



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020**

*Serving us in worship today:*

*Pastors: David Mayer, Rusty Bailey;*

*Lay Reader: Doris Engelhardt*

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

*Ushers: Mike Andrews, Willie Bloch, Paul Kalkwarf, and Robert Raetzsch;*

*AV: Andrew Kuehne, Tim Bogisch*

### **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**

**OPENING HYMN: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" LBW 30**

- 1) Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2) Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788*

## 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”* Verse 4 WOV 630

*(Please see the screen for lyrics)*

*You may be seated.*

## FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:18-29 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup>Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? <sup>19</sup>And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God! <sup>20</sup>And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O

Lord God! <sup>21</sup> Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. <sup>22</sup> Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. <sup>23</sup> And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? <sup>24</sup> And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O Lord, became their God. <sup>25</sup> And now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. <sup>26</sup> And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The Lord of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you. <sup>27</sup> For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. <sup>28</sup> And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. <sup>29</sup> Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."

A: Here ends the reading.

### **PSALM 40:1-8** *(NLT)*

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the Lord to help me,  
and he turned to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> He lifted me out of the pit of despair,  
out of the mud and the mire.

He set my feet on solid ground  
and steadied me as I walked along.

<sup>3</sup> He has given me a new song to sing,  
a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see what he has done and be amazed.  
They will put their trust in the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord,  
who have no confidence in the proud  
or in those who worship idols.

<sup>5</sup>O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us.

Your plans for us are too numerous to list.

You have no equal.

If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds,

I would never come to the end of them.

<sup>6</sup>You take no delight in sacrifices or offerings.

Now that you have made me listen, I finally understand—  
you don't require burnt offerings or sin offerings.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Look, I have come.

As is written about me in the Scriptures:

<sup>8</sup>I take joy in doing your will, my God,

for your instructions are written on my heart."

A: Here ends the reading.

## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 16:25-27** (ESV)

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A: Here ends the reading.

*Please stand for the Holy Gospel.*

## **HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38** (ESV)

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord

God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

*You may be seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *“Hallelujah, What a Savior”* Please see screen for lyrics  
(Children meet for Children’s Church)

**SERMON** *“Being On God’s Wait Staff”*

Pastor Mayer

**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**

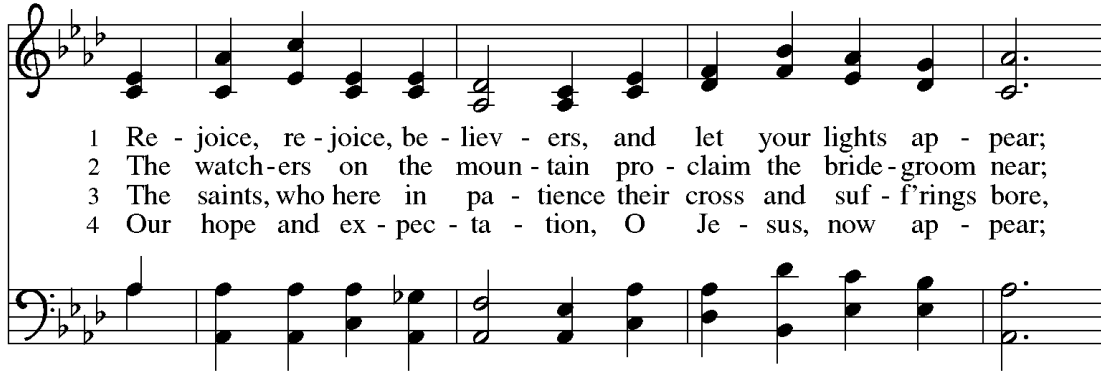
**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

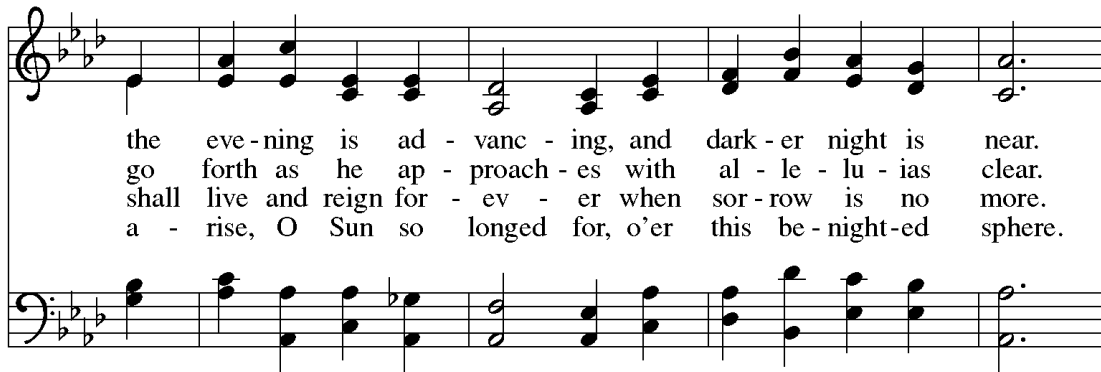
**CLOSING HYMN:** *“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”* Verses 1 & 4 LBW 25

