



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Second Sunday After Epiphany

10:15 a.m., January 14, 2024



All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come *from* isn't important; it's where — or rather whom — we come *to*. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

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

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



The flowers on the altar today are given by
Joan Searles
In celebration of Kaylin's and AsLee's birthdays.



Presiding Ministers

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

Lector

Jim Winemiller

Director of Music/Organist

David V. Patrick

Cantor

Jesse V. Martin

Vocals

Voices of Faith Choir

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.

Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**GIVING TESTIMONY****CHILDREN'S SERMON***WE STAND***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

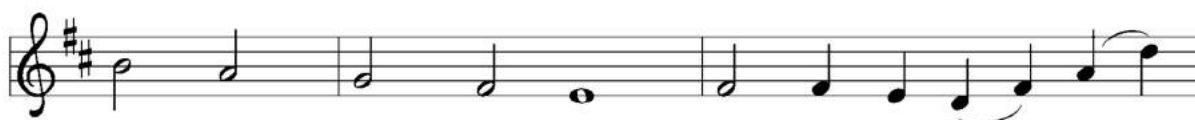
your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

We sing together

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

GREETING

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

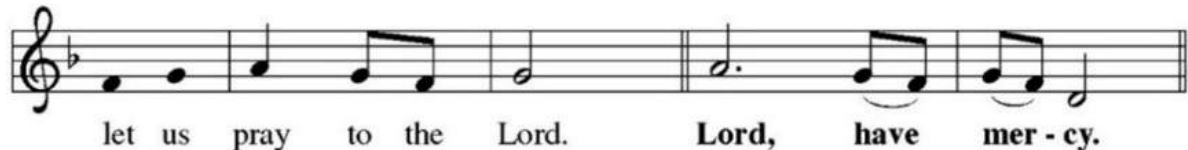
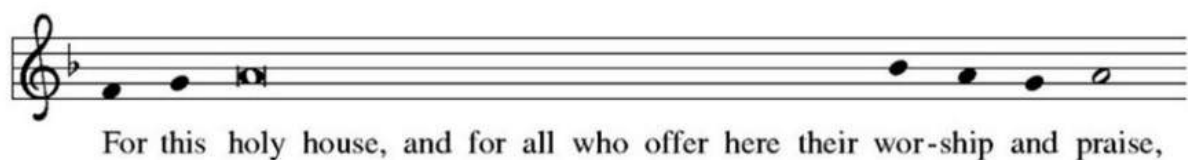
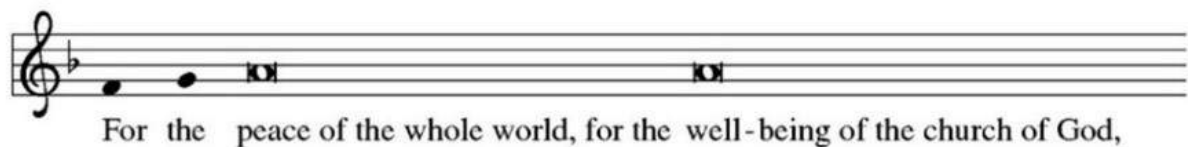
C: And also with you.

KYRIE*We sing responsively*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



GLORIA

We sing together





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.



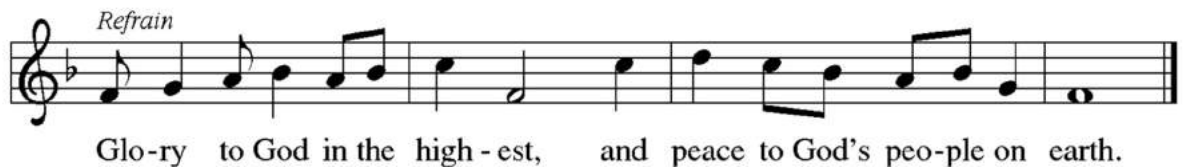
3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

L: A Reading from 1 Samuel.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

[¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

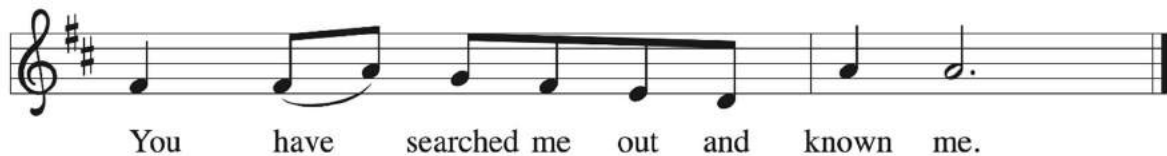
¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him." ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 139:1

To begin, the organist plays the refrain once, the cantor sings it once, and then we all sing it together.



