



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Nativity of Our Lord CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. & 7 p.m., December 24, 2024



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

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.

Poinsettias Honor Loved Ones, Give Glory to God!

Ministers

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

**Lector
Cantor
Flutist**

Michael Geysler/Kevin Fewell
Jesse V. Martin, Hannah Boyd
Juliann 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 CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WE STAND

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

P: Many ages after God created the heavens and earth, when man and woman were formed in God's own image;

Long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;

Thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;

Eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the Judges;

A thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

In the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

In the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

Christmas Eve is the eve of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

WE STAND



We sing together

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Greeting


P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

We sing together


Refrain




Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Canticle

We sing together

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be




peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-



le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

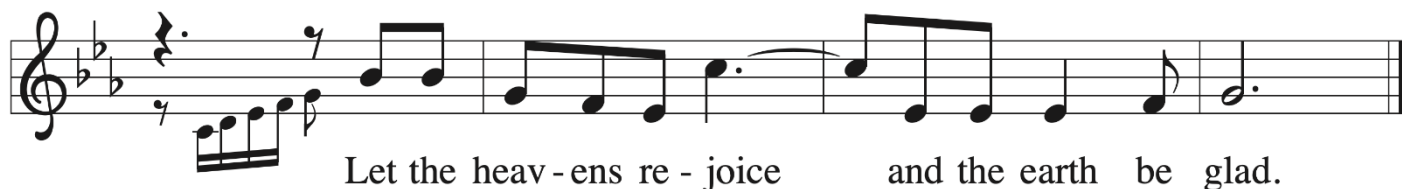
A reading from Isaiah

L: ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad (Ps. 96:11)



Psalm 96:11

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

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R

L: ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day. ³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

R

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens. ⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary. ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power. ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

R

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth. ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.” ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth. ¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

R

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

L: A reading from Titus. ¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

Gospel Acclamation

We sing together

(Next page)

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 2:1-14 [15-20]

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” [¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known

to us.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

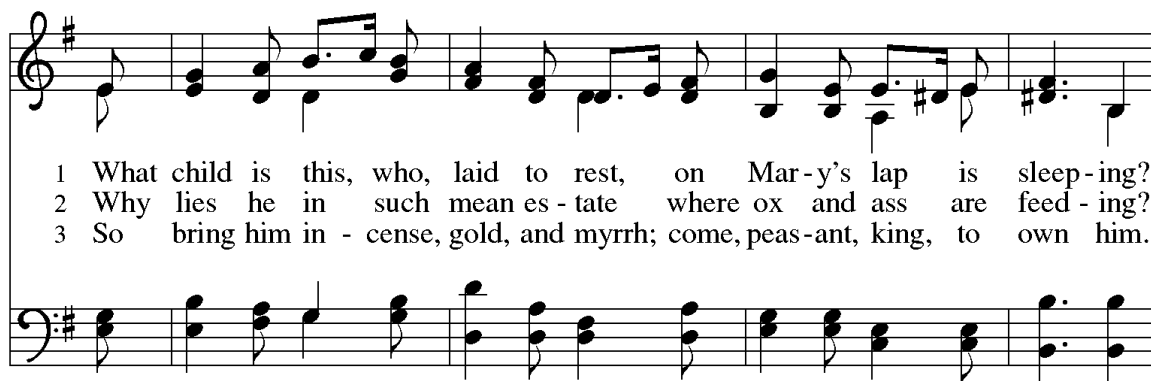
WE SIT

Sermon

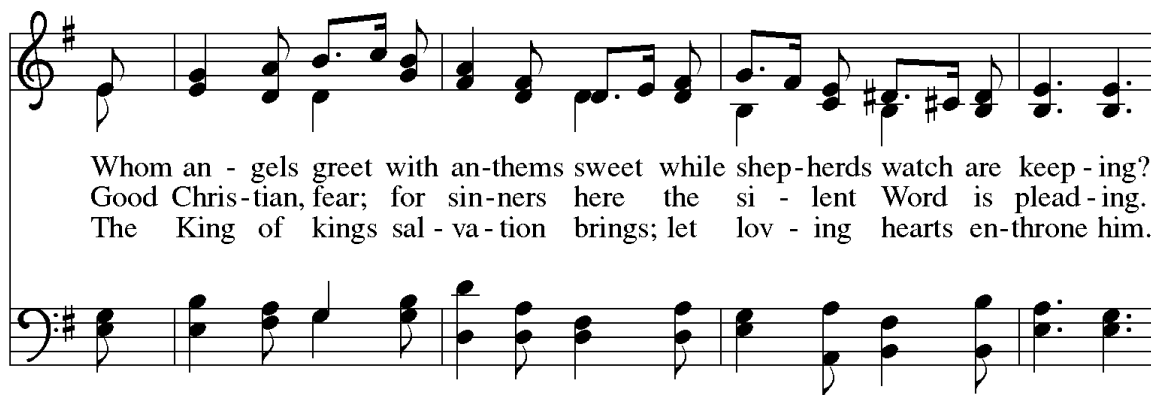
Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

