

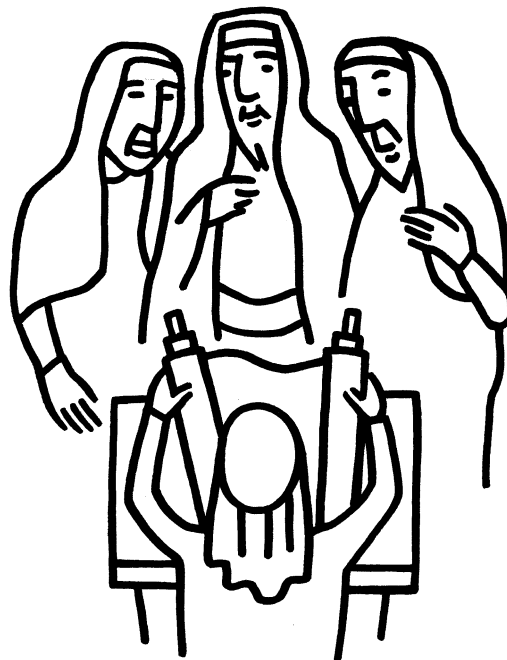


Faith Lutheran Church

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

First Sunday of Christmas

8 a.m., December 29, 2024



On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

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.

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The flowers on the altar today are generously given by Grace Kaarre

Ministers

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

**Lector
Cantor
Flutist**

Sandy Gerber
Jesse V. Martin, Hannah Boyd
Julianne Geysler

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
Volunteer Sunday School Assistant**

Emily Holst
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
Retired Pastors in Residence**

Rev. Larry Wright
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

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.

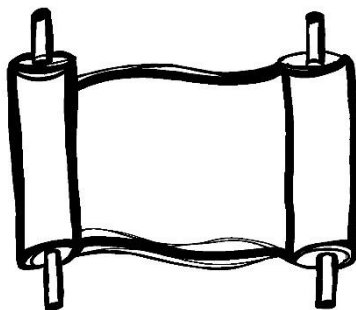
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

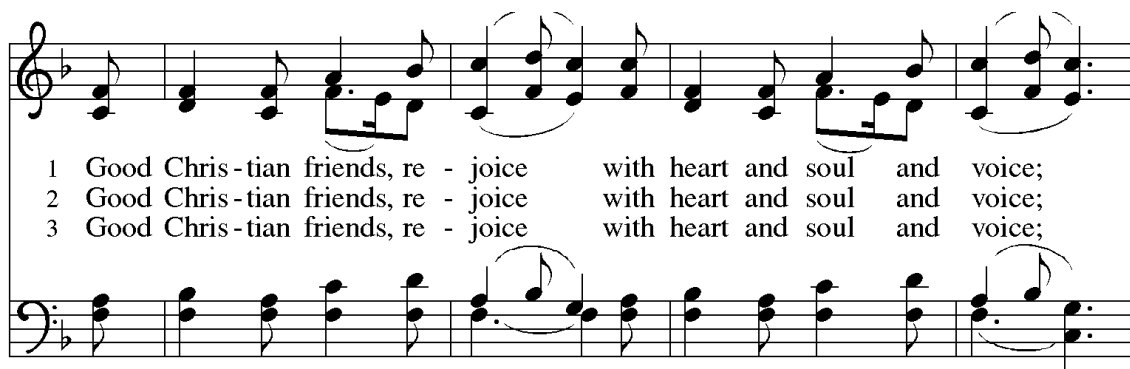
C: Amen.

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.