*(Please see next page)*

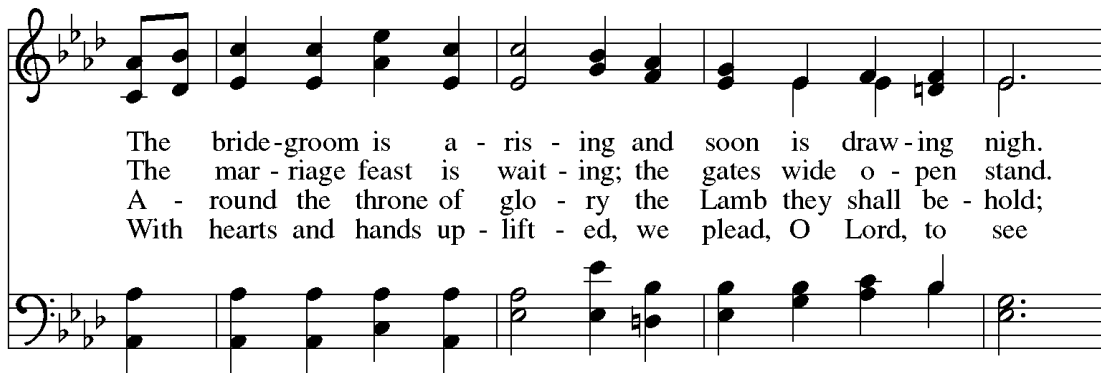
# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



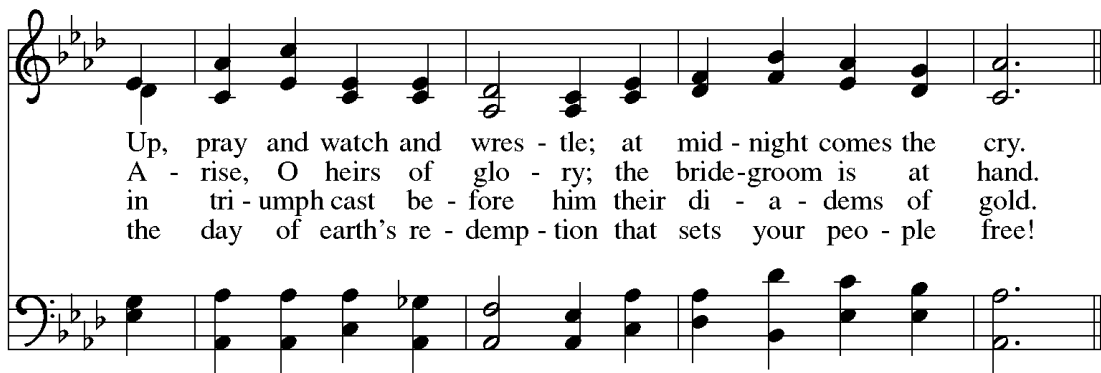
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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 Bryan and Diane Terp in memory of Diane's mom, Evelyn Hoffmann, who would have turned 100 on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

This week has been sponsored to the glory of God by Jesse and Deloris Atzger in celebration of the birth of Jesus and in thankfulness of our many blessings.

## **WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:**

Month to Date (December): **\$17,364.00**; YTD Offerings and Misc. **\$461,952.21\***

(2020 budgeted offerings is **\$549,000**) \*The PPP loan/grant had previously been included in the YTD total and no longer is in that number.

## **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
Marcus Jahns	Harold Bogisch	

## **PRAYERS REQUESTED**

For Dorothy Burris, who is hospitalized at Post Acute-Warm Springs Specialty Hospital in Luling.

## **THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

*(COVID safety protocols are followed at all church events)*

<b>Monday, Dec. 21</b>	<b>Staff Christmas Lunch</b>	<b>12:00 PM (AC)</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 22</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study/Breakfast</b>	<b>7:30 AM (AC)</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 22</b>	<b>Staff Mtg.</b>	<b>9:00 AM (Kit)</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 23</b>	<b>Deadline for Poinsettias to church</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec. 24</b>	<b>Church office closes at noon</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec. 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Holy Communion</b>	<b>4:00 PM 7:00 PM</b>
<b>Friday, Dec. 25</b>	<b>Church Offices Closed</b>	<b>All Day</b>

## **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@faithseguion.org](mailto: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.

## **OFFICE DOOR DECORATION CONTEST**

The winners have been decided! Congratulations to our first place winner, Lisa Owen! Second and Third place went to Angie and Roxanne/LeAnne, respectively. Thank you, thank you, thank you! A grand total of \$200 was collected in the votes and was delivered to the Seguin Blue Santa program on Monday!

## **FLOWERS AND WOF SIGN UP for 2021**

The 2021 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board outside the church offices. If you would like to provide flowers during the year, please remember to sign up for the Sunday of your choice as soon as possible.

"Words of Faith" is a 30 minute recorded portion of our Sunday worship service and is broadcasted on KWED 1580 AM every Sunday morning at 8:00. Families or individuals wishing to sponsor a broadcast may do so for \$50. The sign-up sheet for 2021 is also on the bulletin board outside the church offices.

## **ATTENTION TRAVELERS: WE HAVE GOOD NEWS!**

The trip to the Holy Land is still ON! **Dates are November 1--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](mailto:cowboypat@ascottravel.com) for more information.

## **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 **54 items** as of December 14.