



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Epiphany of Our Lord

10:15 a.m., January 7, 2024



The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

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
Susan Lehmann to the glory of God,
and Ruth Calkins, in honor of her family.



Presiding Ministers

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

Lector

Rev. John Spittal

Director of Music/Organist

David V. Patrick

Cantor

Hannah Boyd

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.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S SERMON

BAPTISM PRESENTATION

✝ **Enikő Pivarcsi** ✝

P: In baptism, our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: We present Enikő for baptism.

P: Enikő and György, called by the Holy Spirit, and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your daughter baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

P: As you bring Enikő to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people; bring her to the word of God and the holy supper; teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments; place in her hands the holy scriptures; and nurture her in faith so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Enikő grow in Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

P: Csaba and Szilvia, as sponsors, do you promise to nurture Enikő in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Enikő and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

WE STAND

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: Parents, sponsors and all people of God, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

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

C: I renounce them.

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

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

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

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning, your Spirit moved over the waters, and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water, you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

C: Blessed be God now and forever.

P: By the waters of the flood, you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

C: Blessed be God now and forever.

P: In the waters of the Jordan, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, your beloved Son has set us free from sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Blessed be God now and forever.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that Enikő may be given new life. Wash away her sin as she is cleansed by this water, and bring her forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BAPTISM

P: Enikő, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us together proclaim the gift of baptism for Enikő.

C: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia!

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

C: Amen.

P: Enikő, ✠ child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

WELCOME

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome Enikő, the newly baptized.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God, and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

P: People of God, with great joy I present to you Enikő Pivarcsi, a newly baptized child of God.

C: Amen!

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star,
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

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

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

GLORIA

We sing together

Refrain

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

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your 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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

L: A Reading from Isaiah.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried
on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea
shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 72:11

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



Psalm 72:11

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress
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PSALMODY: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

L: ¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
²that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

C: Refrain.

L: ¹¹May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

L: A Reading from Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles —

²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together



GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw

that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

The First Noel

ELW 300

We sing together



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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. (*brief silence*)

L: Humble the hearts of your faithful people, that we may seek to be servants of your gospel and witnesses to your mysteries. Give us boldness in faith, that we may make the good news of Christ's birth known to all people. And shower your blessings on Enikő, the newly baptized. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Establish justice on earth for all its inhabitants. Lead us to protect fragile ecosystems and endangered species. Empower the work of all who research, engineer, and make accessible alternative and renewable sources of energy. Make us careful stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Nations shall come to your light and kings to your dawning. Remove corruption and fear from the hearts of leaders and authorities. Lead governments to expand policies and resources that care for refugees and all migrants. Guide resettlement agencies, and bring peace to people in lands that are torn by unrest, especially Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Gaza. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Defend the cause of all who are in need, all facing poverty and all who are oppressed. Come quickly to those who feel that their lives and livelihoods are fragile, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts. (*pause*) Give them strength and lead them forth with hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: In Christ, we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation and all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community. Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources and opportunities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: You have redeemed the lives of your faithful departed. Through the love of Christ, gather us into one body with them, and reveal to us the mystery hidden for ages in the One who created all things. 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. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's Ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

Allen Pote

Voices of Faith Choir

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Arise, arise, and shine like the sun and all nations shall come,
And all kings will be drawn to the brightness of your rising.

The sun shall no longer be your light, nor the brightness of the moon by night.

But the Lord shall be your everlasting light, our God will be your everlasting light.

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WE STAND

We sing together

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song



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. 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.

