



**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

***Third Sunday of Advent***

*Serving us in worship today: Pastors: David Mayer, Rusty Bailey;*

*Lay Reader: Bryan Terp; Music: Annette Stout;*

*Children's Church: Sharon Stollewerk;*

*Ushers: Terry Freeman, Vanita Hodge, Joan Vanbeek, and Ron Vanbeek;*

*AV: Andrew Kuehne, Diane Gwyther*

### **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 today, we encourage you to fellowship with other believers in a manner in which you are comfortable. Children will come forward for a special blessing before meeting for Children's Church. (Ages Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)*

### **Visitor / Prayer Cards**

We invite guests to fill out a visitor card found in the back of the pew in front of you. The back of the visitor card also has a place for prayer requests for anyone needing special prayer. Please place cards in the box located on the Welcome Table in the Narthex. First time visitors, be sure to pick up a red welcome bag in the narthex.

### **WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND OPENING PRAYER**

*Please Stand*

**OPENING HYMN:** *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"* (LBW #30 sung to #315 tune)

- 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.*

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

**C:** Amen.

**P:** 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.

**P:** *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1: 8-9, ESV)

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** Most Merciful God,

**C:** We confess that 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:** 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.

*You may be seated.*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:** **JOY** – *“The Shepherd Candle”*  
*“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”* Verse 1, 2 and 3 WOV 630

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup> I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**PSALM 85 To be read responsively (ESV)**

LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

- <sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.
- <sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.
- <sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!
- <sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- <sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?
- <sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.
- <sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.
- <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.
- <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- <sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- <sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

*(ESV)*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Please stand for the words of Christ.*

**GOSPEL: Luke 7:18-28**

*(ESV)*

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they

said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup> In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup> And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup> And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>24</sup> When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>28</sup> I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

A: The gospel of our Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

*You may be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### MESSAGE

Pastor Mayer

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** "*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*" LBW 34 Vs. 1, 3 & 5

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.

3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;

make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

## OFFERING

P: Blessed be the Lord our God of all faithfulness. By your grace we receive all that we need, and in this abundance may we faithfully share with all in good stewardship, this that you have first given us. Receive this offering to the glory of your Holiness and the work of Jesus Christ in the world. Amen.

*Please stand.*

**OFFERTORY:** *"Create in Me a Clean Heart..."* pg. 96 LBW

C:           ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, And uphold me with your free Spirit.   ♪

P: 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.

## APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

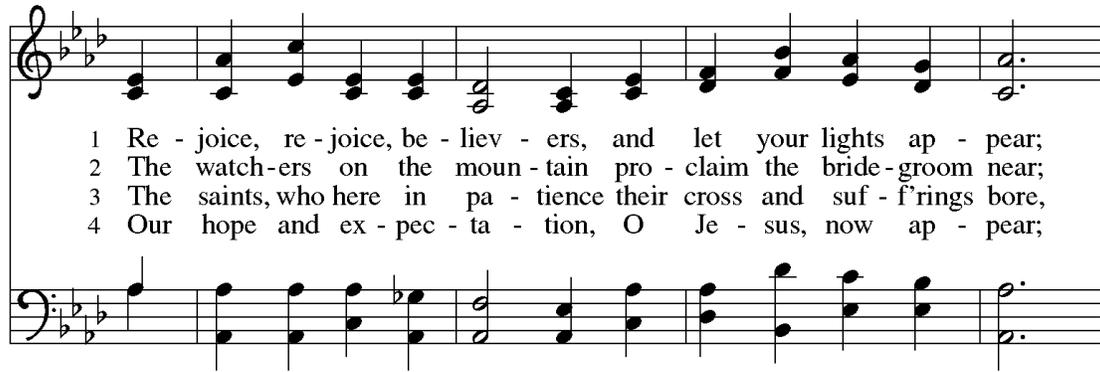
## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Please stand.*

