



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Second Sunday of Advent

5 p.m., December 8, 2024



Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts.

Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation 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 donated by Alix & Ray Giannini in memory of George Ball, brother of Alix Giannini.

Presiding Minister	Rev. Eric
Lector	Deacon Scott Rice
Director of Music/Organist	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	Linda Fewell, Dottie Gustavson, Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan
Congregation 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.

WELCOME!

Song - Come Now Is The Time To Worship

Chorus

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Verse 1

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Verse 2

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart soul mind and strength
We gladly choose You now

Ending

Come come just as you are come come

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. **We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. **We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. **We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us. A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.**

By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

Song - Here I Am To Worship

Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely

Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

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Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P- Let Us Pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

L- A Reading from Malachi

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

(The Cantor will lead and the congregation will respond with the refrain at R)

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)

R

68 Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free. 69 You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

R

70 Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, 71 from the hands of all who hate us, 72 to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant. 73 This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: 74 to set us free from the hands of our | enemies, free to worship you | without fear, 75 holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.

R

76 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, 77 to give God's people knowledge | of salvation by the forgiveness | of their sins. 78 In the tender compassion | of our God the dawn from on high shall | break upon us, 79 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.

R

Song - In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied

For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

P: John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord. ¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the

crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' ”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Message

Pastor Eric+

Hymn of the Day

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

We sing together



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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Prayers of Intercession

P: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

L: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Help wars to cease in all the lands and for a just peace to prevail. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of that conflict especially, S.U.R.E., LSF and Global Refuge. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering especially, those on our prayer list and those we name before you in silence or aloud. *Pause.* Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: receive our prayer.

Amen.

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.

This I Believe (*The Creed*)

Verse 1

Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Savior

Chorus 1

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

Verse 2

Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

Bridge

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

Chorus 2

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion

And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

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OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary; the Light of the world, our Immanuel. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, that as your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in his body and blood.

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.

C: Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table. All are welcome!

The Distribution of Holy Communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SONG - Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Verse 1

You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand

Chorus 1

And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

Verse 2

Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now

Interlude 1

Oh and You are mine oh

Bridge

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me

Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour

Interlude 2

Yeah yeah yeah yeah
Oh Jesus yeah my God

Chorus 2

I will call upon Your name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

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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** meets between worship services in the conference room. Next week, participants will study Lesson 6, "Ears to Hear", in Volume 12, "Walking with God".
 - **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at **8:30 a.m. each Tuesday. During month of December, please meet 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."
 - **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. Can't attend in person? Join via Zoom: Meeting ID 871 4720 3661. Passcode 041291.
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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.

You Can Help Needy through Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Pastor Eric often speaks with people about aid they require. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund allows him to assist financially, when appropriate. **The need currently is great so, if you can, please consider a donation to the fund so those in need can receive assistance.** You can give through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com, or by designating a check or cash contribution. Thank you!

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.**

Members of Evangelism Ministry Team Experience 30 Day Prayer Devotional

Guided by the book “Pray and Go”, by Thom Rainer, members of Faith Evangelism Ministry Team will spend the month of November reaching our church family and the greater community in prayer. The book – copies of which are paid for by a grant from the Faith Mission Endowment Fund – is an easy-to-use tool that empowers church members to focus outward and learn how to pray regularly.

During their 30-day experience, evangelism team members will meet together to share thoughts and experiences. Through Faith Friday Update emails, they also will share information about what they are learning about the power of prayer and how it prepares them to “make disciples”

A “Pray and Go” experience likely will be offered to All Faith Lutheran worshippers beginning in early 2025. Call Lauren at 941-529-6879 if you have any questions.

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 the minister to others.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10)

Worship to Go Needs Your Help!!

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

- **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10th**, at Elance Senior Living (Barclay), 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd. Volunteers will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.
- **1:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16th**, at Sarabella Senior Living, 5650 Gantt Road. Volunteers will meet at 12:45 p.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.
- **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17th**, 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 12/29, 1/05, 1/12.** 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.

Adult Forum

Adult Forum meets during the first and second services on Sundays until 12/15 – conference room. Featuring Volume 12 – 7 Lessons – “Walking with God”. This week's is Lesson 6 "Ears to Hear".