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 half and quarter notes, with slurs indicating phrasing. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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,

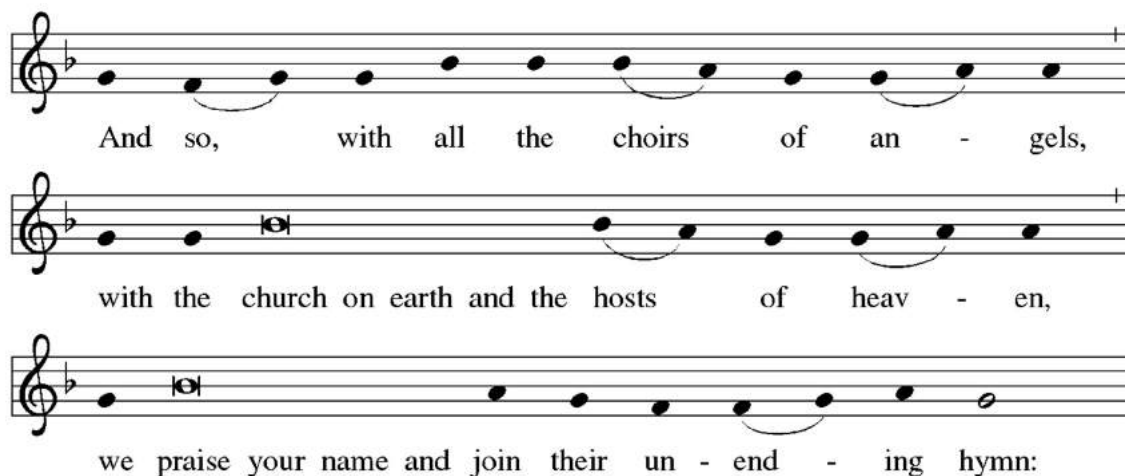
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

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

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.

The musical notation consists of six staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, using half and quarter notes, with slurs indicating phrasing. The lyrics are written below the notes.



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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together



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, 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.

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

Seekers of Light

Joseph Martin and David Angerman
Voices of Faith Choir

Hope of the world, Light everlasting, Jesus the brightest and best.
Son of the Dawn, You are my Vision, you are the Heart of my quest.
Drawn by the Flame, led by a star, You are our Lamp in the night.
Eyes full of hope, warmed by a Promise, we are the seekers of Light.
Joy of the world, glory of heaven, Beacon of hope burning bright.
Spark of true love, Fire of creation, draw me to live in Your light.
Lord of my life, lead through the darkness; let me burn bright for your name.
Shine through me, Lord. Make me your candle.
Consume me now with your flame.

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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. 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.

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

As With Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302

*See next page
We sing together*

As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-a-a-ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
there for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

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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.

Witness God at Work in Baptism Today

Today, we welcome Enikő Pivarcsi, daughter of Enikő Raffai Pivarcsine and György Pivarcsi, into the body of Christ through baptism. Her sponsors are Csaba Soos and Szilvia Pivarcsi.





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.

Men of Faith Meet Tuesday

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



Adult Forum Meets Between Services

Adult Forum meets between services, **9:10-9:50 a.m. in the conference room.** Next Sunday, the group will focus on Lesson 2, "Israel in Bondage" 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.

'Worship to Go' Expands with Your Help

"Worship to Go" is expanding to two facilities this year! The first 2024 service at **Elancé kicks off Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the second-floor gathering space of Elancé's assisted living building next door to Faith.** "Worship to Go" volunteers will **meet at 10 a.m. Jan. 9 in the Faith chapel** to discuss the service and review leadership roles.



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!

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.

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**.

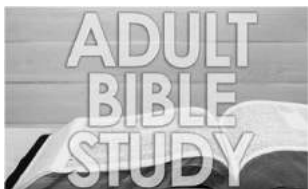


Stitch 'n' Chatter Meets Thursdays

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.

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.



Adult Bible Study Begins Wednesday

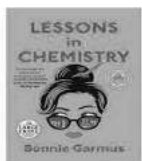
Faith again invites a favorite theologian, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt, to lead an in-depth **study of Mark's gospel**, the earliest and shortest of the good-news stories of Jesus. Pastor Larry will convene the six-part study on **Wednesdays, Jan. 10-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 will begin 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" will be to read the short chapter assigned for each session. **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!

