



# Faith Lutheran Church

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

## **The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve**

7 p.m. Candlelight Worship



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](http://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 given by  
Jerry and Kaye Kempson  
in celebration of their 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



**Presiding Ministers**

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

**Lector**

Bill Kimbell

**Director of Music/Organist**

David V. Patrick

**Cantor**

Kiran Kimbell

**Vocals**

Voices of Faith Quartet: Hannah Boyd,  
Kiran Kimbell, Jesse V. Martin, Tom Tryon

**Greeters & Ushers**

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz,  
Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng,  
Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips,  
Scott Rice, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

**Videographers**

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell,  
Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood

**Altar Guild**

Linda Fewell, Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard,  
Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan

**Congregation Council**

Scott Rice, president; Ann Greenwood, vice  
president; Peggy Ragan, secretary; Anita Wooton,  
treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant treasurer;  
Jerry Cooper; Gail Lidinsky; Mark Nelson;  
Joan Searles; Lauren Wardach

\* \* \* \* \*

**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  
Rev. David Wagner

**Director of Family and Child Ministry**

Deborah Dornemann

**Lead Cantor/Music Librarian**

Tom Tryon

**Operations Administrator**

Jenniffer Shaffer

**Communications Administrator**

Linda Fewell

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.

This service is being live-streamed and recorded. We try to avoid filming congregants, but it may happen at times.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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. Tonight is the eve of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

## GATHERING HYMN

## Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

## ELW 270

*We sing together*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



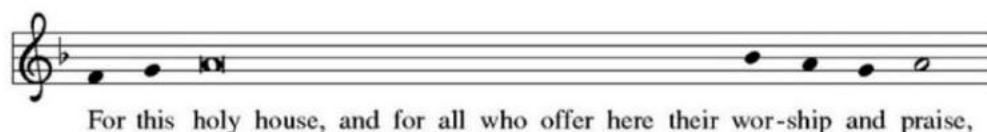
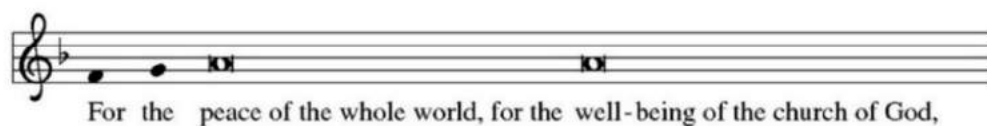
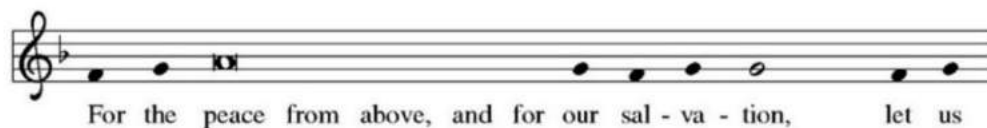
*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

## 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 responsively*



# GLORIA We sing together



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you**

P: Let us pray. 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**

L: A reading from Isaiah

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

### SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

L: A reading from Titus

- <sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
<sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
<sup>14</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

WE STAND

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*We sing together*



### GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P: The holy gospel according to Saint Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

- P: <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.  
<sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.  
<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.  
<sup>7</sup>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.

- <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- <sup>10</sup>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:
- <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
- <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
- <sup>15</sup>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."
- <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
- <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
- <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
- <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
- <sup>20</sup>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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Away in a Manger**  
*We sing together*  
*See next page*

**ELW 277**



## Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

## NICENE CREED

P: Together, we confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: 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.**

*WE SIT*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

L: Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we may bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression and bring reconciliation to warring lands, especially Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Gaza. Establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration or illness, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers; church musicians, administrative staff and clergy; organizers of charitable-giving events; and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

L: Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**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. Online giving is available by scanning the QR Code printed here or at [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com). We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's Ministries.*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Birthday of a King

W.H. Neidlinger

Arranged by Wayne Howorth

Voices of Faith Quartet

Jesse V. Martin, solo

In the little village of Bethlehem there lay a child one day.  
And the sky was bright with a holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia! O how the angels sang, Alleluia! How it rang.  
And the sky was bright with a holy light.  
'Twas the birthday of the King.  
'Twas a humble birthplace, but oh!  
How much God gave to us that day.  
From the manger bed, what a path has led.  
What a perfect holy way.  
Alleluia! O how the angels sang, Alleluia! How it rang.  
And the sky was bright with a holy light.  
'Twas the birthday of the King.

