



Sunday, November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Serving us in worship today: Pastor: David Mayer; Message: Andrew Cave, Lay Reader: Avis Herrick; Music: Annette Stout, Dawn Peterson, Roxanne Heckmann, LeAnne White, Brad Bettis, Megan Harvey, and Gina Mannel; Children's Church: Stephanie Kautzsch; Ushers: Terry Freeman, Vanita Hodge, Kristy Serold, Ron and Joan Vanbeek; AV: Diane Gwyther, Matthew Fransen

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: *"All Earth is Hopeful"* WOV #629

- 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.

2) People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

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!

4) We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

You may be seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM – Kimberlyn Ruth Cloughly

Please see page 121 in the green Lutheran Book of Worship.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess
the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.
Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty
promise?

Parents: **We do**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

Baptism continues.

All: We welcome you in to the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Please stand.

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 – HOPE – “The Prophecy Candle”

The Westerholm Family

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

(Please see the screen for lyrics)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5 (NIV)

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

²In the last days

the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and all nations will stream to it.

³Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵Come, descendants of Jacob,

let us walk in the light of the LORD.

PSALM 122

To be read responsively (NIV)

¹I rejoiced with those who said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²Our feet are standing

in your gates, Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built like a city

that is closely compacted together.

⁴That is where the tribes go up—

the tribes of the LORD—

to praise the name of the LORD

according to the statute given to Israel.

⁵ There stand the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May those who love you be secure.

⁷ May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels."

⁸ For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, "Peace be within you."

⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your prosperity.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14 (NIV)

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Please stand for the Holy Gospel.

GOSPEL: Mathew 24:36-44 (NIV)

³⁶ "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

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

You may be seated.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MESSAGE: *"The 'Thief' Of Advent"*

Andrew Cave

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"What a Beautiful Name with Come Let Us Adore Him"*

Please see screen for lyrics.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd"*

(From Handel's Messiah)

Gina Mannel and Megan Harvey

Please stand when offertory has begun.

OFFERTORY: *"Create in Me a Clean Heart..."* pg. 75 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.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please stand.

CLOSING HYMN: *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"* WOV # 725 Verses 1 & 3

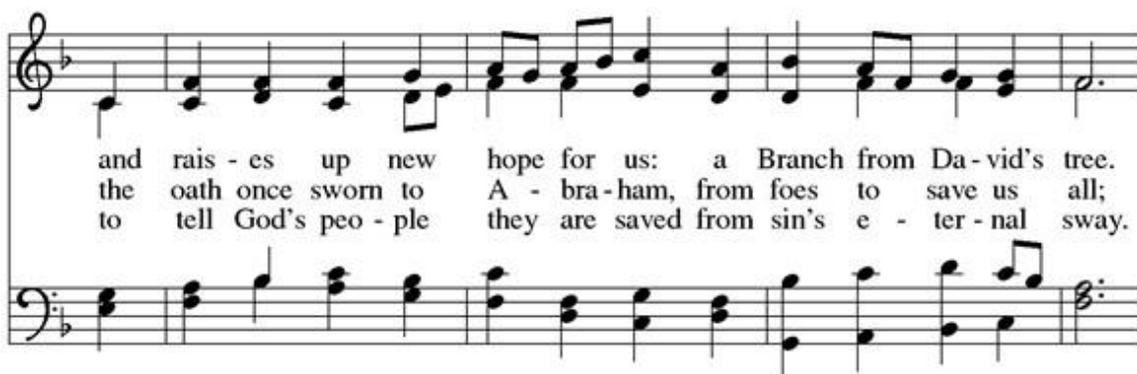
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Blessed Be the God of Israel