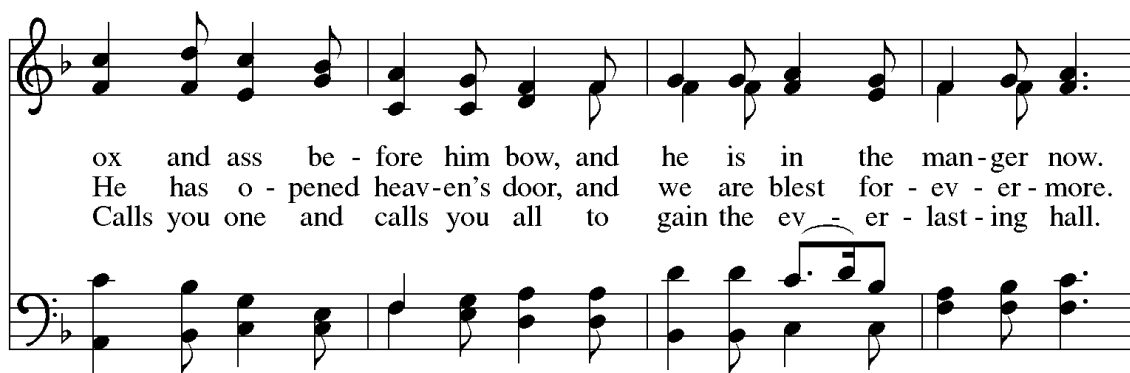
*We sing together
First and Last Verse*



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us Pray, Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WE SIT

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

A reading from 1 Samuel.

L: ¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home. ²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

L: The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 148

L: The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

R

L: ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven. ³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars. ⁴ Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and your waters above the heavens. ⁵ Let them praise the name | of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created, ⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

R

L: ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; ⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will; ⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; ¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds; ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; ¹² young men and maidens, old and young together.

R

L: ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven. ¹⁴ The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

R

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians.

L: ¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

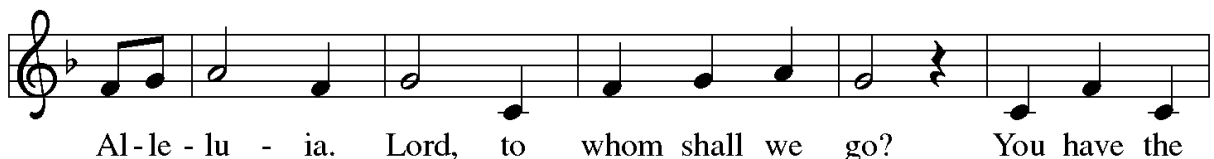
L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

WE STAND

Gospel Acclamation

We sing together



Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

WE SIT

Sermon

Rev. Marianne Powrie

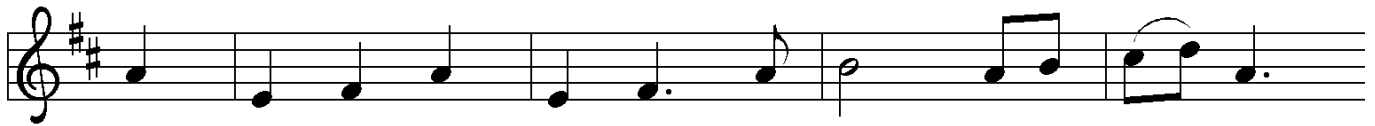
WE STAND

Hymn of the Day

Beloved, God's Chosen

ELW 648

*We sing together
First and Last Verse
(Next page)*



1 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment
 2 With - in, call forth Wis - dom, to dwell in you rich - ly;
 3 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment



com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.
 let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.
 com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.



A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment
 And from the heart's cham - ber, be - lov - ed and ho - ly,
 A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment



that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.
 let sing - ing thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er rise.
 that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: ANDREW'S SONG, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962
 Text © 1994 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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

L: For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

L: For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

L: For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. We especially pray for a just peace in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Russia, and Haiti. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

L: For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill. We especially lift up to you those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, silently and aloud. *(Pause)* Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

L: For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

L: For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. 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.

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. 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion Song

We sing together

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

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

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



We sing together

1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known,
 2 O Christ, your - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty

in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.
 with heart still un - de - filed to full a - dult - hood come:
 and teach us how to find the love from self set free;

Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as
 our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place that they may all be -
 in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by

sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple dwell.
 hold your face and, know - ing you, may grow in grace.
 this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
 Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885
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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.

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*.
- **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.

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.** – **Skillets, 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.

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!

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 & 2/9.** 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. 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 Giving page on the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com/onlinegiving. And don't forget, we have a QR code that will take you there and is regularly published in our bulletins. Here, for you to copy and save. For either regularly scheduled giving to meet your pledge, or a one time donation to a specific fund, our Vanco support partner assures secure and convenient platform for doing so. 
- 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 70 1/2 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.

