



# Faith Lutheran Church

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

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

10:15 a.m., December 15, 2024



Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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](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 donated by The Kempson Family in celebration of their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!!!***

<b>Ministers</b>	Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen Rev. Marianne Powrie, Rev. Larry Wright
<b>Lector</b>	Michael Leonhardt
<b>Cantor</b>	Jesse V. Martin, Hannah Boyd
<b>Flutist</b>	Juliann Geyser
<b>Director of Music/Organist</b>	Andi Zdrava
<b>Greeters &amp; Ushers</b>	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
<b>Media Team</b>	Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell, Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood
<b>Altar Guild</b>	
<b>Sunday School Teacher</b>	Emily Holst
<b>Volunteer Sunday School Assistant</b>	Christian Jones
<b>Congregation Council</b>	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
* * * * *	
<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
<b>Assistant to the Pastor</b>	Rev. Larry Wright
<b>Retired Pastors in Residence</b>	Rev. John Hilficker Rev. Marianne Powrie Rev. John Spittal
<b>Executive Assistant to the Pastor for Administration</b>	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 WELCOME

### LIGHT ONE CANDLE WHILE THE ADVENT WREATH IS BEING LIT – Vs. 1, 2, 3

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath    Light the One Candle

ELW 240

*Verses One, Two, & Three*



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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*WE STAND*

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

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

**C: Amen.**

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

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

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

**C: Amen.**



**Gathering Hymn**

**People Look East**

*We sing together*

*(See next page)*

**ELW 248**

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934  
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## 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.

# 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: Let us pray, stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

L: <sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody: Isaiah 12:2-6



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Isaiah 12:6

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

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**R**

L: <sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells | of salvation.



## R

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted. <sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## R

### Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

L: A reading from Philippians.<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Amen

### 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 3:7-18**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” <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>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

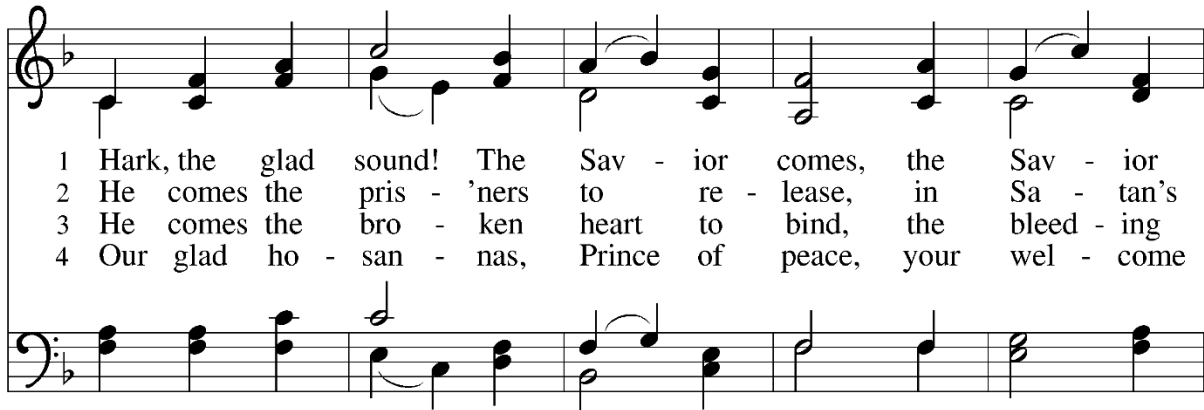
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*WE SIT*

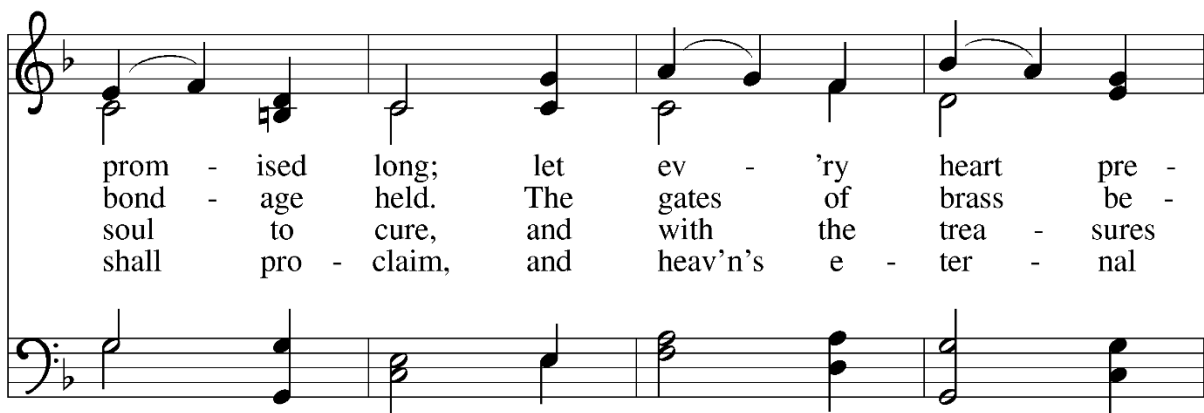
**Sermon**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

*WE STAND*

*We sing together*


1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

*WE SIT*

## **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.**

## **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.

L: God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters.