WE STAND  
We sing together  
Create in Me a Clean Heart  
*Offering Song*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

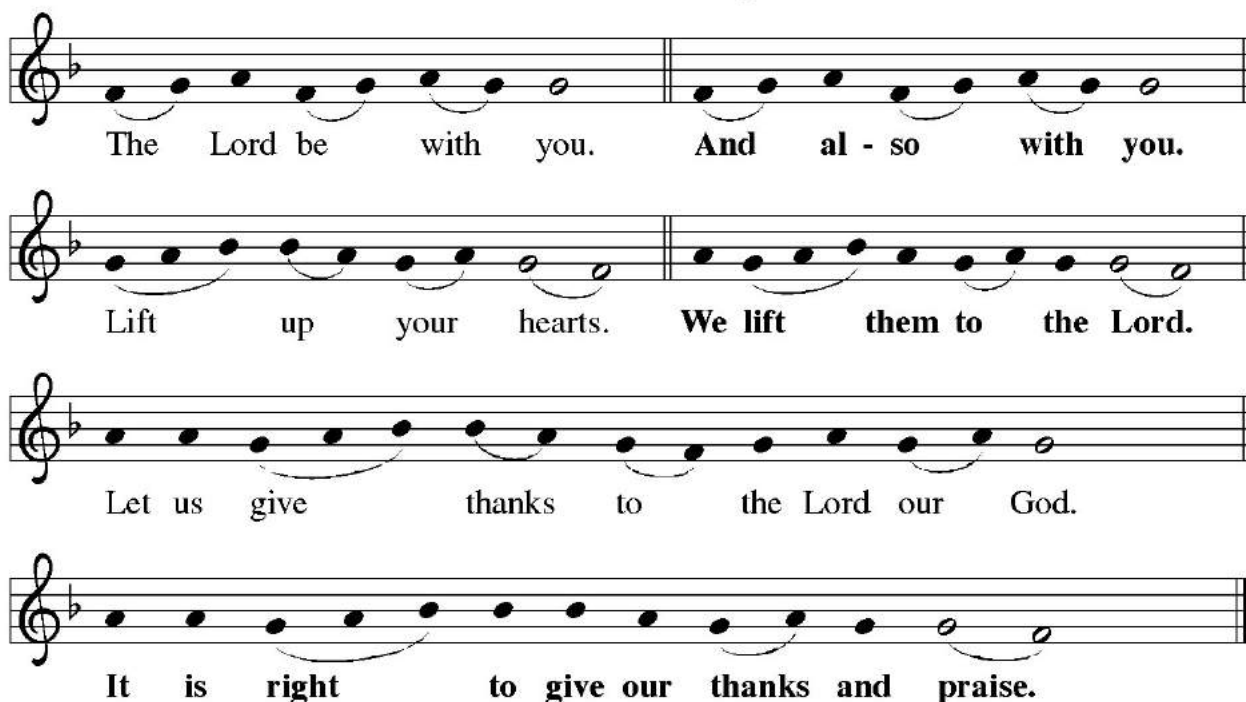
## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

**C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*We sing responsively*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

