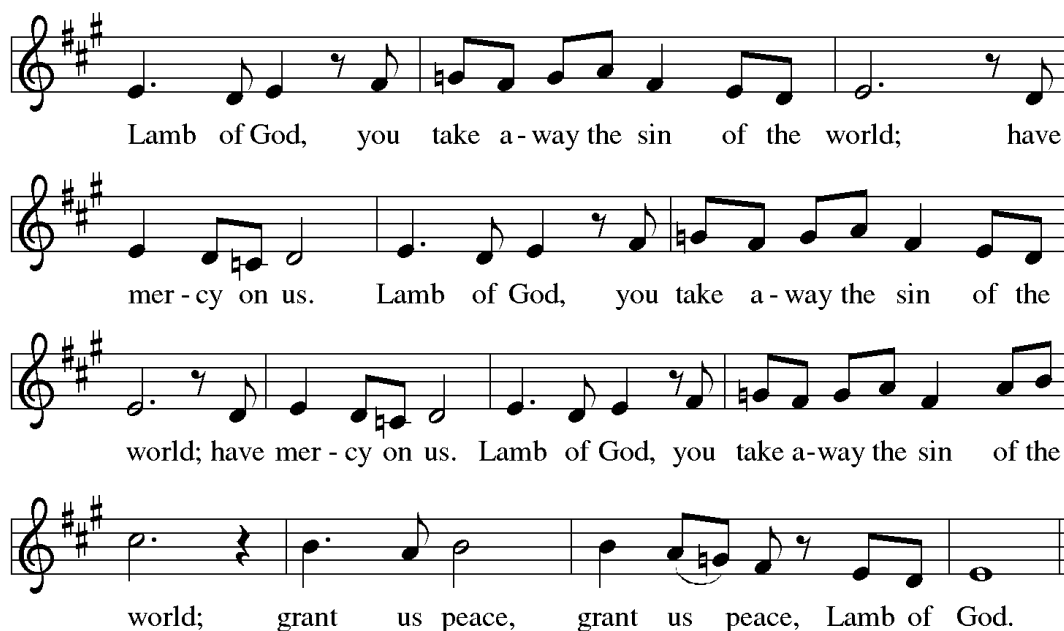
Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*We sing together
(Next page)*



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 Come to the Table of the Lord *Albrecht, Sally K.
And Althouse, Jay*

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. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C: Amen

We sing together

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
 3 O - ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a

high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your

sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
 you take our flesh and blood,
 and in return give us to share
 the shining realm of God,
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
 that leads to paradise;
 the angel bars the way no more.
 To God let praises rise,
 to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman
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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

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.

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** will resume on January 5th with Volume 13 – 5 Lessons “Israel’s Mission”. The first lesson will be *Lesson 1 – Abraham and Sarah and the Three Strangers*. Jan. 12th will feature *Lesson 2 – Israel at Sinai: The First Commission*.
- **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.

Investing for Time and Eternity

Investing for Time and Eternity” is the theme of this year’s annual stewardship emphasis. Be honest. When you first saw or heard this year’s theme, didn’t your thoughts immediately turn to money? After all, that’s what “investing” is all about.

Right?

As we’ll see in various ways throughout this year’s program, “investing” does involve money. But it’s not limited to money. Investing also includes other resources that God has given to us, including time and talents.

In other words, when it comes to time, it’s use it or lose it! And how we use it determines whether it becomes an investment or is simply used up for this life only. Jesus said we are to seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness. When we use our time to do that, when we make God’s work a priority in the use of our time, we are making a wise investment that will pay eternal dividends.

Women of Faith

Please join the *Women of Faith* group for breakfast and Prayer, Conversation, & Fellowship. This will be monthly beginning on **Mon., January 6th @ 8:30 a.m. – Skillet’s, 8635 S Tamiami Trail**. Future dates will be communicated soon. You may call Pastor Marianne for more information.

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.

Adult Bible Study To Resume Its Winter Sessions

Our Bible Study will explore the Scriptures surrounding the death of Jesus on the cross. We will use a study by

Prof. Amy-Jill Levine:
Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's
Guide to Holy Friday

In Witness at the Cross, Dr. Levine (no stranger to our previous Bible Studies) shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each Evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, Each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today. Hopefully, our study will offer us new insights, and we would come away transformed. Come, Lord Jesus! Pastor Larry will convene our six-week study beginning Wednesday, January 15th and concluding on the 19th of February. Each session is from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and, as usual, will be held in the 2nd floor classroom of the Community Center (across from the elevator).

IMPORTANT: The Participant Book-order will be placed after the **REGISTRATION DEADLINE** of *Sunday, January 5th*. Please register on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the church office and leave your name with Heidi (941-924-4664). Your Study Book will be made available for pick-up on Sunday, January 12th.

***WELCOME ALL! REFRESHMENTS! JOIN IN THE
DISCUSSION OR SIT QUIETLY AND TAKE IT ALL IN!***

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.**

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

Worship to Go Needs Your Help!!

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

- **1:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 13th**, 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. 14th**, 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. 21st**, 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!

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.

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, 2/23.** 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.

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!!!

Book Club

The Book Club next meets on Mon., January 27th 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

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.

Digital Pictorial Church Directory News

Last week you were notified you would be receiving an email from IconCMO on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church with instructions about logging in within 48 hours. Due to Christmas holiday and busy schedules we have decided to hold on this until after the Christmas season has finished. You will get an announcement and in new instructions in the next few weeks.

“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 will be sent by Jan 8, either by email or USPS per your opted in/out preferences.
 - To check the status of your 2024 pledge or to request an earlier copy of your statement, contact Patty McKee, financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com, 941-921-3709.
-

Giving Envelopes

The 2025 Giving Envelopes will be available for pick up starting this Sunday. This included the special order and regular. If you have questions please see Patty McKee.

Check out our New Contemporary Service!

Every Sunday at 5 p.m.

Mary Circle

Mary Circle starts off 2025 on Tuesday, January 14th 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.

Blood Drive at FLC!

Sun., Jan. 19th 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)

Please consider donating to Faith's Food Pantry!
Envelopes are available for you!

This Week at Faith

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, Dec. 29th

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Online views | 395 |
| 8 a.m. in person | 35 |
| 10:15 a.m. in person | 108 |

Next Sunday, Jan. 12th

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Monday, Jan. 6

8:30 a.m. – Women of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts,
8635 S Tamiami Trail

2 p.m. S.U.R.E. Meeting, conference room

6 p.m. Zumba Class, community center

Tuesday, Jan. 7

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 8

10:30 a.m. Prayer Group, chapel

3:15 pm Bereavement Group, chapel

6:30 p.m. Voice of Faith Practice, choir room

Thursday, Jan. 9

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall

4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall

5 p.m. Food Pantry

Friday, Jan. 10

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, Jan. 11

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

9 a.m. Diakonia, conference

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
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of Anita & Jon Wooton
Bob Hurdle, friend of Gerry & Karen Kolschowski & 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
Kimberly MacDonald & Barbara, self and mother
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
Jean Peters, friend of Faye Adkin
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 Rade