PSALMODY: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

L: ¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

C: Refrain.

L: ¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

L: A Reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together



GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus

answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

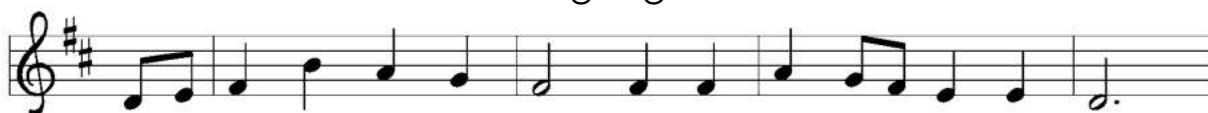
WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810

We sing together



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world and all of creation. *(brief silence)*

L: Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach may bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. And bring your peace to lands that are torn by unrest, especially Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Gaza. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts.

(pause) God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Trusting God who raised Jesus and will raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints, especially Angelo Yerace, dearly departed, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose advocacy for justice continues to embolden the church. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's Ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

As Long As I Have Breath
Voices of Faith Choir

Sue Farrar

As long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord. As long as I have life, let my soul rejoice. In times of sore distress; in times of loneliness, As long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord. As long as I have breath, I will bless You, Lord. As long as life is mine, I will sing your song. Your joy brings forth my praise; Your peace fills all my days. As long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord. Let me know Your loving kindness every day, as you walk beside me pointing out the way. As long as I have being, I will trust in You; You are my God, I lift my soul to You. As long as I have breath, I will serve You, Lord. As long as life is mine, I'll exalt Your word. And when this life shall pass, and I'm at home at last; Thru all eternity, I will praise You, Lord.

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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

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

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

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

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we may receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

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.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes, with lyrics written below. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves do not have double bar lines.

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes, with lyrics written below. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves do not have double bar lines.

in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,

and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.

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

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 -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and

dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

We sing together

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

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Lord, Here I Am
Voices of Faith Choir

Jay Althouse

Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey. Only direct me, and I'll find Thy way.
Teach me the mission appointed for me. What is my labor, and where shall it be?
Master, Thou callest and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."
Lord, I will follow if Thou wilt but lead. Only support me with grace in my need.
Pardon whenever I turn from the right. Help me, and bring me again to the light.
Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

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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. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

We sing together



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

BLESSING

P: God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

*See next page
We sing together*

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe

John S. Dixon

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Welcome, Visitors!

We are 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.



Bloodmobile Visits Faith Today

The Suncoast Bloodmobile is in the Faith parking lot **until 1 p.m. today**. One pint of donated blood can save three lives and there is a drastic shortage in our area, so **please consider donating. Walk-ins are welcome!**

Experiencing the Joy of Generosity: The Joy in Receiving God's Blessings



Today is the start of our stewardship emphasis, *Experiencing the Joy of Generosity*. Our theme for today is "The Joy in Receiving God's Blessings."

In the words of Billy Graham, "God has given us two hands, one to give with and the other to receive with." Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are able to appreciate how generously God gives to us. He provides for us physically and spiritually.

God demonstrated his love for us by giving "His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"

(John 3:16). First God loved, then he gave, and he keeps on giving. Forgiveness, salvation and, in fact, all we are and everything we have or ever will have are gifts from God. May God help you experience the joy of receiving God's blessings?

We hope you will read and be blessed by today's bulletin insert, "The Joy of Receiving God's Blessings." Next week, we will focus on the joy of managing God's blessings and, on the third week, we will discuss the joy of sharing God's blessings.

We hope you will join us in worship and Bible study.

Stewardship Can Be Defined as a 'Grateful Response to Giftedness'

King David prayed: "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you (1 Chronicles 29:14).



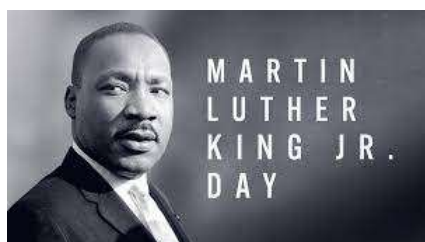


Faith Sunday School Welcomes All Young People

Following the Children's Sermon, 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.