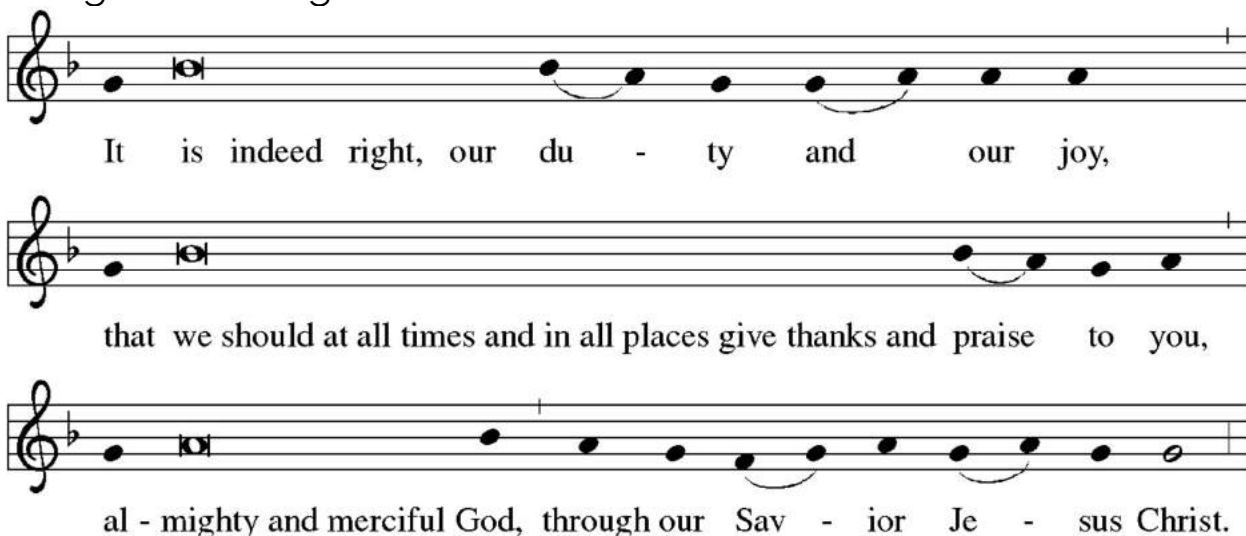
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

*The presiding minister sings*



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,

through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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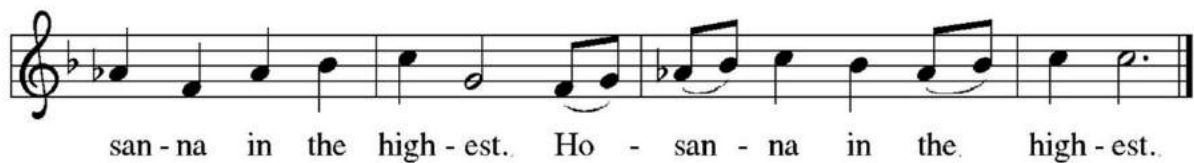
## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*We sing together*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



## 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;**

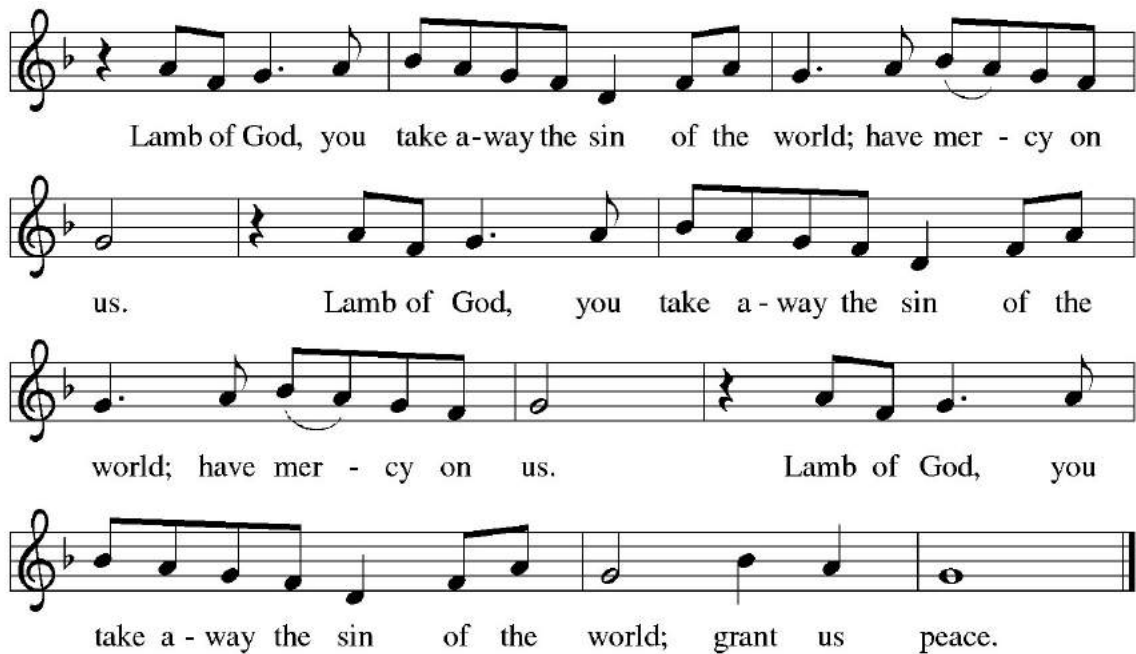
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

