

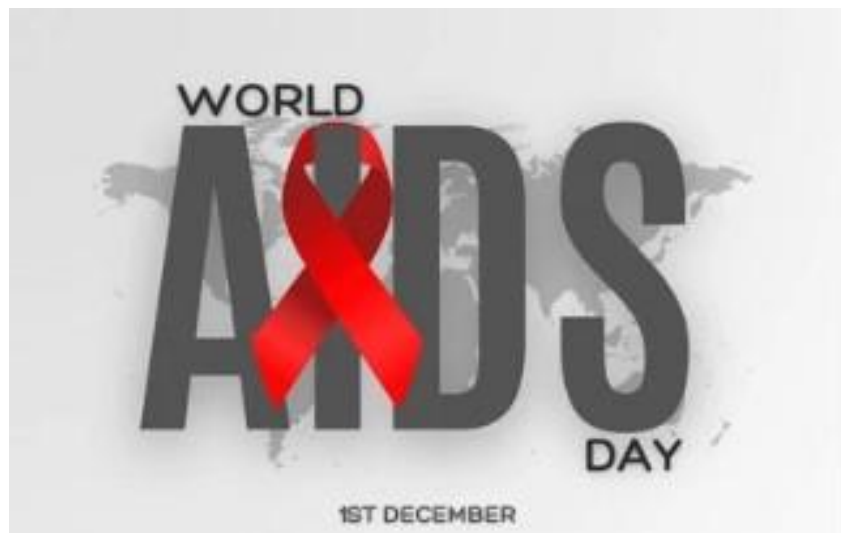


Faith Lutheran Church

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

**The First Sunday of Advent
World AIDS Day**

5 p.m., December 1, 2024



Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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 presented by FLC.

Presiding Minister

Pastor Eric Olaf Olsen

Assisting Minister

Rev. Marianne Powrie

Lector

Sandy Gerber

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

NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE:

Melanie Paul, Assistant Director will lead Diversity in song.

George Drummond will direct "Can You Feel The Love Tonight".

Tim Burnaman will accompany the group.

Janine McCarthy, Diversity's Sign Language Interpreter will provide interpretive services for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Barb Martin, Christine Wanat and Jayne Pigott will sing "Crowded Table"

PRELUDE – ANDI ZDRAVA

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE STAND

Gathering Hymn

All Are Welcome in this Place

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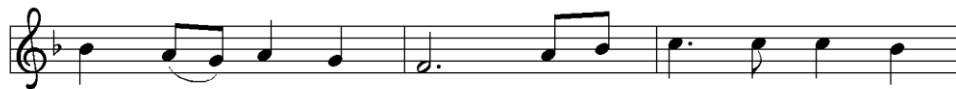
We sing together



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Reading from Jeremiah.

L: ¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Diversity Voices of Sarasota

"You Will Be Found" from the play Dear Evan Hansen. Written by Pasek and Paul

You Will Be Found - Themes of connection, belonging, and hope, emphasizing that even in moments of loneliness and despair, individuals are not alone. It conveys a message of reassurance that people are seen, valued, and supported, particularly during times of struggle. The lyrics reflect the importance of community and the idea that there will always be someone who cares and reaches out, providing comfort and understanding in difficult times. Ultimately, it serves as an uplifting reminder of the strength found in human connection and the support we can offer each other.

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 21:25-36

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the

kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

Sermon

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

Diversity Voices of Sarasota

"A Change is Gonna Come" Written by Sam Cooke

A Change is Gonna Come - It captures the pain of oppression while simultaneously expressing optimism that change is on the horizon. The soulful melody and lyrics resonate with perseverance, hope, and the belief that a better future is possible.

Litany of confession and remembrance

[On this World AIDS Day,] let us pray for all those living with and affected by HIV, confess our complicity in perpetuating stigma, and hope for a cure.

Silence is kept.