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.

Poinsettias

If you dedicated a poinsettia plant to a loved one please consider taking it home to enjoy. We will be donating the ones left behind.
Thank you!



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. 22nd

Online views	354
8 a.m. in person	29
10:15 a.m. in person	145

Tues., Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve

Online views	227
4 p.m. in person	163
7 p.m. in person	79

Wed., Dec. 25th – Christmas Day

Online views	218
10 a.m. in person	45

Next Sunday, Jan. 5th

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock

Psalm 147:12-20

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

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

The will of God made known in Christ

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

God with us: the incarnation of the Word

This Week at Faith

Monday, Dec. 30

6 p.m. Zumba Class, community center

Tuesday, Dec. 31

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

3:00 p.m. Feed the Hungry at St. Paul's Downtown, 2256 Bahia Vista St

Wednesday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day – office closed

Thursday, Jan. 2

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall

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

5 p.m. Food Pantry

Friday, Jan. 3

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, Jan. 4

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	Kim McDonald
Dick Allender, cousin of Gerri Copper	Judi Melander
Pastor Steve Anderson, friend of Jan Phillips	Alison Nommay, friend of Karla Lewis & Michael Leonhardt
Tani Banta	Terry O'Connell, friend of Marlene Radesk
Barbara Brannan, mother of Kim McDonald	Walt Orlow, friend of Heidi Floyd
Arthur Brucato, friend of Karla Lewis & Michael Leonhardt	Meghan Ortega, niece of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen
Dee Burlingame	Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan
Judy Carlsen	Sue Ostrom
Evelyn Conlon	Pastor Terry Parker, friend of Max & Pastor Marianne Powrie
Merle Cusmano	Fran Perkins
Doug Dahlquist, dad of Hannah Boyd	Jean Peters, friend of Faye Adkin
Jeanine Davis (nee Molella), granddaughter of Karen & John White	Carl Petersen
Eloise Dettmer	Richard Keith Radcliffe, brother of Gail Radcliffe Brown
Beth & Mary Farmer	Annabel Ryan
Andrea Gamboa	Robin Ryder, daughter of Floyd Ryder & sister of Gail Murphy
Vicki Goffinet	Lorna Sawyers-Sucra, friend of Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles	Kathy Schilio
Patricia Head, mother of Wayne Head	Becky Sciranko, niece of Alice Rush
Sonja Hickling, mother of Kelly Ashlock	Joan Searles
Becky Hilton Heeps, friend of Lisa Olsen	Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of Anita & Jon Wooton	Shirley Schimke
Bob Hurdle, friend of Gerry & Karen Kolschowski & friend of Gerri & Terry Copper	Pastor John Spittal
Pete Inkrott	Pamela Spry, mother of Hannah Boyd
Jan and Michele	Dr. Heather Stark, friend of Cliff Hornsby
Jesus & Rita Jimenez	Mark Stengel
Alf Kirkeeng	Ed & Gail Straight, friends of Nancy Dandino
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk	Tess Stransky, daughter, granddaughter, & cousin of Lynn Clancy
Lillian Lapenckas	Leigh Tarantino, friend of Marlene Radesk
Kevin Lasko	Melissa Thompson, cousin of Lisa Olsen
Chick Lehmann, husband of Suzie Lehmann	David Turnbull, husband of Patricia White
Ruth Levy, sister of Joan Hirsch	Brittany Wanko & her premature newborn infants, Olivia Mae & Emmet Walter
Diane Lewis, sister-in-law of Karla Lewis & Michael Leonhardt	Friends & Family of Paul Wick
Pat Longo & Ronnie Mojo, friends of Susan Wakefield	Dr. Patty White
Kimberly MacDonald & Barbara, self and mother	Jon Wooton
Julie & Eli Maresch, niece & grandnephew of Patty McKee	Celeste & John Yee (daughter and father), friends of Marlene Radesk
Paul & Debbie Maresch, brother & sister-in-law of Patty McKee	
Dennis McCaughey, friend of Lois Weaverling	

