



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Second Sunday of Advent

8 a.m., December 8, 2024



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

Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | www.faithlutheransrq.com

All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.

The flowers on the altar today are donated by Alix & Ray Giannini in memory of George Ball, brother of Alix Giannini.

Presiding Minister	Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Assisting Minister	Rev. Marianne Powrie
Lector	Mark Nelson
Director of Music/Organist	Andi Zdrava
Greeters & Ushers	Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz, Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Scott Rice, Jane Sanks, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach
Media Team	Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell, Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood
Altar Guild	Linda Fewell, Dottie Gustavson, Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan
Congregation Council	Scott Rice, president; Lauren Wardach, vice president; Mark Nelson, secretary; Anita Wooton, treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Quyen Dang; Ann Greenwood; Peggy Ragan; Joan Searles
* * * * *	
Pastor	Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Assistant to the Pastor	Rev. Larry Wright
Retired Pastors in Residence	Rev. John Hilficker Rev. Marianne Powrie Rev. John Spittal
Executive Assistant to the Pastor for Administration	Heidi Floyd

- Noted throughout the service - **P**: Presiding Minister **L**: Lector **C**: **Congregation**
- Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE STAND

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism (and for these children of God who desire to become members of Faith Lutheran Church).

Let us pray. (Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit and nourished them in the community of faith). Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: I ask you, along with the assembly, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

C: Amen.

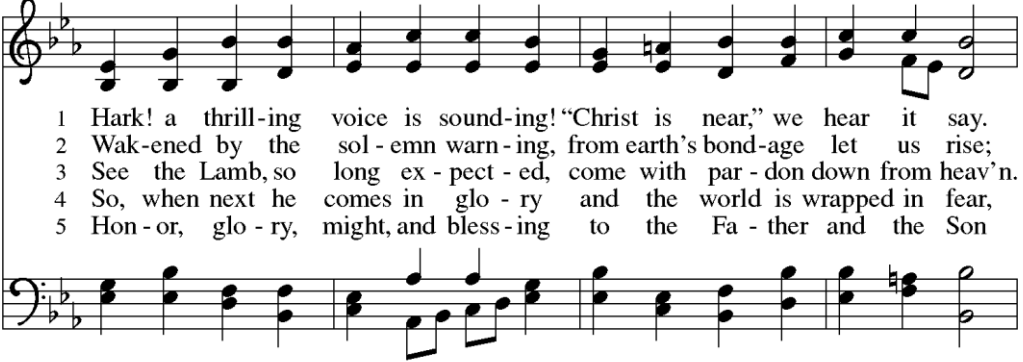
Gathering Hymn Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

ELW 246

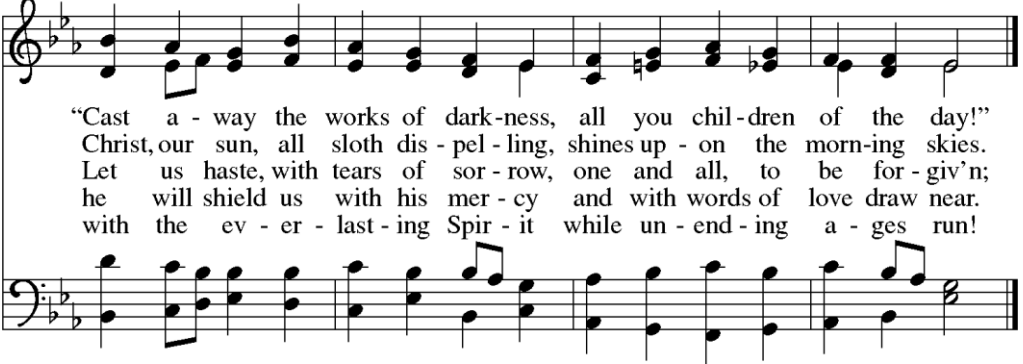
First and Last Verse

We sing together

(See next page)



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

C: Amen.