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.





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!

Faith Walk and Talk Steps Off Jan. 13

Faith Walk and Talk, a new group that combines leisurely walking with the opportunity to chat, will step off on the second Saturday of each month beginning at **9:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, outside of Panera, 6589**

S. Tamiami Trail. Walkers will introduce themselves before setting off on a roughly two mile walk during which they will get to know each other and make new friends among our Faith family. Following the walk, there's an option to enjoy a beverage or bite to eat at Panera. Questions? Contact Carolyn Francis, 941-400-0083.



Safety Committee Seeks Volunteers

Members of the safety committee review Faith's building and grounds for hazards -- raised sidewalks, rugs that don't lay flat, wet floors, etc. They report concerns to the property committee. Interested in joining the committee? Please contact the church office.

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.



Bloodmobile Visits Faith Next Sunday, Jan. 14

The Suncoast Bloodmobile will visit Faith **8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14.** One pint of donated blood can save three lives, so **sign up to donate on the sheets on the narthex table or by contacting the Suncoast Blood Center, 1-866-97-BLOOD or suncoastblood.org.**

Watch for Your 2023 Giving Report

Calendar year-to-date giving reports were:

- 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 are provided on request.

Giving reports are based on the calendar year for tax records and reporting. But 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.

Questions? Contact Patty McKee, financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com or 941-921-3709.

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 team are working in support of the Community Services Information System, which assists in the fight to end homelessness. S.U.R.E., a faith-based 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. Interested in getting involved? Contact Pastor Eric.

Ladies of Faith Are Invited to a Special Mary Circle Meeting

The women of Mary Circle thank all who provided gifts for Lutheran Services clients. We made Christmas happier for 49 people!



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.** The meeting is 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.**

Pastor's Discretionary Fund Helps Needy

Helping Those in Need

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.

Consider Donating 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, Feb. 11.**

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.

Pick Up 2024 Envelopes

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.

*Where your
treasure is,
there will
your heart
be also.
Matt. 6:21*

My Offering

Name _____
Address _____
Amount _____

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, Dec. 31

Online views	58
10:15 a.m. in person	115

Next Sunday, Jan. 14

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
The calling of Samuel

Psalmody

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
You have searched me out and known me
(Ps. 139:1)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Glorify God in your body

Gospel

John 1:43-51
The calling of the first disciples

This Week at Faith

Monday, Jan. 8

Tuesday, Jan. 9

8:30 a.m.	Men of Bible Study, chapel
9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study, conference room
10 a.m.	Worship to Go Prep, chapel
10:45 a.m.	Worship to Go, Elancé
11 a.m.	Property Committee, conference room or Zoom
6 p.m.	Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency, fellowship hall
6 p.m.	Diversity Voices of Sarasota, sanctuary

Wednesday, Jan. 10

10:30 a.m.	Prayer Group, chapel
1 p.m.	Bereavement Group, chapel
6:30 p.m.	Voices of Faith Choir Rehearsal, choir room

Thursday, Jan. 11

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, Jan. 12

8:30 a.m.	Jazzercise, gym
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Saturday, Jan. 13

8:30 a.m.	Jazzercise, gym
9 a.m.	Diakonia, conference room
9:30 a.m.	Faith Walk and Talk, Panera, 6589 S. Tamiami Trail

Sunday, Jan. 14

8 a.m.	Bloodmobile, parking lot
9:10 a.m.	Adult Forum, conference room
9:30 a.m.	Voices of Faith, choir room
10:25 a.m.	Sunday School, classroom
2 p.m.	German Congregation Worship and Fellowship



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
John Stuemke, brother of Terry Copper
Ron and Leigh Tarrantino
Werner Thomsen, brother of John Thomsen
Colette Thornbloom
David Turnbull
Aylene Weaver
Nancy Wilborn
Jon Wooton

- **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.