## 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.

WE SIT

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you ... The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

Evergreen  
Voices of Faith Quartet

Daniel Pinkham

How fine the sweetness from the bough, Evergreen, ever living. Like the prayer offered now for a whole world's forgiving; While the Christ Child is sleeping, worlds of woe in his keeping. Worlds of joy in his dream. Lord, redeem us! That when thou are waking, the hearts we uplift shall be thy Christmas gift. And be well worth thy taking. Now bring the radiance of the tree, Evergreen, everlasting. Like the feast day to be after long years of fasting. Bright in hope Christmas morning to the Christ Child returning. Once again, we believe. Lord, receive us when we come before thee. The heart's joy we bring. Noel! Noel! Shall sing and forever adore Thee.



## 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. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**SERVICE OF LIGHT:** *Tip unlit candles to receive the flame from ushers.*

### HYMN

### Silent Night, Holy Night!

**ELW 281**



	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,



Hold - er	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.

P: The light shines in the darkness.

**C: But the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, we hear the glad tidings of your love and light. The Word was made flesh and lived among us. Clothed in our humanity, Jesus Christ is not ashamed to call us sisters and brothers, and claims us as beloved children through baptism. Help us to let our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and give glory to you through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

*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!

## DISMISSAL

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Pastorale on "Gesù Bambino"

Pietro A. Yon

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



The poinsettias that grace the sanctuary were graciously given by:

- † Loretta Braun, in loving memory of Roy and Diana Biehayn.
- † Linda Burton, in loving memory of her husband, Tom Schneider.
- † Dorcas (Dee) Burlingame, in loving memory of John Burlingame.
- † Allan and Nancy Dandino, in loving memory of Joan Marie Dandino.
- † Eloise Dettmer, in memory of loved ones.
- † Carolyn DeZutter and Carrie, in loving memory of Chuck DeZutter.
- † Pamela Enright, in memory of love from the Radesk family.
- † Dorothy Gustavson, in loving memory of her husband, Raymond A. Gustavson; and her parents, Otto and Lilly Stoll.
- † Joan Hirsch, in loving memory of Hal Hirsch.
- † Grace Kaarre, in loving memory of her husband, Paul Kaarre.
- † Jerry and Kaye Kempson, in loving memory of family members.
- † Alf and Denise Kirkeeng, in loving memory of their parents.
- † Karen and Jerry Kolschowsky, in honor of family.
- † Mama Lehmann, AKA Susan Lehmann, in loving memory of Bill Lehmann; and in honor of their five sons.
- † Karla Lewis and Michael Leonhardt, in memory of their beloved parents.
- † Florence Marer, in loving memory of her stepdaughter, Carol; her husband, Walter; her parents, August and Margaret Ziegler; and in honor of her loved ones.
- † Patricia McKee, with joyful gratitude for family and all Christmases past!
- † John and Judy Millard, in memory of loved ones.
- † Gail Murphy, in loving memory of her husband, Brian Murphy.
- † Mark A. and Amy Nelson, in loving memory of Frank Nelson.
- † Donna Pappalardo, in loving memory of her husband, Dennis Pappalardo; and her parents, Marion and Danny Ozsvath.
- † Floyd Ryder, in loving memory of his wife, Beverly Ryder.
- † Jane Sanks, in loving memory of her mother, Mildred Cole.
- † Joan Searles, in loving memory of her parents, Clara and Christian Fick; and in honor of her five grandchildren.
- † Pastor Larry and Ann Wright, in memory of loved ones.

If you donated one or more plants, you may take them home following the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service. Thank you!

## **Welcome, Visitors!**

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by 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.

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### **Adult Forum Takes a New Year's Eve Break**

Adult Forum is on a holiday hiatus. On Sunday, Jan. 7, it will reconvene between the two worship services to focus on "Isreal in Bondage," in Volume 8, "God Heard Their Cry – Finding Freedom in the Midst of Life's Trials," in the "That the World May Know" video series.