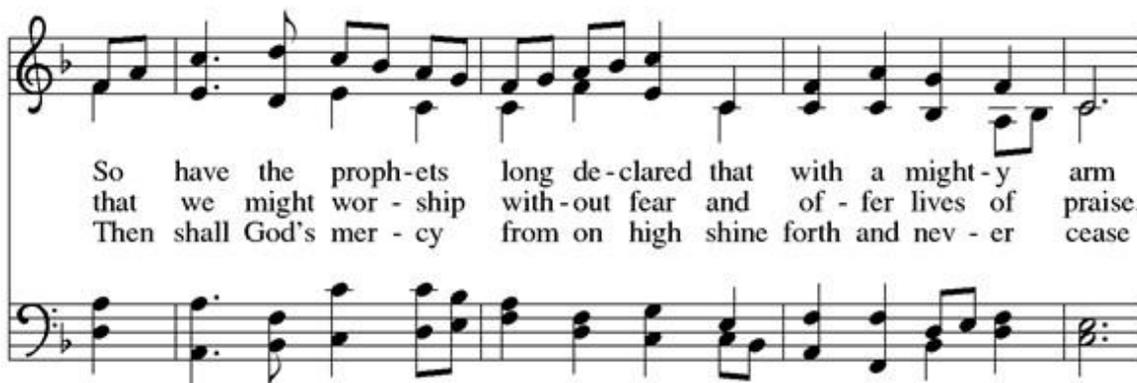
Vs. 1& 3



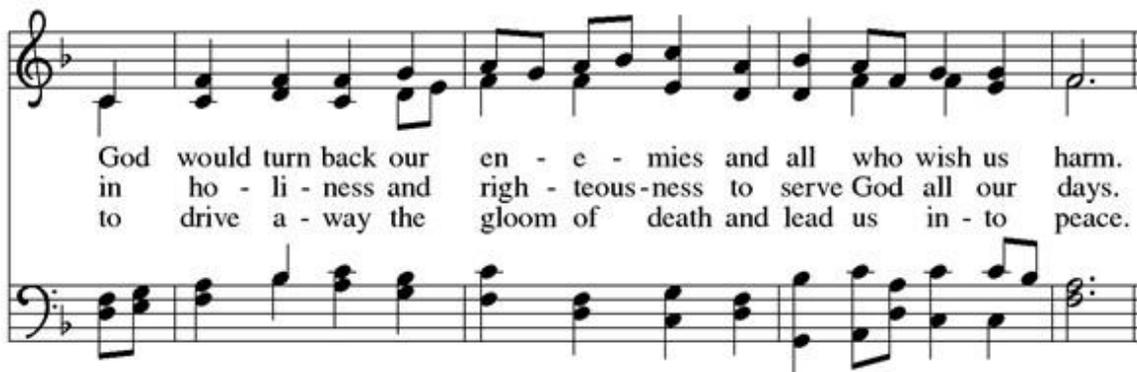
1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



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.

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 – 10:30-11:30 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 Ed and Joyce Engelhardt in thankfulness of His many blessings as we remember Colossians 3:17 -

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.”

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

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

FLOWERS ON THE ORGAN

Have been given 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:

Attendance on November 20 was 141; Month to Date (November): **\$27,724.00**; YTD Offerings and Misc. **\$413,772.15** (2022 budgeted offerings is **\$488,775.00**)

SAVE THE DATES

- **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** –November 27
- **DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS** – November 27 (after worship)
- **LIVING NATIVITY Drive Through** – December 10
- **PASTOR MAYER/BAILEY CELEBRATION LUNCH** – December 11
- **FAITH FAMILY CHRISTMAS**– December 18
- **CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING** –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, November 28	Prayer Group	10:15
Monday, November 28	VDC 4 th Day Ultreya	6:30 PM (AC)
Tuesday, November 29	Men's Bible Study	7:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, November 29	Staff Mtg.	9:00 AM
Tuesday, November 29	Blue Santa Wrapping	4-8:00 PM (LEC)
Wed., November 30	Quilters	9:00 AM (AC)
Wed., November 30	FLY	6:00-8:00
Wed., November 30	Joyful Noise and Hand Bells	6:00 PM (CR & Sanct.)
Wed. November 30	Chancel Singers	7:00 PM (CR)
Thursday, December 1	Blue Santa Wrapping	4-8:00 PM (LEC)
Saturday, Dec. 3	LEC member rental	4:00 PM

WORKERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Sunday, December 4: Ushers: Tim Bogisch, Mike Burris, Albert Menn, John Taddy; Lay Reader: Emma Jean Becker; Greeters: Avis Herrick, Kim Kautzsch; AV: Andrew Kuehne, Chase White; Count: Bill Ermel, Gail Herbold; Lock Up: Matthew Fransen; Security: Fred Shanafelt; Communion set up: Fran Braun, Mary Koehler; Communion clean up: Patti Jahns, Nancy Schlather; Communion Helpers: Dianne Chambers, Bill Ermel, Avis Herrick; Communion Aid: Laline Jensen.

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	

KIMBERLYN RUTH CLOUGHLY

Kimberlyn receives the Promise, which is given in Holy Baptism today. Together with her parents, Travis and Carolyn, and siblings, Judson, and Ryan, we share their joy as Kimberlyn is received into the Kingdom of God. The prayers of our church family are requested for Kimberlyn as she begins a New Life in Christ. The sponsors for Kimberlyn are Andrew and Laura Hamer and members of Faith Lutheran Church.

RECYLCE HELP

The church no longer has access to a paper recycling drop off. We are looking for congregation volunteers to possibly come by the church office once a week to collect our recycling and deposit it in their home recycle bin. If you are willing to try this, please speak to Angie in the office! Thanks in advance!

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.”



ENDOWMENT FUND APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The Endowment Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the distribution of the 2022 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 2, 2022**. If delivered or mailed, please indicate the contents of the envelope on the outside.

LET'S CELEBRATE PASTOR MAYER AND PASTOR BAILEY!

Save the date! A celebration lunch will be held on **Sunday, December 11**, for Pastor David and Tanya and Pastor Rusty and Cindy, in the LEC at **10:30 AM**. We appreciate everything they have done for us and we want to show them!

“I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you plans to give you hope and a future” Jeremiah 29:11-13

The Church Council is providing the meat, (spiral baked ham) and we are asking for specific items to go with the meal. A list is available to let people bring their favorite dish. Please stop by the church, see Fran Braun, or sign up on Sundays before December 11.

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.

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@faithseguin.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 November item is **pasta**, any variety or brand. Total number of items collected as of November 16 is 21.

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@faithseguin.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.