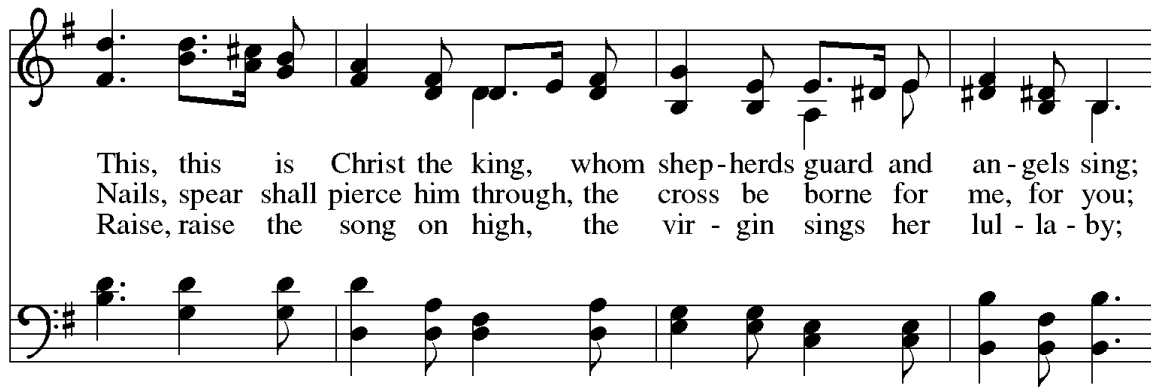




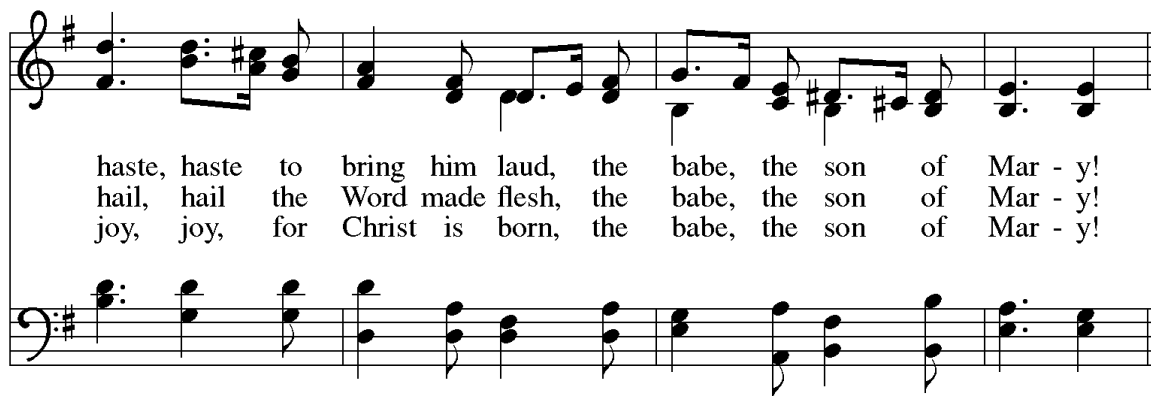
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Nicene Creed

P: CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

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: Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict especially Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, and Haiti. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows Bring healing and hope to the sick and suffering especially those on our prayer list and those we name silently and aloud. *(pause)* God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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.

Offertory Anthem

Before the Marvel of this Night
Voices of Faith Choir

Carl Schalk

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.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.

