



Second Sunday of Advent – December 6, 2020

Serving us in worship today:

Message: Mike Andrews; Lay Reader: Emma Jean Becker

Music: Annette Stout; Children's Church: Lisa Owen,

Ushers: Jesse Atzger, Fred Blumberg, David Moltz, and Bryan Terp;

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

Mike Andrews

OPENING HYMN: "*Blessed Be the God Israel*" WOV 725 *Verses 1 & 3*

(Please see next page)



Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-prepare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

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: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: *If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all wickedness. (1 John 1: 8-9, NLT)*

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

A: Most Merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage 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.

A: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all of our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – FAITH – “The Bethlehem Candle”

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” Verses 1 & 2 WOV 630

(Please see the screen for lyrics)

You may be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God. ²“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.

Tell her that her sad days are gone and her sins are pardoned.

Yes, the LORD has punished her twice over for all her sins.”

³Listen! It’s the voice of someone shouting, “Clear the way through the wilderness

for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland

for our God! ⁴Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills.

Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

The LORD has spoken!”

⁶A voice said, "Shout!" I asked, "What should I shout?"

"Shout that people are like the grass. Their beauty fades as quickly as the flowers in a field. ⁷The grass withers and the flowers fade beneath the breath of the LORD. And so it is with people.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever."

⁹O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops!

Shout it louder, O Jerusalem. Shout, and do not be afraid.

Tell the towns of Judah, "Your God is coming!"

¹⁰Yes, the Sovereign LORD is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm.

See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

A: Here ends the reading.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. ⁹The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

¹¹Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, ¹²looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. ¹³But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

¹⁴And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

A: Here ends the reading.

Please stand for the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

²⁹Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

³⁴Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

³⁵The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷For the word of God will never fail."

³⁸Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

You may be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel"* LBW 34 Verses 1 & 4
(Children meet for Children's Church)

1) Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

4) Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

MESSAGE: *"There's Something about Mary"*

Mike Andrews

OFFERTORY: *"Let the Vineyards be fruitful"* pg. 86 LBW

♪ Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table
with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come. ♪

A: Let us pray. Most merciful God,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive
them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION with THE LORD'S PRAYER

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* LBW 26 Verses 1 & 4

1) Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

4) His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 God by Albert and Irene Menn in thankfulness for their many blessings.

FLOWERS ON THE ORGAN

Have been given to the glory of God by the family of Walt and Gladys Frueling in celebration of their 75th wedding anniversary on December 5.

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

This week has been sponsored to the glory of God by Stan and Nancy Wieding In memory of Stan's brother Milton and in thankfulness for the blessings of the Advent season.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Month to Date (December): \$325.00; YTD Offerings and Misc. \$499,659.21
(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
Mark and Sharon Westerholm		

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

(COVID safety protocols are followed at all church events)

Monday, Dec. 7	Preschool Board Mtg.	6:30 PM (AC)
Tuesday, Dec. 8	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast	7:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, Dec. 8	Staff Mtg.	1:30 PM (Kit)
Tuesday, Dec. 8	Council Mtg.	6:30 PM (AC)
Wednesday, Dec. 9	Joyful Noise	6:00 PM (Choir Rm)
Wednesday, Dec. 9	Handbells	6:00 PM (Sanc)
Wednesday, Dec. 9	Chancel Singers	7:00 PM (Sanc)
Wednesday, Dec. 9	FLY	6:00-8:00 PM (LEC)
Thursday, Dec. 10	Faith ringing Salvation Army Bell	9:00 AM -3:00 PM

DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Please join us **TODAY** 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 December items are macaroni and cheese and peanut butter. Any variety or brand. This week's update is **21 items** as of December 1.

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. 23rd**. If

you would like your poinsettia to be in memory or in honor of someone, please call or email the church office (communications@faithseguin.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.