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### **Faith Sunday School Welcomes All Young People**

Following the Children's Sermon during the 10:15 a.m. service, Director of Family and Child Ministry Deborah Dornemann and volunteers show young people to the classroom, where they learn about the gospel of the day through age-appropriate lessons and fun activities. The children rejoin the congregation for Holy Communion.



### **Coffee Hour: Volunteer to Set Up, Clean Up**

Coffee hour is an important fellowship ministry at Faith that needs additional volunteers. All you have to do is put out snacks and clean up afterward. Please sign up on the sheet beside the coffee pot in fellowship hall. Questions? Contact Karen Naulty, [knaulty@yahoo.com](mailto:knaulty@yahoo.com) or 406-334-1063; or Denise Kirkeeng, [kirkeengd@verizon.net](mailto:kirkeengd@verizon.net) or 941-468-6668.

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### **Men of Faith Meet for Prayer Breakfast**

All Men of Faith are invited to breakfast and prayer at **8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 26, at Skillet's, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail.** Join in!



### **Women's Bible Study Takes a Two-Week Break**

G.I.F.T.S (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible Study is on holiday break. It will reconvene **9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the conference room** to resume study of "Be Still and Know — A Study of Rest and Refuge" by Deb Burma. Questions? Contact Peggy Ragan, 941-302-7722 or [pragan12@aol.com](mailto:pragan12@aol.com). All women are welcome!

## ***Prayer Group Gathers at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday***

Join in prayer with Faith friends at **10:30 a.m. Wednesday in the chapel**. We pray for ourselves, loved ones, those in need, our community, our nation and our world. We conclude with Holy Communion. Can't attend in person? Join via Zoom: **Meeting ID 871 4720 3661, Passcode 041291**.



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## ***Bereavement Group Meets at 1 p.m. Wednesday***



The Bereavement Group meets at **1 p.m. Wednesday in the chapel**. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you. There is strength and hope in community.

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## ***Stitch 'n' Chatter Meets Thursdays***

Ladies and gents, grab your hooks and needles for Stitch 'n' Chatter, **1-2:30 p.m. Thursdays in room 212**. For info, contact Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia, 941-266-8101.



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## ***Confirmation Class Meets Thursday Evenings***

Confirmation Class meets at 7 p.m., Thursdays via Zoom:  
**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054124705?pwd=jkQYOlazk519ubngIAeJxxa6USxWOA.1>**,  
**Meeting ID 830 5412 4705, Passcode 688400**.  
Contact Pastor Eric with questions.

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## ***Faith Food Pantry Needs Your Donations and Volunteer Spirit***

The Faith Food Pantry needs your help on Thursdays! Sign up on the sheet on the narthex table, via the online sign-up in the Faith Friday Update email, or contact Karen Naulty, 406-334-1063 or knaulty@yahoo.com.



**Especially during the holidays, remember BOGO – Buy One Give One – for food and paper products** (toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, etc.), then leave them in the car so you don't forget to bring them to church. Place donations in the barrel in fellowship hall. Thanks!

## Safety Committee Seeks Volunteers

Members of the safety committee review Faith's building and grounds for hazards that could cause tripping or slipping -- raised sidewalks, rugs that don't lay flat, wet floors, parking-lot bumpers with rebar that should be pounded back to ground level, etc. They report concerns to the property committee. Interested in joining the committee? Please contact the church office.



## S.U.R.E. Team Advocates for Care, Funding to Help End Homelessness

Pastor Marianne, Pastor Eric and other members of the Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (S.U.R.E.) affordable housing committee recently met to plan a presentation to the Sarasota County Commission in support of funding for the Community Services Information System, which helps ensure federal funding to aid in the fight to end homelessness.

S.U.R.E., a faith-based community organizing entity of which Faith is a covenant member, is focused on **affordable and accessible housing**, an issue with which neighbors who visit the Faith Food Pantry regularly struggle. While this problem might not affect every member of our parish, we are compelled by the gospel of Jesus Christ to care deeply about our neighbors' needs. **Interested in getting involved? Contact Pastor Eric.**

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund Helps Needy

Pastor Eric often speaks with people about aid they might require. The Pastor's Discretionary fund allows him to assist financially, when appropriate. If you are able, please consider a donation to the fund so those in need can receive assistance.