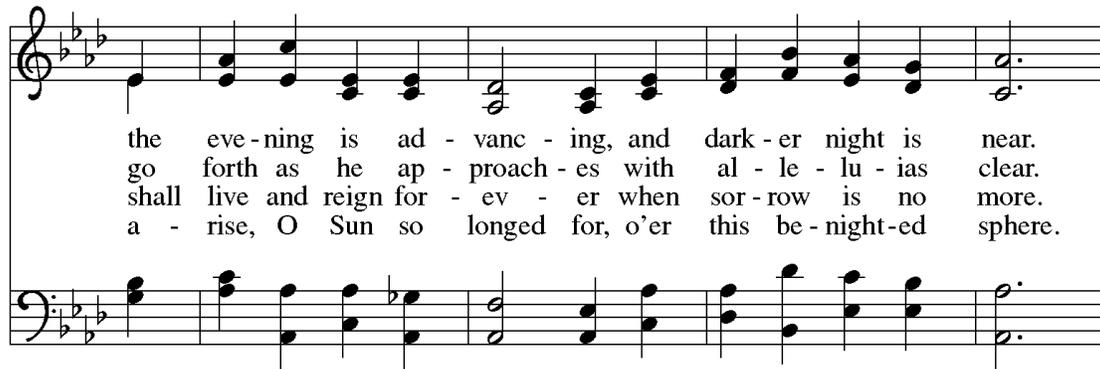
**CLOSING HYMN:** *"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"* LBW 25

*(Please see next page.)*

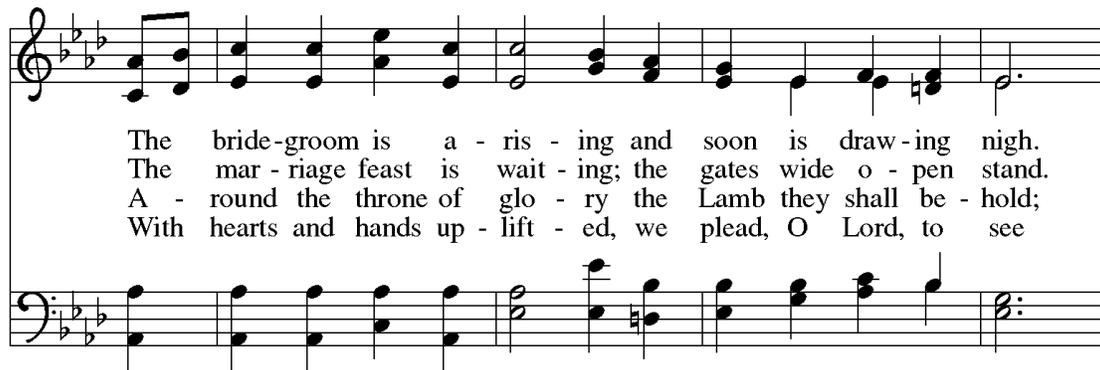
# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



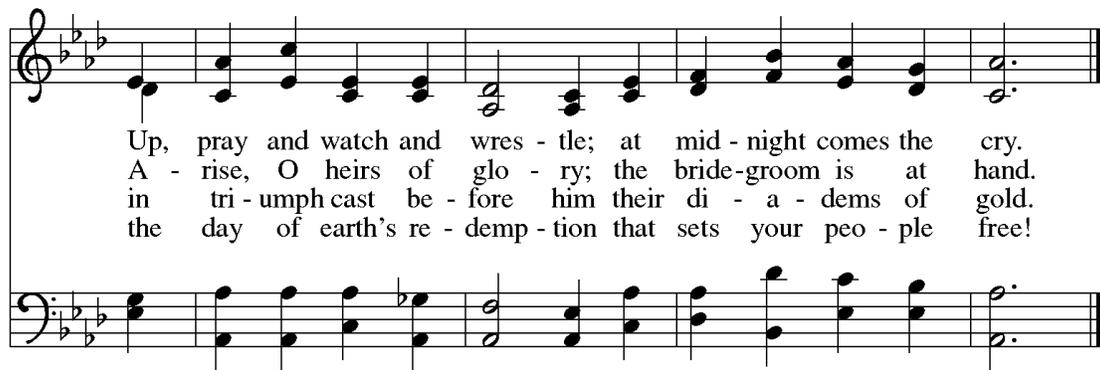
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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!

## BENEDICTION DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God!

## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FAITH

Worship Service – 9:00 AM

*Fellowship on Patio following worship*

Sunday School – 10:15-11:15 AM

- Pre K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade in Educational Wing
- Adult Sunday School in Activity Center
- Lifebridge (Young Adult) meets in the Life Enrichment Center.

Confirmation Class – 10:15 -11:15 AM in the small kitchen

### “WORDS OF FAITH” BROADCAST SUNDAYS AT 8 AM ON KWED 1580 AM RADIO

Has been sponsored the glory of God by Ted and Doris Engelhardt in thankfulness for God’s many blessings, especially the gift of His son, Jesus.

### FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Have been given the glory of God by Faith Lutheran Church.

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Attendance on December 5 was 133; Month to Date (December): **\$13,676.00** YTD  
Offerings and Misc. **\$441,345.41** (2021 budgeted offerings is **\$470,000**)

### PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Julie Sagebiel	Judy Saunders	Nora Lavelett
Carolyn Sagebiel	Walt Fruehling	Ronnie Glenewinkel
Kelton Lange	Gladys Fruehling	Dot Day
Sandy Wille	Coreen Dube	Laurie (Bogisch) Perryman
Teresa Kiel	Donald Jackson	Harold Bogisch
Carolyn Westerholm	Fred Blumberg	Leia Hill
Brad Flippin	Jo Ann Lange	

### PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM OPENINGS

We currently have **two openings in our Mother’s Morning Out class**. MMO class is held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (8:30-11:30). To enroll in the MMO class, students must be two years of age (before Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>). We also have **one vacancy in a Pre-K class**. The Pre-K class runs Monday through Friday (8:30-11:30). To enroll in the Pre-K class, students must be three years of age (before Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>) and potty-trained. Please call 830-379-7074 if interested.

### 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 is a sign-up sheet located in the narthex, for **Monday, December 20th**, Location for the bell ringing day will be the Market entrance of the Seguin Walmart. Hours for Faith are from 9:00 AM—9:00 PM and time slots are 1 1/2 hours each. **The Salvation Army will provide all the personnel protective equipment that is deemed**



important: gloves, masks, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizers, etc. Please consider giving a gift of your time this holiday season and volunteer for a time slot.

**POINSETTIAS TO BRIGHTEN SANCTUARY**



The chancel area will be decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas 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](mailto:communications@faithseguion.org)) with this information by noon Friday, Dec.

17th, 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.

**COMMUNION and ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild and Worship committee are in need of more volunteers to assist with communion preparation, clean up and during worship. Please contact Susan Foerster at 830-305-2035 if you are able help.

**THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

Monday, Dec. 13	Prayer Group	10:15 AM
Tuesday, Dec. 14	Men’s Bible Study	7:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, Dec. 14	Retired School Personnel	9:00 AM (AC)
Tuesday, Dec. 14	Staff Mtg.	9:00 AM
Tuesday, Dec. 14	Council Meeting	6:30 PM (AC)
Wednesday, Dec. 15	Quilters	9:00 AM
Wednesday, Dec. 15	FLY	6-8:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 15	Joyful Noise	6:00-6:30 PM (Choir Rm)
Wednesday, Dec. 15	Hand Bells	6:15 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 15	Choir	7:00 PM (Sanc.)
Thursday, Dec. 16	Hope Circle	1:45 PM (SAL)
Thursday, Dec. 16	Charity Circle	6:00 PM (Glenewinkel home)
Friday, Dec. 17	Deadline for Poinsettia Bulletin Information	
Saturday, Dec. 18	Christmas Program Rehearsal	9:00-10:00 AM

**THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES HELD NEXT WEEK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

**THIS INCLUDES CHILDREN AND ADULTS.**

## **SAVE THE DATES**

Mark your calendars for some exciting Christmas season events happening at Faith!

- **Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas program rehearsal for ALL Sunday school children (including HS youth) 9:00 – 10:00 AM
- **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** – Our **“Faith Family Christmas Celebration”** will be held during our 9:00 AM worship time! What a glorious morning it will be!
- **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** – **Annual Congregational meeting for 2022 Budget** immediately following worship service. Please stay! We need your input and your presence (for a quota) to have the meeting!
- **Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – We will be holding two candlelight Christmas Eve services. Join us at **4:00 or 7:00 PM** to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Holy communion will be served at both services.

## **ONLINE GIVING**

Faith has teamed up with a service to give you the ability to send your offering online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. We offer this service as a convenience to you - you can stop writing checks or having to remember to bring cash every Sunday. Simply log in to our service and set up your offering. We have had this in place for some time now. A link is available right on our website: <https://faithsequin.org/online-giving/> Or you may click here [https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing?church\\_id=5083](https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing?church_id=5083) to go directly to myEoffering site to sign up. Even better – scan this QR code with your camera!



## **CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD**

Thank you to those of you who have been dropping off items for the Christian Cupboard. The December item is **canned or boxed food items**, any variety or brand. Total number of items collected as of December 7, 2021 is 18. Keep up the great work!

## **USHER TEAMS**

Our worship usher teams are looking for new members! If you would be willing to volunteer your time once a month, please contact Bill Ermel. Thank you in advance!

## **AV HELP**

The worship committee is looking for volunteers to run the AV equipment during worship and special services. Don't worry, you will be trained... and it's not that hard! **WE NEED YOU!** See Roxanne or Andrew Kuehne if interested!

# VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad  
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