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Foster a just peace in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, and other war torn regions of the World. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. 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. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Heal all who are suffering especially, those on our prayer list and those we name before you in silence or aloud. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**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**

**Seekers of Light**  
*Voices of Faith Choir*

Martin, Joseph, M., &  
David Angerman

*WE STAND*  
*We sing together*

# Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

## Offering Song

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

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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### Offering Prayer

**P:** Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, 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.**

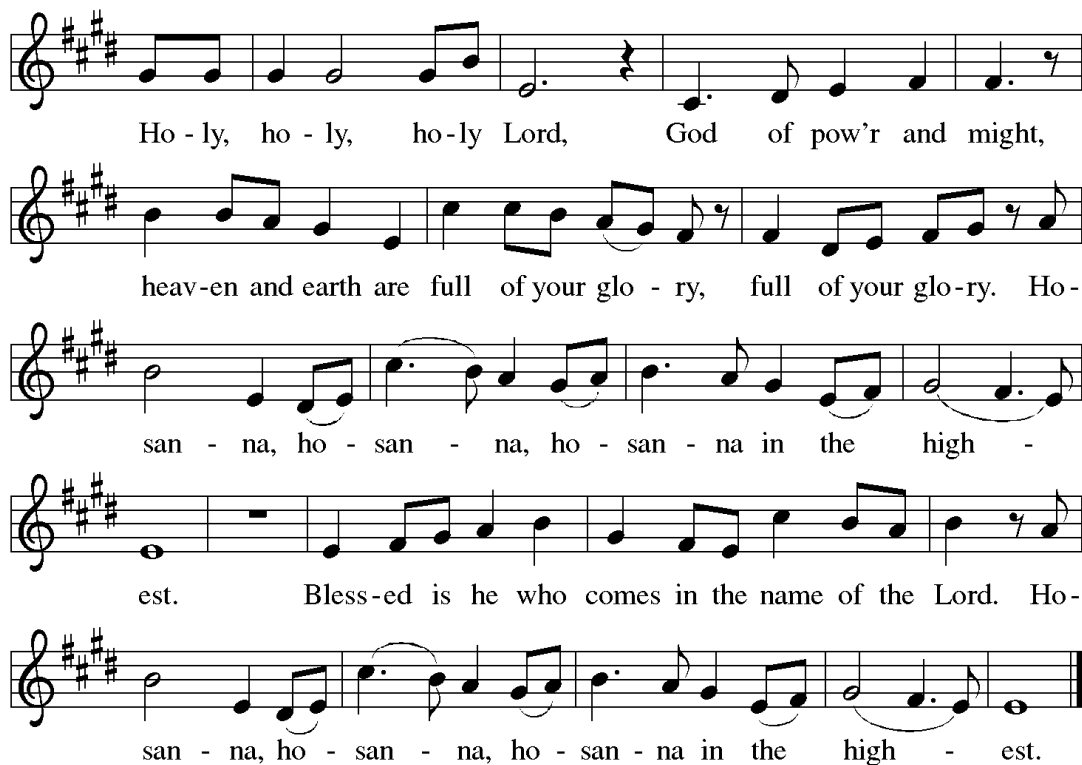
**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy *We sing together*



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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

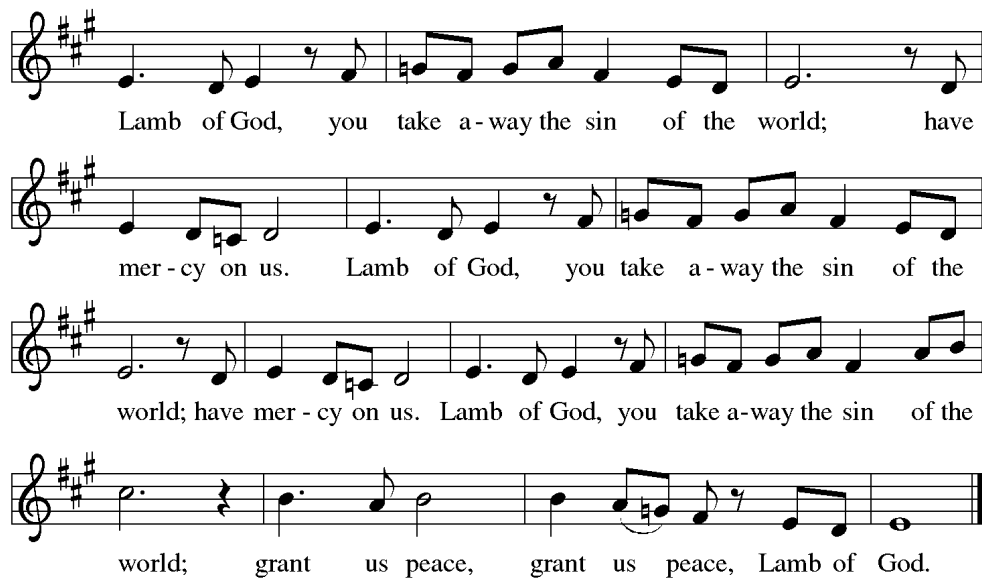
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