## **December Stewardship Message**

**We should ask God to give us wisdom to comprehend the brevity of life.**

A prayer of Moses:

*For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.*

(Psalm 90:4, 12, 14)



### **From Your Stewardship Ministry Team: Merry Christmas**

No season of the year is quite like Christmas. Most of us have wonderful memories of happy family gatherings, the smell of fresh-baked cookies, the Christmas tree, the church decorated with evergreens and poinsettias, and wonderful music of the season. As a

contemporary musical proclaims, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!"

That's especially true for those of us who call ourselves "Christians." We get our name from the Savior born in Bethlehem. Believers in that Savior were first called "Christians" or "Christ's Ones" at Antioch. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are "Christ's Ones." We belong to him for time and for eternity. We are "Christ's Ones" because the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14).

That's why we give gifts at Christmas. When we give gifts, we commemorate the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ to be our Savior. And that's also why we give gifts to the Lord. Not because "poor God" needs our help to pay the bills. Not because it is Jesus' birthday, so we should give the guest of honor a present. None of that is what motivates us in our giving. We give out of hearts of gratitude for the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ. We give out of hearts of love because Christ has redeemed us and given us a new name, that of Christians. We give in response to God's love for us, knowing all that we have belongs to God.

As the calendar year draws to a close, the needs here at Faith Lutheran are great, but as we join together in a sacrifice of praise to God through a special Christmas offering, the needs can be met — and more.

Thanks for prayerfully considering your response to God's love for you, and for giving as God enables and leads in your life. May the joy of the Christ Child who became our Savior be yours.

## Consider Donating Altar Flowers



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, please choose an alternate date. **The next open date is Sunday, Jan. 28.**

When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication will be published in the bulletin on your selected Sunday. To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with your 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, [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com).

If you have specific requests about who or what facility should receive your donated flowers, contact Judi Melander, [judimelander629@gmail.com](mailto:judimelander629@gmail.com) or 941-927-2502.

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## Year-to-Date Giving Reports Will Be Available in Early January

Calendar year-to-date giving reports will be available during the first week of January 2024. The reports will be:

- Emailed to those with a valid opted-in email address on file on or before Jan. 5.
- Sent via U.S. Mail to the address on file for those without email addresses or those who have opted out of using email communication.



Paper copies will be provided on request.

Giving reports are based on the calendar year for tax records and reporting. But please be aware that Faith Lutheran's fiscal year is March 1-February. As a result, your records show:

- January and February giving in the fund year 2023.
- March through December giving in the fund year 2024.

If you have questions, need your record sooner, or if your contact information has changed, please contact the church office, 941-924-4664 or [officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com); or Patty McKee, 941-921-3709 or [financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com).



## Helpful Tips Provide Guidance as You Contemplate Year-End Contributions to Faith

As we prayerfully and joyfully await the coming of our Savior, the calendar year and the tax year are drawing to a close, so it's time to prepare. Here's helpful information:

- You will receive year-end giving statements from Faith by Jan. 6 (see story on previous page).
- To check the status of your 2023 pledge or to request an early copy of your giving statement, contact Financial Secretary Patty McKee, 941-921-3709 or [financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com).



Thank offerings to Faith that are made before year-end qualify for an income tax deduction. If you are contemplating a year-end gift, you can:

- **Write a check or give electronically via the Online Giving page on the Faith website, [faithlutheransrq.com/onlinegiving](http://faithlutheransrq.com/onlinegiving).** Donations of record qualify if you itemize.
- **Donate appreciated securities** that you have owned for more than one year, thus eliminating tax on the appreciation. Consult with your tax advisor, and keep in mind that the gift date is the date on which the securities enter Faith's account.
- **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 \$100,000. If you must make required minimum distributions, this is a great way to meet all or part of that obligation.

**NOTE: 2024 giving envelopes are scheduled for delivery before the end of December. They will be available in the narthex as soon as they arrive.**

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**About Faith Lutheran:** Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.