Adult Forum Meets Between Services

Adult Forum meets between services, **9:10-9:50 a.m. in the conference room.** Next week, the group will focus on Lesson 3, "Finger of God – The Plagues" of Volume 8, "God Heard Their Cry/Finding Freedom in the Midst of Life's Trials," in the "That the World May Know" video series.



Church Office Closes to Observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Faith office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

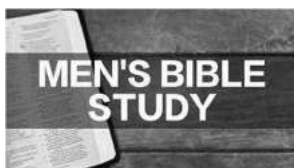
'Worship to Go' Expands with Your Help

"Worship to Go" is expanding to two facilities this year!

The inaugural service at **Angel Senior Living, 5750 Honore Ave., is set for 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the facility's second-floor theatre.** The worship team will meet at **12:45 p.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.**



We need additional volunteers to serve as worship leaders. If you can help, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055. No experience necessary!



Men of Faith Meet Tuesday

Men of Faith are invited to meet for Bible study at **9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the chapel.** All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study Meets Tuesdays

G.I.F.T.S (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible Study meets **9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the conference room.** The group is focusing on "Be Still and Know — A Study of Rest and Refuge" by Deb Burma. Questions? Contact Peggy Ragan, pragan12@aol.com or 941-302-7722. All women are welcome!



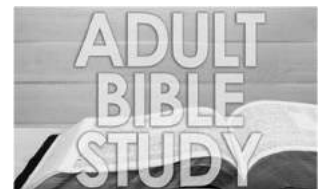
Let's Pray Together



Join in prayer with Faith friends at **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays 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.**

Adult Bible Study Continues Wednesday

A favorite theologian, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt, is leading an in-depth **study of Mark's gospel**, the earliest and shortest of the good-news stories of Jesus. Pastor Larry is convening the six-part study on **Wednesdays through Feb. 7.** (So the study doesn't conclude on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, we will double-up two sessions somewhere along the way.) Each one-hour session begins at **9:30 a.m. in the second-floor classroom** across from the elevator. **If you registered, pick up your participant book today in the narthex.** Prior to each session, "homework" is to read the short chapter about the upcoming session in the participant book. **Even if you did not register, you are welcome and encouraged to sit in on the DVD lectures and discussions to follow.** Light refreshments provided! Great discussion! Fun fellowship!



Bereavement Group Meets Wednesdays

The Bereavement Group meets at **1 p.m. Wednesdays 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.

Stitch 'n' Chatter Meets Thursdays

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.



Confirmation Class Meets Thursday Evenings



Confirmation Class meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83054124705?pwd=jkQYOlazk519ubnglAeJxxa6USxWOA.1>,
Meeting ID 830 5412 4705, Passcode 688400. Contact Pastor Eric with questions.

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 or 406-334-1063; or Denise Kirkeeng, kirkeengd@verizon.net or 941-468-6668.

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. **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!



Look for Your 2023 Giving Statement, Pick Up 2024 Giving Envelopes

Giving statements for tax year 2023 either were emailed or mailed to those with contributions of record. If you did not receive yours, or if you need a paper copy and haven't received it, contact the church office, 941-924-4664 or officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com; or Patty McKee, 941-921-3709 or financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com.

If you ordered 2024 giving envelopes, they are available in the narthex. If you did not order envelopes but would like to have them, use the sign-up form to request either Full Packets or Special Offering Packets.

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.



Helping Those
in Need

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.

Ladies of Faith Are Invited to a Special Mary Circle Meeting

Mary Circle begins 2024 with a joint meeting with the ladies of Emmanuel Lutheran Church Venice at **noon, Tuesday, Jan. 16, in fellowship hall.** Pastor Marianne Powrie will be the featured speaker. Faith ladies will provide a lunch buffet, and Emmanuel ladies will share dessert. **Please note that Jan. 16 is the third Tuesday of the month.** We are moving the meeting one week later than usual to accommodate our guests. All ladies of Faith are welcome! **Please sign up in the narthex so we can better plan food quantities.**

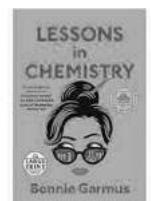


Help Feed the Hungry at St. Paul's Lutheran

From 3 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, be part of the crew that will cook and serve for about 70 food-insecure and homeless siblings in Christ at St. Paul's Lutheran in downtown Sarasota. **To volunteer, sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office.**

Readers Club Meets Jan. 29

Readers Club will meet at **2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, in the library** to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Questions? Contact Kathy Schilio, schilmo@yahoo.com. Please join!