### **Communion Song**

*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 Though Long-Expected Jesus**    *DeLong,*  
*Voice of Faith Choir*    *Richard*

*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. Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

## Sending Song

## Come That We Love The Lord

ELW 625

*We sing together*

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets  
4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -

sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.  
heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

*Refrain*  
We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:

we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

## 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** meets between worship services in the conference room. Next week, participants will study Lesson 7, "There's Hope in the Desert".
- ", 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.

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### *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](http://faithlutheransrq.com), or by designating a check or cash contribution. Thank 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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## ***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.

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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 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)

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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, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**, 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. 17<sup>th</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 12/29, 1/05, 1/19.** 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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## ***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 7 - “There’s Hope in the Desert”.

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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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## ***Christmas Services***

Christmas Eve – 4 p.m & 7 p.m.

Christmas Day – 10 a.m.

***Special Music for all Services***

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## **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<sup>th</sup>** and should be WRAPPED and LABELED. There is a collection area set up in the fellowship hall.

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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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### ***Mid-Week Soup Supper & Taize Worship***

Wednesday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

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.*

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### ***CHRISTMAS CAROLING!***

We will be caroling together on **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. 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!

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### ***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.

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

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

*Your help is requested for Voices of Faith's Christmas Concert, December 21 @ 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed for set up, cleanup, and donations of sweet and/or savory treats for the reception following the concert. Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Karla Lewis, 312.953.1644 (cell).*

***Digital Pictorial Church Directory News***

Time to be on the lookout for an Email from IconCMO on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church. All the pictures taken thus far have been uploaded and ready for you to visit your own page.

Those of you who have had pictures taken and filled out the email form will be receiving an email with password and usernames etc. this week 12/16 – 12/20. When you receive the email you will have 48 hours for the link to be available for you to log in with the credentials provided. If you don't catch the 48 hour window, we can send you another. No worries. It would be good to try to stay within the timeframe.

When you log in to your IconCMO app or website you will see your own personal information. It is up to you at this point what information you want to share with other members. You will remember from the workshop that there is an option to include in the directory or not to. This is a private group that requires specific invitations to have access. An example of information you may want to share is perhaps your address or phone number. You may still have time to send a Christmas Card to a new friend at church. It may take a while for people to opt in to the directory and until that time you will only see the people that have already given their permission to be in the digital directory. Picture taking will resume in January. Thank you to all of you who have attended our workshops. There will be one more on January 12<sup>th</sup>. *If you have any questions please call Lauren at 941-529-6879 or the church office who will pass along the message to me or Patty McKee.*

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***The Evangelism Ministry Team welcomes you to join us!***

Our next meeting is this coming evening Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM in the Conference Room. We meet regularly just 4 times per year. Special project groups may meet more frequently. Please come and join us!

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## ***“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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service).

### Sunday, Dec. 8

Online views	184
8 a.m. in person	33
10:15 a.m. in person	126

### Next Sunday, Dec. 22

#### First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a  
*From Bethlehem comes a ruler*

Luke 1:46b-55  
*You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. [Lk. 1:52]*

#### Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10  
*I have come to do your will*

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]  
*Blessed are you among women / My soul magnifies the Lord*

## This Week at Faith

### Monday, Dec. 16

12:45 Worship to Go prep, chapel  
1:30 Worship to Go, Sarabella Senior Living, 5650 Gantt Road, Sarasota  
5 p.m. Avangelism Team Meeting, Conference Room  
6 p.m. Zumba Class, community center

### Tuesday, Dec. 17

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Breakfast, Skilllets. 8635 S. Tamiami Trail  
9:30 a.m. G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study, library  
12:45 p.m. Worship to Go Prep, chapel  
1:30 p.m. Worship to Go, Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore Road, Sarasota  
6:00 Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir room & gym

### Wednesday, Dec. 18

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. 19

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall  
9:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Conference Room  
1:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting, Conference Room  
4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall  
5 p.m. Food Pantry

### Friday, Dec. 20

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

### 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  
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  
Evelyn Conlon  
Merle Cusmano  
Doug Dahlquist, dad 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  
Alicia & Walt 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  
Melissa Thompson, cousin of Lisa Olsen  
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

