



First Sunday of Advent - November 29, 2020
Now the Feast and Celebration

Serving us in worship today:

Message: Pastor Don Ofsdahl; Lay Reader: Bill Ermel

Liturgy: LeAnne White, Andrew Cave; Music: Annette Stout;

Children's Church: Rose Mary Ermel, Ushers: Mike Andrews, Willie Bloch, Paul

Kalkwarf, Robert Raetsch; AV: Andrew Kuehne, Roxanne Heckmann

Welcome to Worship!

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, a people who love and follow Jesus Christ, our Lord! We are blessed and honored that you chose to be with us today!

As we worship inside today, we encourage you to fellowship with other believers while maintaining a safe distance, wearing your face covering at all times, and observing our COVID-19 protocols. Children's Church for ages pre-K through third grade will meet their leader during the hymn of the day. Please keep your mask on during the service and as you are ushered out. We ask that you join in fellowship OUTSIDE and do not congregate in the Narthex before or following the service.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Lisa Owen

OPENING HYMN: "Hark the Glad Sound" vs. 1 *LBW #35*

- 1) Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE – "The Prophecy Candle"

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" Verse 1 WOV 630

(Please see the screen for lyrics)

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

A: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: *If we claim we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let*

Now the Feast and Celebration



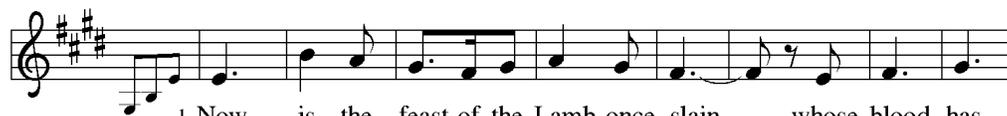
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY SALUTATION



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

A Let us pray...

C Amen.

You may be seated.

FIRST READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

³May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.⁴I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. ⁵Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. ⁶This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. ⁷Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. ⁹God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Here ends the reading.

Please stand for the Holy Gospel.

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37

²⁴ "At that time, after the anguish of those days,
the sun will be darkened,

the moon will give no light,

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

²⁸ "Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door. ³⁰ I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

³² "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. ³³ And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!

³⁴ "The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. ³⁵ You, too, must keep watch! For you don't know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. ³⁶ Don't let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. ³⁷ I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him!"

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

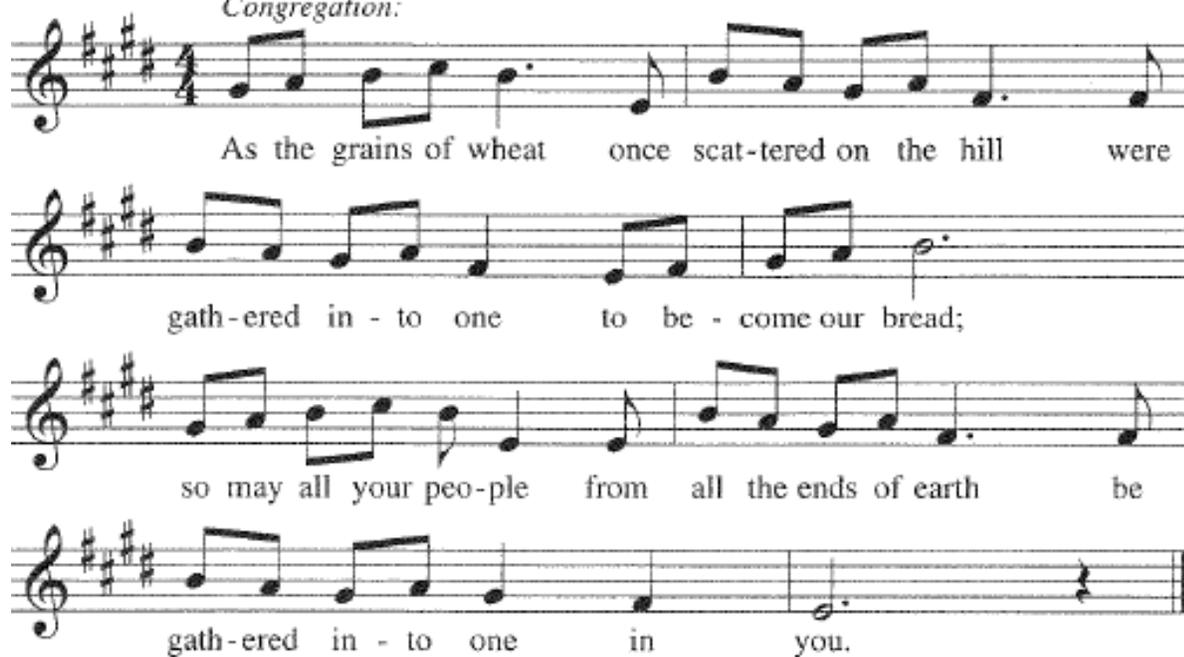
You may be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"All Earth is Hopeful"* WOV 629 Verses 1 & 3
(Children meet for Children's Church)

