



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Third Sunday of Advent

5 p.m., December 8, 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

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 65th Anniversary!!!!

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Presiding Minister | Rev. Eric Olsen |
| Asisting Minister | 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 |

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|---|--|
| Pastor | Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen |
| Assistant to the Pastor | Rev. Larry Wright, Rev. Maryanne Powrie |
| 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

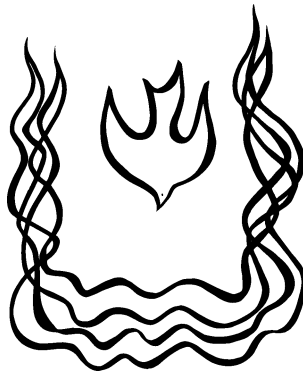
Verse 2

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

Brian Doerksen CCLI Song #2430948 © 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)
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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: 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.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

L: ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ 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 singing¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

L: In your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

R

⁴ 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. ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously; let this be known in | all the earth. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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 3:7-18

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? ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.” ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ 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.” ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.” ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

Hark, The Glad Sound

ELW 239

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

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.

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

Ben Fielding, Matt Crocker CCLI Song #7018338 © 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
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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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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: 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

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 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.

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:

- **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, 1/19.** 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.

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 7 - “There’s Hope in the Desert”.

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!!!

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 16th** and should be WRAPPED and LABELED. There is a collection area set up in the fellowship hall.

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

Mid-Week Soup Supper & Taize Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 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!

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.

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 12th. *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.*

The Evangelism Ministry Team welcomes you to join us!

Our next meeting is this coming evening Monday, December 16th 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!

“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.
- 
- 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. 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, Skilletts. 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

