



Sunday, December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Serving us in worship today: Pastor: David Mayer; Lay Reader: Kim Kauitzsch; Music: Dawn Peterson, Roxanne Heckmann, LeAnne White; Children's Church: Shelby Atchley; Ushers: Jud Alexander, Mark Herbold, Cecil Schulze, and Chase White; AV: Tim Bogisch, Andrew Kuehne

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! Our guests are encouraged to sign the red guestbook located at the Welcome Table in the entry hall. First time visitors, be sure to pick up a red welcome bag in the narthex.

We ask everyone to please complete the attendance sheet in the black folder and then pass it down the pew.

Children are invited to come forward for a special blessing before meeting for Children's Church. (Ages Pre-K through 3rd grade)

Prayer Cards

You will find prayer request cards on the back of the pew in front of you. We ask that anyone needing special prayer please fill them out and place cards in the box located on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION and OPENING PRAYER

Please Stand

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray,

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

You may be seated.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – JOY– *“The Shepherd Candle”*

The Goetz Family

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” Verse 3 WOY 630

(Please see the screen for lyrics)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10 (NIV)

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

⁴say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there,

nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

PSALM 146 *To be read responsively* *(NIV)*

¹ Praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD, my soul.
² I will praise the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.
⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.
⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.
⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.
⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,
⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
¹⁰ The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD.

SECOND READING: James 5: 7-11 (NIV)

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Please stand for the Holy Gospel.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-6 (NIV)

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

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

You may be seated.

CHANCEL SINGERS: *"Prepare the Way"*

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MESSAGE:

Pastor Mayer

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"* LBW #34 Vs. 1,3,4

- 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*

4) Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

OFFERING

Please stand.

OFFERTORY:

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

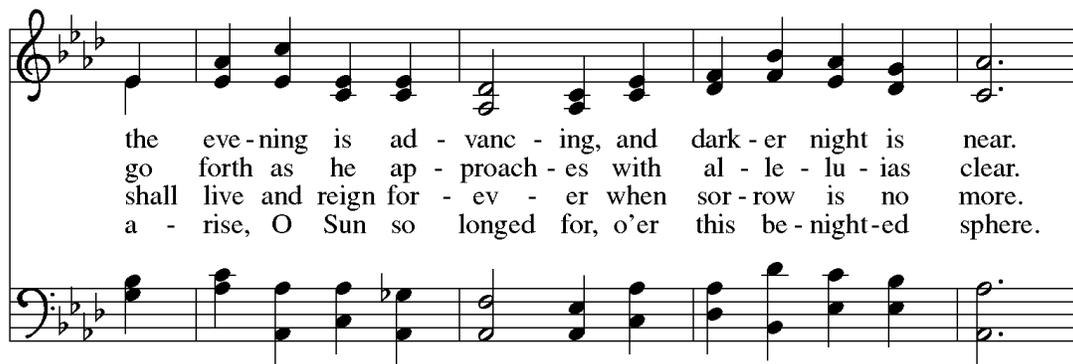
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please stand.

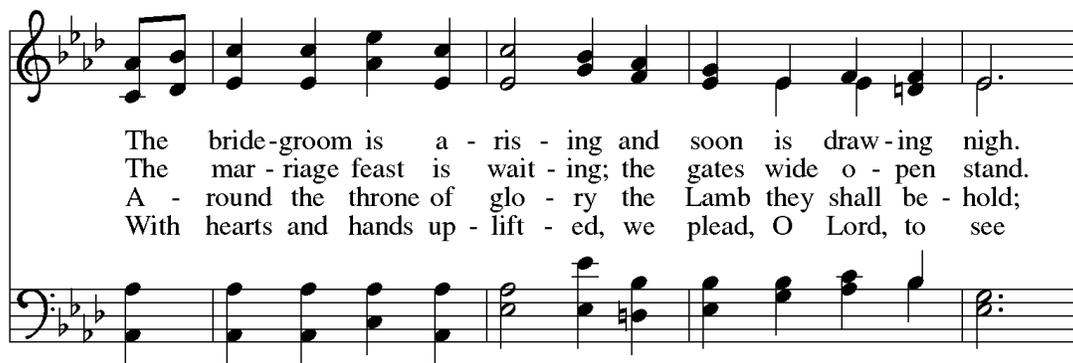
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