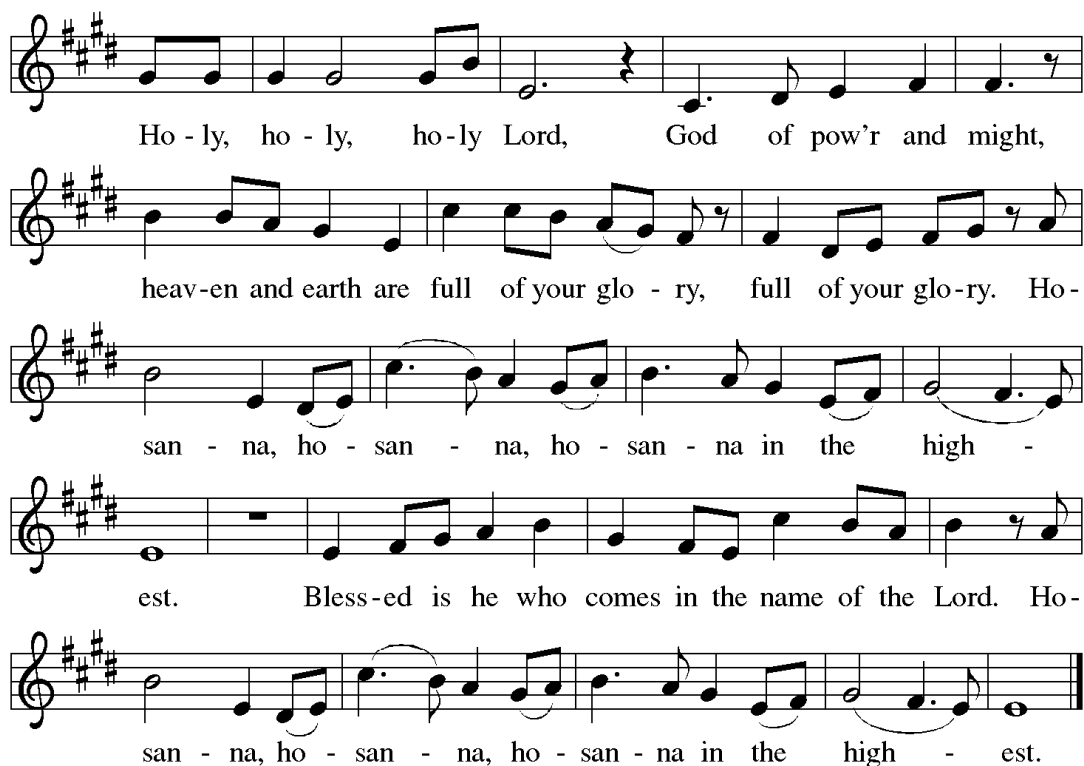
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

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.

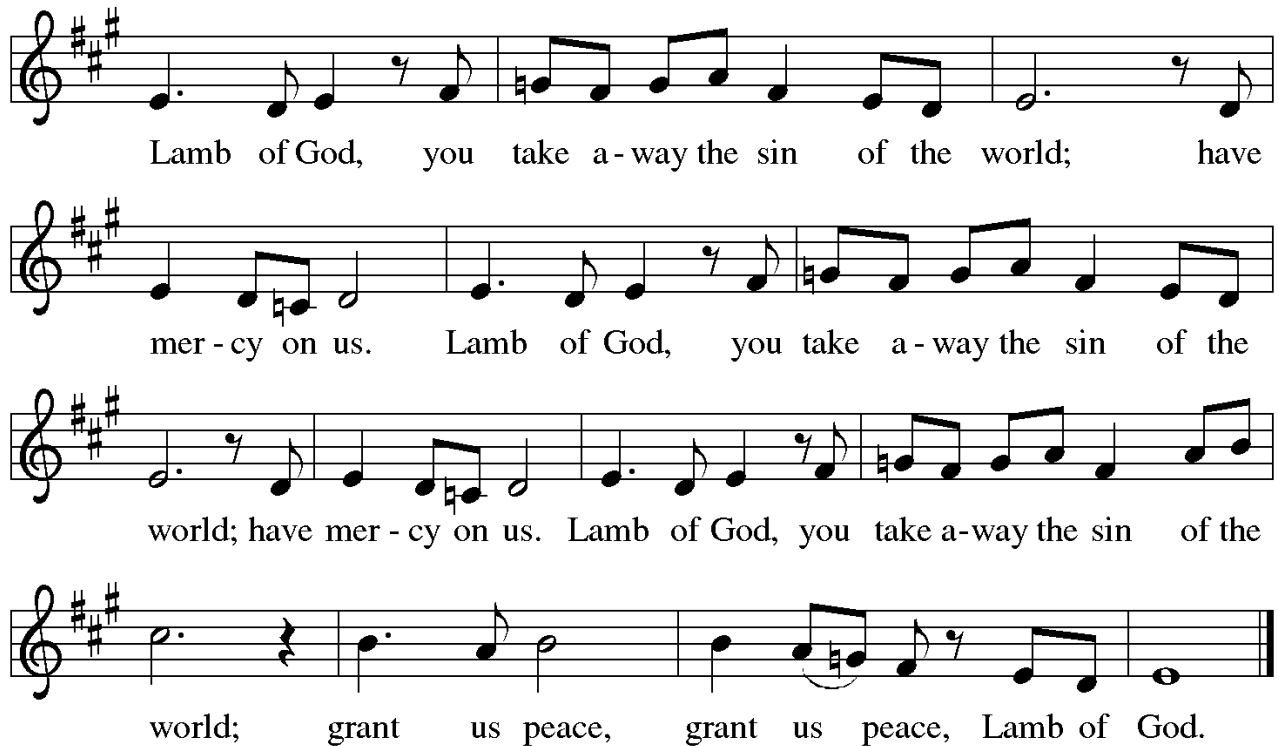
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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