**Our Vision:** To be an ELCA congregation that displays the true, unending love of Christ. To promote peace, social justice and grace in all we do.

**The ELCA:** Faith Lutheran Church is part of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are ecumenical, saved by grace and love Jesus.

**Subscribe to Receive the Latest News and Updates:** To receive the latest news and updates from Faith Lutheran, subscribe to our weekly Friday Update at [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com) or email [communications@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:communications@faithlutheransrq.com).



## Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers this week:



Marsha Anderson, sister of Gail Murphy  
Tim Anderson, son-in-law of Dick and Jetty Zarfes  
Anna Bancroft, 6-year-old  
friend of Alyene Weaver  
Chuck Banta  
Sean Brett, son of Alyene Weaver  
Sandra Brinker  
Charles Budreau  
Jason Byrne, friend of Anita Wooton  
Elise Carmona  
Evelyn Conlon  
Jordan Demers, cousin of Hannah Boyd  
Eloise Dettmer  
Philomena Dimichelle, friend of Conrad Zabor  
Ken Dixon  
Ryan and Valerie Donahue  
Elizabeth Farmer  
Judy & Robert Ferguson  
Carolyn & Marty Friedman,  
friends of Marlene Radesk  
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler  
Andrea Gamboa  
Amanda Gerber,  
daughter of Sandy Gerber  
Elaine Graham  
Paula Haas, friend of Eloise Dettmer  
Jon Hale  
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen  
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles  
Patricia Head, mother of Wayne Head  
Michael Helpin, friend of Marlene Radesk  
Christiana Holmes  
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of  
Anita and Jon Wooton  
Jesus & Rita Jimenez  
Alf Kirkeeng

Lillian Lapenckas  
Jacqueline Laurent,  
friend of Margaret Borrows  
Lois Light  
Shirley Manning, friend of Margaret Borrows  
Paul & Debby Maresch  
Vincenzo Mariani, friend of Conrad Zabor  
Alexis Martincek, 13-year-old  
friend of Heather Stuebe  
Kathleen McBride  
Judi Melander  
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins  
Beverly Novak, cousin of Patty McKee  
Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan  
James & Virginia Pease  
Fran Perkins  
Wally Pina  
Kristen Pizan  
Marlene Radesk  
Fritz Rappold  
Gabriel Rockwell  
Ted and Carol Rodi  
Floyd Ryder  
Phillip Schlueter  
Rev. John Spittal  
Dianne Stoll, friend of Dorothy Gustavson  
Cathy Stubenvoll  
John Stuemke, brother of Terry Copper  
Ron and Leigh Tarrantino  
Werner Thomsen  
Colette Thornbloom  
David Turnbull  
Aylene Weaver  
Nancy Wilborn  
Jon Wooton

- **Contact [officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com)** if you or someone you know would appreciate a **communion visit, hospital or home visit, to be contacted or to receive a card in the mail.**
- **Contact [communications@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:communications@faithlutheransrq.com)** if you have an **addition to the Prayer List.**  
Please send updates when prayers are answered.

# Worship and Service Calendar

## Sunday, Dec. 17

Online views	62
8 a.m. in person	29
10:15 a.m. in person	115

## Next Sunday, Dec. 31

### No 8 a.m. service

### 10:15 a.m. Service

#### First Reading

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Clothed in garments of salvation

#### Psalmody

Psalm 148

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

#### Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Children and heirs of God

#### Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

The presentation of the child

## This Week at Faith

### Monday, Dec. 25

**Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed**

### Tuesday, Dec. 26

- 8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Prayer Breakfast, Skilletts, 8535 S. Tamiami Trail
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, conference room
- 6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota, sanctuary

### Wednesday, Dec. 27

- 10:30 a.m. Prayer Group, chapel
- 1 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

### Thursday, Dec. 28

- 9 a.m. Receive and Prep Food Delivery, food pantry
- 1 p.m. Stitch 'n' Chatter, room 212
- 4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep
- 5 p.m. Food Pantry Open
- 6 p.m. Jazzercise, gym
- 7 p.m. Confirmation, Zoom

### Friday, Dec. 29

- 8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

### Saturday, Dec. 30

- 8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym
- 9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room

### Sunday, Dec. 31

- 10:25 a.m. Sunday School, classroom