Dedicate a Christmas Poinsettia to Adorn the Sanctuary

Help adorn the sanctuary for Christmas while honoring a loved one or special occasion by dedicating one or more poinsettias. You will be welcome to take your plant(s) home after the Christmas Eve service. The cost is \$20 per plant (due to storm damage, prices have increased). **Orders and dedications are due by Dec. 7.**

Special red-bordered giving envelopes for Christmas poinsettias are available in the narthex and pews. Or you can pay and record your dedication through the **Christmas Poinsettia option on the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com.**

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!!!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – 4 p.m & 7 p.m.

Christmas Day – 10 a.m.

Special Music for all Services

THANK YOU FLC!!!
Adopt a Lutheran Services Client

We are very happy to report that ALL of the 50 clients we have been assigned by Lutheran Services Florida to make someone's Christmas is just a little bit nicer have been adopted. All will receive a lovely gift (or two!) for Christmas, thanks to your generosity! Please remember the gifts are due back by **DECEMBER 16** and should be WRAPPED and LABELED. There is a collection area set up in the fellowship hall.

Book Club

Faith book club will be taking a reading break for the holidays and will not meet in November. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. We will next meet in December for a holiday luncheon at **Apollonia in the Landings shopping center on Monday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. (*please note that time change)**. We resume our reading discussions on Monday, January 27 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

Hope Seeds / Mary Club

After enjoying an informative luncheon and presentation by Maxine Busbaugh regarding the purpose and goals of Hope Seeds the members of Mary Circle created seed packages for turnips. These packets have the potential to provide food for thousands of people all over the world. We all had an interesting and fun time. Watch for more exciting news about this ministry coming to Faith and is open to all.

In December, Mary Circle will be lunching out at **Tripletail, located in Landings Shopping Center on 41. Tues., Dec. 10th at noon**. Look for signup sheet in the church narthex. All are welcome!

If you have any questions please email Janet Petersen at luvstitches55@gmail.com or Donna Pappalardo at donna326@aol.com.

Receiving New Members

We will be receiving new members to FLC on Sun., Dec. 8th during the 10:15 service.

Mid-Week Soup Supper & Taize Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 18th

Supper @ 5 p.m.

Worship @ 6 p.m.

There is a sign up sheet in narthex, please list what date if you plan to bring soup.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

We will be caroling together on **Sunday, December 22nd**. We will gather after the 10:15 service to visit shut-ins and nursing homes to share the spirit of Christmas with those that cannot get out by themselves. It will be a fun and festive time!

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for a **Festive Musical Celebration** as we install **Andi Zdrava** as our Director of Music. There will be a special performance by Yuri Padkouskiy and Andi will play the piano. **Saturday, December 14th at 4 p.m.**

Misson Endowment Committee wishes to share a message with you during the Thanksgiving 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.

Christmas Concert at FLC ***SAVE THE DATE!!!***

Voices of Faith will be performing a Christmas Concert on
Saturday, Dec. 21st at 1 p.m.

Carla Lewis from our Voices of Faith Choir has asked us to sign up to bring refreshments to share following the concert. There will be a sign up sheet in narthex.

“Faith’s Financial Corner”


’Tis the Season of...Advent...the contemplation and waiting for the coming of our Lord and Savior’s Birth and the New Year and what promises it will bring. Of course, that means year-end concerns also call for attention. Here’s useful information to help you plan:

- 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.

’Tis the Season of...Giving...we all are well aware as our mailboxes and messages tell us! Just as we contemplate the meaningful expressions of love and appreciation for family and those significant causes in our lives, please include your family of Faith!

Ways to Give to Faith Lutheran

Besides giving cash or checks in the offering plate at services, other smart ways to meet your desired giving to support the mission and work of Faith may be beneficial either from a taxable financial benefit to you, or simply for convenience.