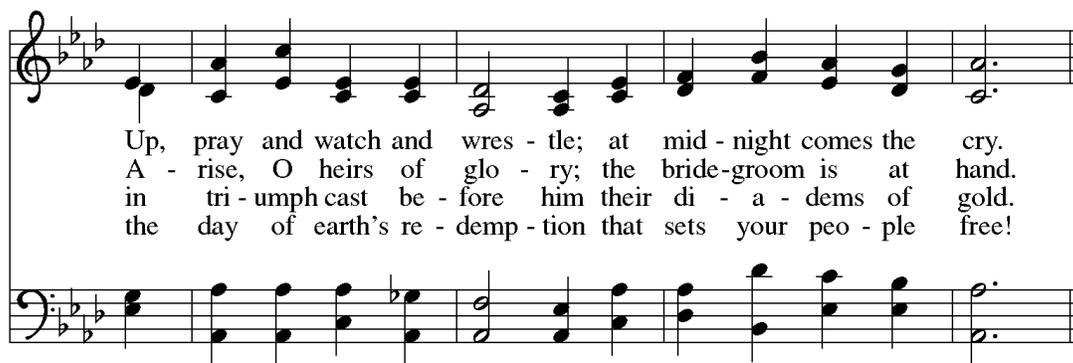
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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: Chancel Singers – Sung especially for Pastors Bailey and Mayer

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 – 10:30-11:30 AM

- Pre K-1st Grade in Educational Wing
 - 2nd-5th Grade in Education Wing
 - 6th-12th Grade in LEC Loft
- Adult Sunday School- **That The World May Know* class in Activity Center
 - * New Testament Class in Sanctuary
- Lifebridge (Young Adult) meets in the Life Enrichment Center.

“WORDS OF FAITH” BROADCAST ON KWED

Has been sponsored to the glory of God today by George and Gina Mannel celebration of Megan Harvey’s birthday and in thankfulness of their many blessings.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Have been given to the glory of God by Kirby and Pam Fransen in appreciation of Pastor Mayer and Pastor Bailey for their service and faithfulness to our congregation.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Attendance on December 4 was 142; Month to Date (December): **\$5,750.00**;
YTD Offerings and Misc. **\$429,126.15** (2022 budgeted offerings is **\$488,775.00**)

SAVE THE DATES

- PASTOR MAYER/BAILEY CELEBRATION LUNCH – **TODAY**
- FAITH FAMILY CHRISTMAS– December 18
- CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING –December 18
- CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH CHOIR – December 18
- RING SA BELL AT WALMART—December 19
- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES at 4:00 and 7:00 PM – December 24
- REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:00 AM – December 25
- ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – January 22

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Monday, December 12	Prayer Group	10:15
Tuesday, December 13	Men’s Bible Study	7:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, December 13	Staff Mtg.	9:00 AM
Tuesday, December 13	Retired School Personnel	9:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, December 13	Blue Santa Wrapping	4-8:00 PM (LEC)

Tuesday, December 13	Council Meeting	6:30 PM (AC)
Wed., December 14	Quilters	9:00 AM (AC)
Wed., December 14	FLY	6:00-8:00
Wed., December 14	Joyful Noise and Hand Bells	6:00 PM (Sanct.)
Wed. December 14	Chancel Singers	7:00 PM (CR)
Thursday, December 15	Hope Circle	2:00 PM (AC)
Thursday, December 15	Blue Santa Wrapping	4-8:00 PM (LEC)
Friday, December 16	JAM Mini Lock-in	5:00-10:00

WORKERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Sunday, December 18: Ushers: Mike Andrews, Brandon Westerholm, Robert Raetzsch, Ronnie Glenewinkel; Lay Reader: NA; Greeters: Pat and Missy Sagebiel; AV: Andrew Kuehne, Matthew Fransen; Count: Doris Engelhardt, Jud Alexander; Lock Up: Diane Ratliff; Security: Jud Alexander; Communion set up: Fran Braun, Mary Koehler; Communion clean up: Patti Jahns, Nancy Schlather; Communion Helpers: Fran Braun, Gail Herbold, Carolyn Zipp; Communion Aid: Dianne Chambers.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Julie Sagebiel	Judy Saunders	Nora Lavelett
Carolyn Sagebiel	Ronnie Glenewinkel	Kelton Lange
Gladys Fruehling	Sandy Wille	Donald Jackson
Harold Bogisch	Brad Flippin	Steve Foerster
Georgie Dittrich	Lillian Lippe	Clara Fischer
Birdie Kuempel	Doris Rinn	Willie Bloch
Irene Menn	Kathy Taddy	Tom Stout

ANGEL TREE TO BENEFIT LOCAL NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

The Social Concerns Team is sponsoring an Angel Tree. Our Angel Tree will help the Guadalupe County Sheriff's department reach their goal of giving every resident, in every nursing home a Christmas present. Please choose an angel tag from the tree that has the amount you would like to give, or choose a "state your own amount" angel. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "Angel Tree" in the memo. Clip the check or cash to the angel tag and place it in the basket by the tree. All donations need to be at church by December 19. Thank you for participating and showing your care for others.