We remember before you, O God, the nearly 37 million people living with HIV across the world and the 1.1 million people living with HIV in the United States. As we commit to learning about how HIV affects communities across the country and around the world,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We pray, O God, for each person living with HIV— that they know your loving presence with them always. As we call to mind those we love living with HIV and AIDS,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We praise you, O God, for those in our congregation and community who care for people living with HIV. For doctors, nurses, and medical professionals who minister with medicine and with words of support, and for family and friends who give comfort and assistance through their steady presence. In our gratitude for human love and tenderness,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We long for deliverance, O God, from all the powers of this world that contribute to the spread of HIV and AIDS: for an end to the evils of racism, sexism, economic inequality, and discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community; for those with addiction; for access to health care and education where it is lacking. As we confront unjust systems in this world,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We ask you to lead us, O God, into ways of living that erase the stigma around HIV and AIDS. Give us courage to speak openly and honestly, and to access prevention, testing, and treatment. Save us from judgments and fears that divide and isolate. Let your compassion take root in us as we form community. As we long for a world connected,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We acknowledge, O God, that the church has too often been complicit in the silence and stigma that surround HIV. Forgive us for our inaction, for the moments we should have spoken up, and the times we've turned away. As we reckon with the harm we've done,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We plead for strength, O God, for all those working toward a world without AIDS. Give wisdom to researchers, endurance to educators, and vigor to those who advocate making our response to HIV priority. As we hope for a cure,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We lift up before you, O God, all those who have died of complications from HIV/AIDS, and all those who grieve the loss of someone they've loved. Give us faith that you are with us, bearing our burdens and keeping us in your love which is stronger than death. As we trust your promise of resurrection,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

Holy and ever-living God, you hold us in your tender embrace, and you renew our lives with your endless mercy. On this World AIDS Day, be among us with healing and hope, that we may walk with each other in truth and joy.

Amen

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 "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" from the play Lion King.
Written by Elton John

Can You Feel The Love Tonight - This song expresses the beauty and power of love, highlighting the idea that true love can bring peace and harmony, even in challenging circumstances. It captures the emotions associated with finding one's soulmate, the comfort of companionship, and the realization of love's transformative power.

WE STAND

We sing together

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

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

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

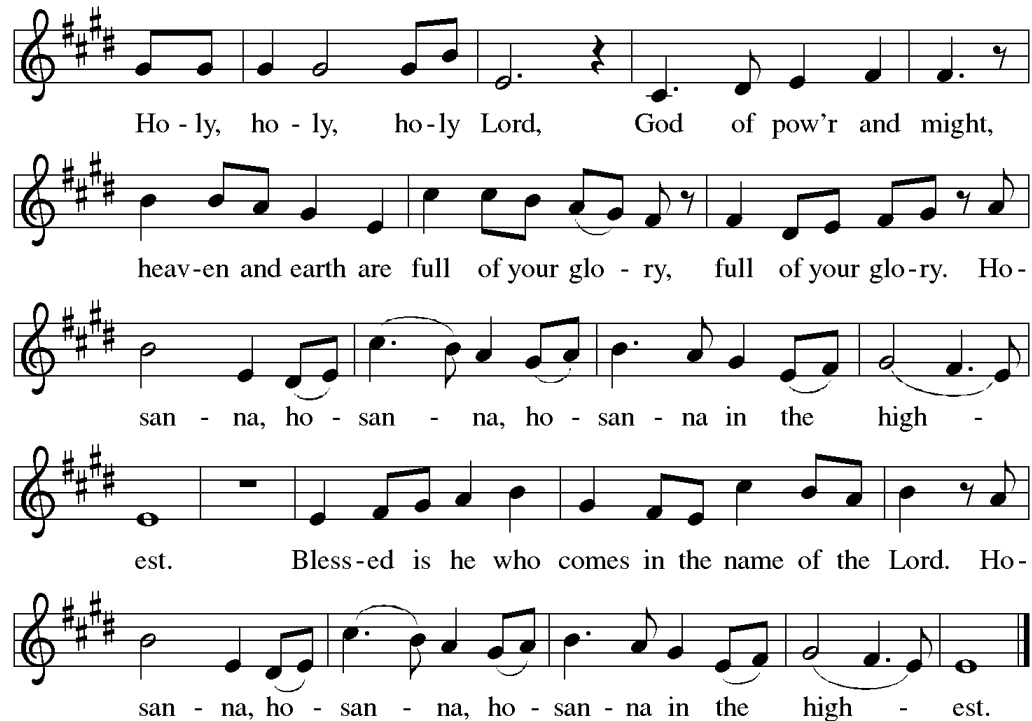
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *We sing together*



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

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

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

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

Amen.