1. All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

OFFERTORY: **"AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT"** Please stand.

Refrain
Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
 so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
 gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
 2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
 to Refrain
 may we share the pres-ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

A: Let us pray. Most merciful God,

C: Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THANKS BE TO YOU

Congregation:



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:



Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice



weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your



love, re - mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of



life with us. 3. Praise to you, O



God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!



Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for



ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

A: Go In Peace To Love And Serve The Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Have been given to the glory of Birdie Kuempel in anticipation of the Christ child and in thankfulness for her many blessings.

"WORDS OF FAITH" BROADCAST SUNDAYS AT 8 AM ON KWED 1580 AM RADIO

This week has been sponsored to the glory of God by Avis Herrick in memory of her husband Lee and in thankfulness of her many blessings.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Month to Date (November): **\$31,070.55**; YTD Offerings and Misc. **\$492,779.21**
(2020 budgeted offerings is **\$549,000**)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Julie Sagebiel	Judy Saunders	Nora Lavelett
Carolyn Sagebiel	Walt Fruehling	Kathy Ersch
Ric Landvatter	Dot Day	Gladys Fruehling
Teresa Kiel	Pat Sagebiel	Debbie Lehmann
Dorothy Burris	Donald Jackson	Robert Vogel
Charlie Koehler	Steve Foerster	Tootsie Rodgers
Willie Bloch	Sandy Wille	Ronnie Glenewinkel

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

(COVID safety protocols are followed at all church events)

Tuesday, Nov. 31	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast	7:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, Dec. 1	Staff Mtg.	9:00 AM (Kit)
Wednesday, Dec. 2	Joyful Noise	6:00 PM (Choir Rm)
Wednesday, Dec. 2	Handbells	6:00 PM (Sanc)
Wednesday, Dec. 2	Chancel Singers	7:00 PM (Sanc)
Wednesday, Dec. 2	FLY	6:00-8:00 PM (LEC)
Sunday, Dec. 6	Decorate Church Christmas	After worship

PRAYERS REQUESTED

For the family of George Sullivan, father of Julia Glenewinkel. Mr. Sullivan passed through death into eternal life on Thursday, November 19, in San Antonio.

DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Please join us on **Sunday, December 6**, after worship to help prepare our sanctuary and church for the Christmas holidays. The worship committee appreciates any and all the help we can get!

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD

Thank you to those of you who have been dropping off items for the Christian Cupboard. The November items are beans. Any variety or brand. This week's update is **38 items** as of November 16.

ENDOWMENT FUND APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The Endowment Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the distribution of the 2020 Endowment Fund earnings. Applications can be picked up in the church office or can be found at www.faithseguin.org. These applications must be completed and returned to the office in a sealed envelope **by December 4, 2020**. If delivered or mailed, please indicate the contents of the envelope on the outside.

POINSETTIAS TO BRIGHTEN SANCTUARY

The chancel area will be decorated with poinsettias for the season. If you would be willing to share your plants, please bring them to church by **5:00 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd**. If you would like your poinsettia to be in memory or in honor of someone, please call or email the church office (communications@faithseguion.org) with this information by **noon Friday, Dec. 18th**, so that a complete list of names can be published in the bulletins. Poinsettias will need to be cleared from the sanctuary by **Dec. 30th**. Before leaving your plants at church, please label with your name to make identification easier.