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

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

Communion Anthem

**O Holy Night
Still Still Still**

Jesse V. Martin (*soloist*)
Norman Luboff

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: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Tip unlit candles to receive the flame from ushers.

Silent Night We sing together

ELW 288

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Blessing

P: The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

Amen.

C: Amen

Sending Song

Joy to the World *We sing together*

ELW 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

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 take a Christmas and New Year break and will resume again in January. Stuned to learn about the exciting lesson!
- **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.** – Skilletts, 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 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.

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

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 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.

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”


’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 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.

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. 22

Online views	155
8 a.m. in person	29
10:15 a.m. in person	145

Next Sunday, Dec. 29

First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

The boy Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and the people

Psalm 148

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

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts

Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor

This Week at Faith

Monday, Dec. 23

6 p.m. Zumba Class, community center

Tuesday, Dec. 24

10 a.m. Worship to Go @ Goldton at Venice, 108 Bella Verde Blvd, Nokomis
3 p.m. Voices of Faith Rehearsal
4 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
*Both Services with Holy Communion & Full Choir

Wednesday, Dec. 25

10 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

Thursday, Dec. 26

Friday, Dec. 27

8 a.m. Jazzersize, community center

Saturday, Dec. 28

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
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
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), friends of Marlene Radesk

***Poinsettias Honor Loved Ones,
Give Glory to God!***



The poinsettias that grace the sanctuary were graciously given by:

- ✝ Tom Piccoli, in memory of Pastor David Wagner
- ✝ Jim & Janet Anthony, in honor of our Children and Grand Children, ad Great Grand Children
- ✝ Mark & Ann Greenwood, in memory of Sherry Greenwood
- ✝ Bolon and Pueblo family, in memory of Bob & Katie Bolon
- ✝ Patty McKee, in memory of family & friends above and family & friends here
- ✝ Mark & Ann Greenwood, in memory of Josephine & Matthias Goebel
- ✝ Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins
- ✝ Les Lorenz, in memory of Janice Lorenz
- ✝ An anonymous gifter, in honor of kitchen & pantry crews, choir & music director
- ✝ Marlene Redesk, in memory of Wally, Madelyn, & Marilyn Redesk
- ✝ Dorothy Gustavson, in memory of Raymond A. Gustavson and Otto & Lilly Stoll
- ✝ Eloise Dettmer, in memory of loved ones
- ✝ Dee Burlingame, in memory of John H. Burlingame
- ✝ Max & Pastor Marianne Powrie, in memory of Mike Hosler
- ✝ Joan Hirsch, in memory of Hal Hirsch
- ✝ Florence Maker, in memory of loving husband, parents & loved ones
- ✝ Deb Masser, in memory of Bill Maser
- ✝ Joan Searles, in memory of Family & Friends
- ✝ Dick & Jetty Zarfos, in honor of their 61st Anniversary