- Consider electronic giving via the Online faithlutheransrq.com/onlinegiving. And will take you there and is regularly you to copy and save. For either regularly or a one time donation to a specific fund, our Vanco support partner assures secure and convenient platform for doing so.
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- Giving page on the Faith website, don’t forget, we have a QR code that published in our bulletins. Here, for scheduled giving to meet your pledge,
- Donate appreciated securities that you have owned for more than one year, thus eliminating capital gains tax on the appreciation. You may also receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value on the date of the gift. Consult with your tax advisor, and keep in mind that the gift date is the date on which the securities enter Faith’s account. Contact our treasurer - Anita Wooton, assistant-treasurer - Jane Sanks, or Pastor Eric Olsen for additional information.
 - Open a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or contribute through your existing DAF. You can request a grant from your DAF to support Faith or any of Faith’s mission funds.
 - Make a gift from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If you are 70½ or older, you can transfer funds directly to Faith to eliminate taxes on any gift up to \$105,000 each calendar year. If you must make RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions), this is a great way to meet all or part of that obligation, being sure that your gift arrives before December 31, to count toward the current tax year.

- If you own a Life Insurance Policy that is no longer needed, it could be the easy gift vehicle for a charitable gift. You can contribute a life insurance policy either by declaring Faith Lutheran Church, Inc. as the owner of the policy or simply the beneficiary. Check with your life insurance agent for details on forms needed and potential tax savings.
- Endow your giving to the church by making an investment to it and its future mission in perpetuity. Just as the significant individuals in your life and your favorite charitable organizations deserve your planned and thoughtful remembrance, consider the importance of your faith and church in your life. Through Legacy or planned giving, you can help ensure Faith Lutheran's growth for years to come. Legacy planning can be made through many vehicles. Gifts are usually made through a bequest in a will, charitable gift annuity, retirement account, life insurance, life estate, or appreciated property or securities.

Additional considerations on giving:

- TOD designation (transfer on death) allows an account holder to pass assets from brokerage accounts, stocks, and bonds at their death, to pass directly to a beneficiary, bypassing probate, after they die. The account owner specifies the percentage of assets each beneficiary receives, allowing their executor to distribute without first passing through probate. TOD cannot be used for retirement accounts like IRAs or 401(k)'s because retirement account beneficiaries must follow withdrawal and taxation rules.

POD designation (payable on death) account is similar to a TOD account except that it handles a person's bank assets (cash), instead of securities.

Worship 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. 1

Online views	176
8 a.m. in person	35
10:15 a.m. in person	100

Next Sunday, Dec. 15

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice, the Lord is in your midst

Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice, the Lord is near

Luke 3:7-18

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire

This Week at Faith

Monday, Dec. 9

5 p.m.	Executive Committee
6 p.m.	Zumba Class, community center

Tuesday, Dec. 10

8:30 a.m.	Men of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts. 8635 S. Tamiami Trail
9:30 a.m.	G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study, library
10 a.m.	Worship to Go Prep, chapel
10:45 a.m.	Worship to Go, Elance, Tiffany Room
11 a.m.	Property Committee Meeting, conference room
12 p.m.	Hope Seeds/Mary Circle Lunch, Tripletail, located in Landings Shopping Center
6:00	Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir room & gym

Wednesday, Dec. 11

10:30 a.m.	Prayer Support Group, chapel
3:15 p.m.	Bereavement Group, chapel
5 p.m.	Midweek Soup Supper & Taize Worship
6:30 p.m.	Voices of Faith Choir Practice, choir room

Thursday, Dec. 12

9 a.m.	Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
1 p.m.	Stitch 'n Chatter, fellowship hall
4:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
5 p.m.	Food Pantry

Friday, Dec. 13

8 a.m.	Jazzercise, community center
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Saturday, Dec. 15

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

Alan
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
Evelyn Conlon
Merle Cusmano
Doug Dahlquist, dad of Hannah Boyd
Jeanine Davis (nee Molella), granddaughter of
Karen & John White
Eloise Dettmer
Ryan Donahue, friend of Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia
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
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
Alicia Orlow, friend of Heidi Floyd
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
David Turnbull, husband of Patricia White
Brittany Wanko & her premature newborn
infants, Olivia Mae & Emmet Walter
Friends & Family of Paul Wick
Dr. Patty White
Jon Wooton
Celeste & John Yee, daughter and father of Marlene

Radesk