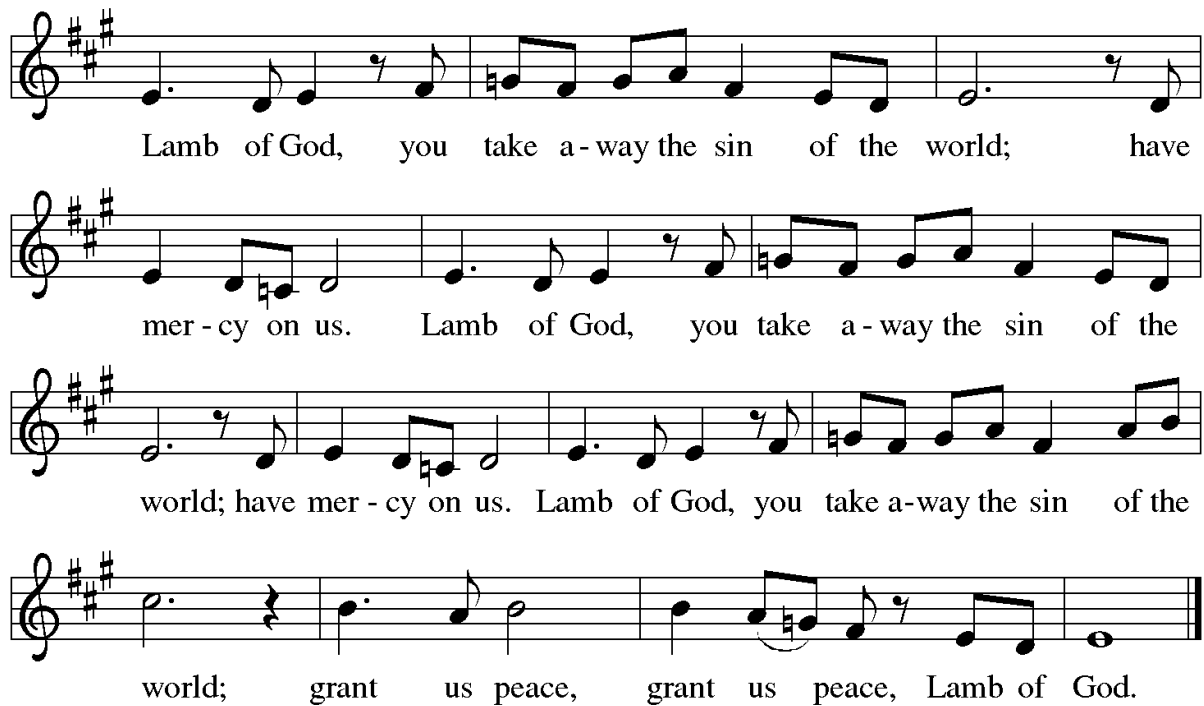
Invitation to Communion

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion Song

We sing together

(Next page)



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

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

“Crowded Table” Written by Brandi Carlile

*Barb Martin, Christine Wanat
and Jayne Pigott*

Crowded Table -"Crowded Table" is a heartfelt call for compassion, understanding, and the celebration of diversity, reminding us that a larger, more inclusive community enriches our lives and strengthens our collective spirit.

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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our 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

“Love Has Always Been Our Song” Written by Joseph Martin

Love Has Always Been Our Song -The song reflects on the idea that love transcends time and circumstances, serving as a unifying force in our lives. It conveys a message of hope, connection, and the shared experiences that love brings.

The Congregation is invited to join the Diversity Voices of Sarasota in the chorus

Chorus 1: Love has always been our song Love has always been the reason we sing
All our hopes and dreams became our music. Love has always been our song

Chorus 2: Love will always be our song Love will always be the reason we sing In the
dreams we share there's glorious music Love will always be our song

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE - ANDI ZDRAVA

Welcome, Visitors!

All our welcome to join us for a light reception in the fellowship hall after service.

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** meets between worship services in the conference room. Next week, participants will study Lesson 5, "They Were Not Wandering", 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.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – 4 p.m & 7 p.m.

Christmas Day – 10 a.m.

Special Music for all Services

Mid-Week Soup Supper & Taize Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 4th, 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. **Saturday, December 14th at 4 p.m.**

Christmas Concert at FLC

SAVE THE DATE!!!

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

Worship Services

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

Sunday, Nov. 24

Online views	163
8 a.m. in person	34
10:15 a.m. in person	115

Next Sunday, Dec. 8

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Luke 1:68-79

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

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ

Luke 3:1-6

Prepare the way of the Lor

This Week at Faith

Monday, Dec. 2

6 p.m. Zumba Class, community center

Tuesday, Dec. 3

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Breakfast,
Skillet. 8635 S. Tamiami Trail

9:30 a.m. G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study,
library

6:00 Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir
room & gym

Wednesday, Dec. 4

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. 5

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. 6

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, Dec. 7

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room