SALVATION ARMY KICKS OFF BELL RINGING CAMPAIGN

Once again, as in past years, Faith members are called upon to participate in the annual local Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. The Guadalupe County/Seguin unit is known locally as the “go to” resource for offering financial assistance with utility bills and rent, temporary housing, and disaster relief. **There are two sign-up sheets located in the narthex, one for Thursday, December 10th, and one for Thursday, December 17th.** Locations for these bell ringing days will be the Market entrance of the Seguin Walmart on the 10th and the Home and Pharmacy entrance on the 17th. Hours for Faith are from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM on the 10th and 9:00 AM—9:00 PM on the 17th. The Salvation Army will provide all the personnel protective equipment that is deemed important: gloves, masks, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizers, etc. They also are making movable full body shields that volunteers can choose to use. Aprons will not be used this year. Please consider giving a gift of your time this holiday season and volunteer for a two-hour time slot. For more information, contact Bryan Terp or any member of the Social Concerns Committee.

ANGEL TREE TO BENEFIT LOCAL NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

The Social Concerns Team is sponsoring an Angel Tree to help support the Santa Sheriff program. This program takes gifts to every resident in each of the Seguin nursing homes. Choose an angel from the tree that has the amount that you wish to give or choose a “state your own amount” angel. Write a check out to Faith Lutheran Church, memo “angel tree” and attach it to the angel. Place this into the basket by the tree. **The tree will be on display on November 29 and December 6.** All donations needs to be at church by December 8. Thank you for your care of others.

OFFICE DOOR DECORATION CONTEST

Our office staff is holding a **Christmas Door Decorating Contest!** We are having fun with it, but we need YOUR help! YOU are the judge! Whose door/office (Andrew included his office) do you like more? Angie’s? Roxanne’s/LeAnne’s? Andrew’s? Lisa’s? Debbie’s? You decide, but your vote has to come in the form of \$\$ 😊 Each office has a “vote receptacle” outside its door. **Your money is your vote.** Deposit money in the box of the door you’d like to see win! The door/office with the most money collected will win bragging rights until next year! All money collected will then be donated to **Seguin’s Blue Santa program!** Deadline for voting is December 13th.

ATTENTION TRAVELERS: WE HAVE GOOD NEWS!

The trip to the Holy Land is still ON! Dates are November 01--11, 2021.

Pat Sagebiel of Ascot Travels Seguin has graciously agreed to take over the arrangements for the trip. We just need more people to sign-up. **It is not too late.** This is your chance to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, take a ride in a wooden boat across the Sea of Galilee and much more. Learn from God's Word as you stand where Jesus stood! Join us for this life changing adventure to the Holy Land November 1-11, 2021!

Please contact Pat Sagebiel at Ascot Travel Seguin, 825 N. Camp St., Seguin, TX, 830-372-3003 (ext. 202) or e-mail cowboypat@ascottravel.com for more information.

THANK YOU

To the **thirteen members of Faith** who joined other community members on Thursday, November 5, helping distribute tons of food to those who find themselves in need. Guadalupe Regional Medical Center, New Braunfels Food Bank, San Antonio Food Bank, and City of Seguin - Government partnered together to provide the 7th mega food distribution in Seguin, Texas. We were able to serve over 890 families!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The preschool staff would like to thank all of the volunteers who have provided snacks for our little ones over the years. Because of the preschool's increased enrollment and food and nutrition guidelines we have to follow, the preschool committee has decided to ask not only for snack contributions but monetary contributions as well. The staff would then use the contributions to purchase the needed food items. We feel the staff is better equipped to know the quantities, brands, and sizes of the specific items needed.

If you would like to help our preschool, we would like you to check the option you prefer below, and return the form to the church office or to Sharon Stollewerk at the preschool. Thank you in advance for always supporting this wonderful ministry!

_____ I would prefer to purchase and contribute needed snack items *as specified* by the preschool director. (379-7074) (Prepackaged snack items/bags or cans of fruit etc.) You may drop off at preschool at your convenience.

_____ I would prefer to make a monetary donation for the purchase of needed snack items for the preschool.

Name _____

(Please print)