Join S.U.R.E. Team To Advocate for Affordable Housing

Pastor Marianne, Pastor Eric and others on the Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (S.U.R.E.) affordable housing committee planned a presentation to the Sarasota County Commission in support of funding for the Community Services Information System, which helps ensure care and funding for 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 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.

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, please choose an alternate date. **The next open date is Sunday, March 17.**



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, faithlutheransrq.com.

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

Be There to Learn How 'Laughter Saves Lives'

"You have as much laughter as you have faith." - Martin Luther



In a world of factions, there is one thing we all have in common. We can **laugh!** Join Al Ernst, your Faith-based humorist in residence, for an afternoon event, **"Laughter Saves Lives," 2-3:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 22, in the conference room.**

The gospel teaches us to live with joy, gratitude and faith. Through this fun presentation -- using lessons and a little help from Jesus, Martin Luther, Ted Lasso and more -- you'll laugh, then take home some new ways to enjoy your daily faith. The presentation is not designed to teach you how to tell jokes, be a comedian or "make lemonade out of lemons." Rather, it will help you make your Christian walk more fun, joyful and optimistic. You are invited!

Al has been a full-time professional comedian for 33 years. He has been heard on Sirius Radio; facilitated workshops; created, produced and performed "A View from the Cheap Seats" on ESPN; and created and hosted the national live tour, "Carnival Comedy Challenge." His most recent streaming comedy special is "ALgorythms," and he is host of WKDW's "The Thrill of the Stage." He soon will debut his one-man show, "Throw Mama on the Plane."



A lifelong Lutheran, Al has participated in many aspects of church life. As an 8-year-old acolyte, he memorably set the altar linen on fire, thereby welcoming firefighters into church for Christmas Eve service. Join Al to learn how "Laughter Saves Lives!"



Worship and Service Calendar

Worship Services

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

Sunday, Jan. 7

Online views	49
8 a.m. in person	31
10:15 a.m. in person	143

Next Sunday, Jan. 21

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Repentance at Nineveh

Psalmody

Psalm 62:5-12
God alone is my rock and salvation (Ps. 62:6)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Living in the end times

Gospel

Mark 1:15-20
The calling of the disciples at the sea

This Week at Faith

Monday, Jan. 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day:
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 16

9:30 a.m.	Men of Faith Bible Study, chapel
9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study, conference room
11 a.m.	Property Committee, conference room
12 p.m.	Mary Circle, fellowship hall
12:45 p.m.	Worship to Go Prep, chapel
1:30 p.m.	Worship to Go, Angel Senior Living Center, 5750 Honore Ave.
6 p.m.	Diversity Voices of Sarasota, sanctuary

Wednesday, Jan. 17

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

Thursday, Jan. 18

9 a.m.	Finance Committee, conference room
9 a.m.	Receive and Prep Food Delivery, food pantry
10:30 a.m.	Executive Committee, conference room
1 p.m.	Stitch 'n' Chatter, room 212
1:30 p.m.	Stewardship Committee, conference room
4:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Prep
5 p.m.	Food Pantry Open
6 p.m.	Jazzercise, gym
7 p.m.	Confirmation, Zoom

Friday, Jan. 19

8:30 a.m.	Jazzercise, gym
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Saturday, Jan. 20

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

Sunday, Jan. 21

9:10 a.m.	Adult Forum, conference room
9:30 a.m.	Voices of Faith, choir room
10:25 a.m.	Sunday School, classroom



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
Laurie Good, friend of Ann Greenwood
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
Kathleen McBride
Judi Melander
Family & Friends of Rev. Van C. Miller
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
Ron and Leigh Tarrantino
Werner Thomsen, brother of John Thomsen
Colette Thornbloom
David Turnbull
Aylene Weaver
Nancy Wilborn
Jon Wooton
Family & Friends of Angelo Yerace

- **Contact 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** if you have an **addition to the Prayer List.**
Please send updates when prayers are answered.