WE SIT

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

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

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm Luke 1:68-79

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

R

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

R

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

R

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, ⁷⁷ to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

R

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, ⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

R

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

L: A reading from Philippians.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among

you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

WE STAND

Gospel Acclamation

We sing together

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the

high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

Sermon

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND



Hymn of the Day

Canticle of Turning

ELW 723

First and Last Verse

We sing together

(See next page)



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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WE SIT

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

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

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

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

receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

Amen.

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
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

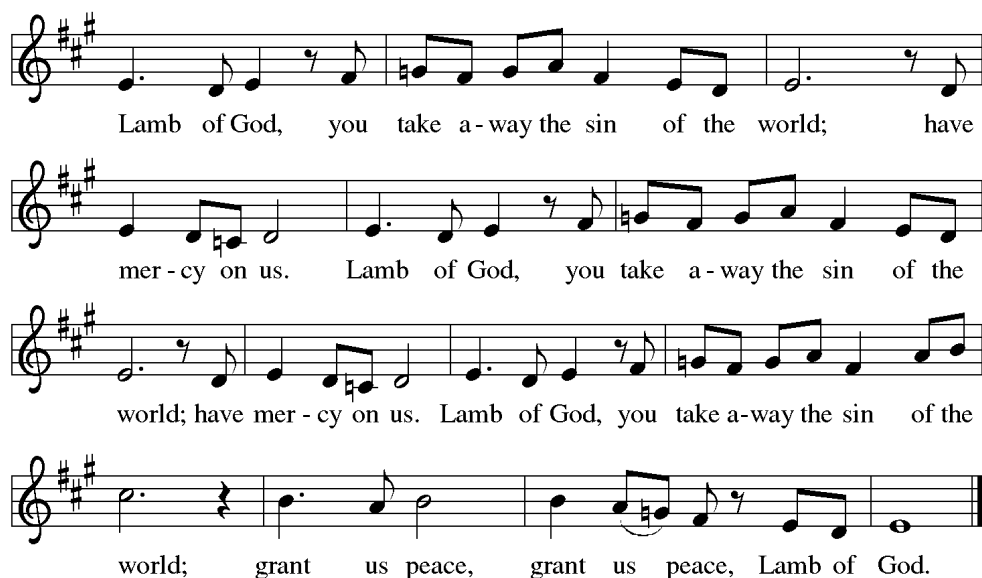
Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion Song

We sing together



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


Sending Song

Love Devine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

We sing together

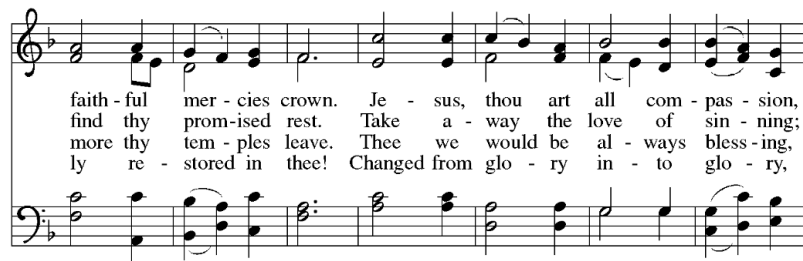
First & Last Verse



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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** meets between worship services in the conference room. Next week, participants will study Lesson 6, "Ears to Hear", in Volume 12, "Walking with God".
- **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at **8:30 a.m. each Tuesday. During month of December, please meet at Skilletts, 8635 S Tamiami Trail.**
- **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible study meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the library** to focus on "Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength."
- **The Prayer Group meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel** to pray for all in need, our community, nation and world, and to share Holy Communion. Can't attend in person? Join via Zoom: Meeting ID 871 4720 3661. Passcode 041291.

Bereavement Group Meets Wednesdays

Bereavement Group will meet at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesdays in the chapel. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.

You Can Help Needy through Pastor's Discretionary Fund

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

Coffee Hour Is Important! Please Volunteer!