POINSETTIAS TO BRIGHTEN SANCTUARY

Faith Lutheran has a tradition of decorating the chancel/altar area with poinsettias for the season by using plants from our members! If you would be willing to share your plants with us, please bring them to church by **5:00 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 21st**. 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. 16th**, 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 is a sign-up sheet located in the narthex for **Monday, December 19th**. Location for the bell ringing day will be the Market/Grocery 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. Please consider giving a gift of your time this holiday season and volunteer for a one and a half hour time slot. For more information, contact Bryan Terp.

PRESCHOOL STAFF NEEDED

Faith Lutheran Preschool is in need of a full-time teacher's aide for our two-year-old class. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00-6:00. Experience is preferred.

We are also in need of a part-time teacher's aide for a Pre-K class. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00-12:00, with flexibility to also work some afternoons.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



The Music Ministry members would like to invite everyone to come Christmas Caroling with them on **Sunday, December 18th**. We will meet at Faith at 4:30 and carpool to the Assisted Living homes and to some of our homebound members. This is a FAMILY EVENT, so come one, come all and help us spread some Christmas cheer!

2023 FLOWER AND WORDS OF FAITH CHARTS

Are now posted in the hallway outside of communications office. Please sign up for dates you would like to sponsor altar flowers or our Words of Faith Broadcast in 2023.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The word *Advent* means "coming." It is the season of the Church year where we are reminded of the reality of Christ's coming into our world. It is a season of preparation and anticipation, not simply for the celebration of Christmas, but to recognize that hope and expectation are a part of our daily life of faith.

When writing on the subject of Advent, Martin Luther spoke of *three* different "comings" of Christ:

The first coming was indeed when Christ was born as a child in Bethlehem – his coming in the *past*. The first advent was when the eternal Son of God took on human flesh and became a living part of our world.

As Christians, we also believe in the second coming of Christ – his coming in the *future*. At the end of all time, Christ will return to bring his kingdom to fulfillment. On that day he will raise us up to appear before his throne of judgment.

The "third" coming of Christ of which Luther spoke has no single particular time attached to it, so it is perhaps better to put no number to it all. This other coming of Christ does not occur with portents in the heavens, no choirs of angels on high. It is an advent that is hard to see at all, because it happens through the Spirit of God. This is Christ's coming into the *present*, when our Lord enters into the hearts of everyday people in the here and now, through his Word, in faith.

Of the three, this may be the single most important Advent of Christ, at least as far as our salvation is concerned. Because it is only through the advent of faith that the first and second comings of Christ take on meaning for us as individuals. It is when Christ enters our hearts that his presence becomes a reality for each of us in **our** lives, and we recognize all the many ways that God is truly with us.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a tradition that marks the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western Christian Church. It has come to be used by many other Christian denominations as well.

An evergreen wreath is placed horizontally on a flat surface or a stand, with four candles. On each Sunday in Advent, a new candle is lit, to mark the weeks leading up to Christmas. Each of the candles is used to describe one of the corresponding Advent themes. Often, the lighting of each candle is accompanied by a Bible reading, a song or prayers. The practice is observed both during worship services in Advent and in family devotional settings.

A fifth, white Christ Candle is often placed at the center of the wreath representing Christ at the center of the season.

The tradition of the Advent Wreath can serve as a reminder to prepare our hearts to receive the coming Messiah that we all may join in saying: "Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord."



INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT FAITH?

If you are interested in finding out more information on Faith, please see or contact Pastor at 830-426-9146.

PHOTO DIRECTORY



We are still missing **several PICTURES** for our printable/digital Church Directory! Please send your family or individual pictures to communications@faithsequin.org to get them included! You are also free to just grab Roxanne after service and have her take a quick photo of you!

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD

Thank you to those of you who have been dropping off items for the Christian Cupboard. Our December items are **any non-perishable food item you would like to give. This includes canned or boxed foot items. (Canned vegetables, beans, meat, meal helpers, etc.)** any variety or brand. Total number of items collected as of December 6 is 47.