Coffee hour needs additional volunteers. All you have to do is provide and put out snacks, and clean up afterward. Faith can cover the cost of the snacks if you would like to volunteer but don't have resources to purchase them. **Sign up on the sheet beside the coffee pot in fellowship hall.**

Members of Evangelism Ministry Team Experience 30 Day Prayer Devotional

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

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

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

Experiencing the Joy of Generosity! The Joy of Receiving God’s Blessings

A spiritual gift is a God-given ability for service that God wants us to use the minister to others.

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

Worship to Go Needs Your Help!!

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

- **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10th**, at Elance Senior Living (Barclay), 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd. Volunteers will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.
- **1:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16th**, at Sarabella Senior Living, 5650 Gantt Road. Volunteers will meet at 12:45 p.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.
- **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17th**, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore. Volunteers will meet at 12:45 p.m. in the chapel and will carpool to the facility.

To join in, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055. No experience necessary!

Need a Ride to Church?

Faith will pay for Uber or Lyft to bring you or others to worship or other events. Contact Pastor Eric to make arrangements, 716-352-0055.

Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory

- Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with “altar flowers” in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, choose an alternate date. **The next open dates are 12/29, 1/05, 1/12.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday. To make a dedication:
- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with payment, and place it in the offering plate. Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.
- By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
- By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com.

If you have questions or specific requests about who or what organization should receive flowers that you purchased and choose to donate, contact Joan Hirsch, 941-726-7885.

Adult Forum

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

Dedicate a Christmas Poinsettia to Adorn the Sanctuary

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

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

Zumba Class

Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center (gym). All fitness levels are welcome! It is free for congregation members and a voluntary donation from non-members is appreciated. Join in the FUN!!!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – 4 p.m & 7 p.m.

Christmas Day – 10 a.m.

Special Music for all Services

THANK YOU FLC!!!

Adopt a Lutheran Services Client

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

Book Club

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

If you would like to join us please contact Janet Petersen at luvstitches55@gmail.com

Hope Seeds / Mary Club

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

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

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

Receiving New Members

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

Mid-Week Soup Supper & Taize Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 18th

Supper @ 5 p.m.

Worship @ 6 p.m.

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

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

SAVE THE DATE!

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

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

We are passionate about opportunities to grow new ministries and further develop our faith into actionable steps of support and expansion. We remain ready and willing, eager to see our church family and broader community feel the love of Christ in our work. We are updating our brochure, which will be available for you in the next couple of weeks. There will also be some placed on the narthex table when they are finished as well. Today, we celebrate you, as we cannot grow without our loving congregation. Your gifts, of any amount, give us a means to have a perpetual fund that extends beyond us and our lifetime in support of ministry at Faith Lutheran Church. Our Committee members, including Patty McKee, Denise Kirkeeng, Marlene Radesk, Terry Copper, Pastor John Spittal, Karen Kolschowsky, Pastor Eric, and myself are all available to talk with you about any potential grant ideas or ways for you to contribute your valuable treasures with this fund. Again, thank you deeply for your generosity, support and ideas of ways to deepen our faith and spreading of God's love.

Christmas Concert at FLC

SAVE THE DATE!!!

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

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

“Faith’s Financial Corner”


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

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

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

Ways to Give to Faith Lutheran

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

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

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

Additional considerations on giving:

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

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

Worship Services

Sundays at 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. in person.
Live streamed and recorded at
www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service.

Sunday, Dec. 1

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

Next Sunday, Dec. 15

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice, the Lord is in your midst

Isaiah 12:2-6

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

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice, the Lord is near

Luke 3:7-18

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire

This Week at Faith

Monday, Dec. 9

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

Tuesday, Dec. 10

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

Wednesday, Dec. 11

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

Thursday, Dec. 12

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

Friday, Dec. 13

8 a.m. Jazzersize, community center

Saturday, Dec. 15

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

