THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17, 2017 A.D.
Faith Ev. Lutheran Church – Pierre, SD
Website: www.faithluth.com
Email: faith@faithluth.com
Church Phone – (605)224-2216

Rev. Dr. Cory J. Rajek – (608)359-2646
Senior Pastor
Rev. Joshua Baumann – (605)220-1908
Associate Pastor
Church Fax – (605)224-2226

A Christ Caring People Who Gather Around Word and Sacrament,
Yoked Together, In Personal Service to Christ in World Wide Missions

AS WE GATHER

As we light the candles of our Advent wreath this morning you'll notice that the color of the candle is pink. Pink is a color of joy. In fact, this Third Sunday in Advent is commonly referred to as "Rejoice Sunday." But don't confuse the joy we celebrate this Advent with a passing happiness. No, the joy we have this Advent is greater. It lasts always. That's what today's Epistle assures us when Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (*1 Thessalonians 5:16–18*). Only in Jesus, the coming Savior, can we rejoice in good times and bad times, busy times and quiet times, sick times and healthy times. In Christ, we rejoice always!

WELCOME *and* **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If there are prayer concerns for you, your family, your friends, or your neighbors, please put them on the blue information card. Our Board of Elders are prayerful with our pastors about these joys and struggles of our earthly journey.
"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16b

T **DIVINE SERVICE** T

OPENING SONG "From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable (Immanuel)" by Stewart Taunsend

From the squalor of a borrowed stable, by the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal – came the Savior of the human race!
But the skies were filled with the praise of heav'n – shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come- down to man – at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the friend of sinners, Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and Holy Spirit, filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain, joys and struggles that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again – I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal, He was lifted on a cru-el cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions, He was suffering to save the lost.
He- fights for breath, He- fights for me. Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
And- with a shout our souls are free; death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honor – crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved – 'til His Father calls to bring them home.
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds – hope of heaven or fear of hell;
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms, giving glory to Immanuel.

Praise Team and Congregation

INVOCATION *(8:00am only)*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

BAPTISMAL HYMN *(Note: The 3rd stanza will be sung after the Rite of Baptism.) (11:00am)*

Dearest Jesus, we are here,
Gladly Your command obeying;
With this child we now draw near
In response to Your own saying
That to You it shall be given
As a child and heir of heaven

Gracious Savior, Easton own;
Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed him;
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne,
Way of Life, to heaven lead him;
Precious Vine, let nothing sever
From Your side this branch forever.

Now into Your heart we pour
Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.
Our petitions heav'nward soar;
May our hearts' desires be heeded!
Write this name we now have given;
Write it in the book of heaven!

Text and Tune: Public domain.
The words of this hymn have been altered (*LSB* 592) for congregational purposes.

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM *(11:00am only)* (*LSB* 268)

OPENING SENTENCES *1 Thessalonians 5:16–18*

P Rejoice always,

C pray without ceasing,

P give thanks in all circumstances;

C for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *John 8:12; John 1:5; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6*

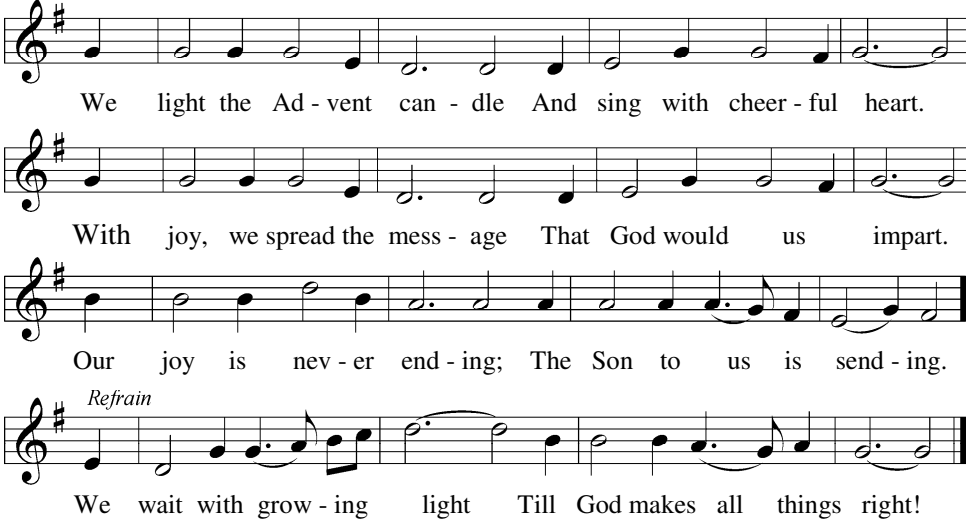
P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C and illumine Your Church.

HYMN "We Light the Advent Candle"



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CONFESSION *and* **ABSOLUTION**

P "But test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

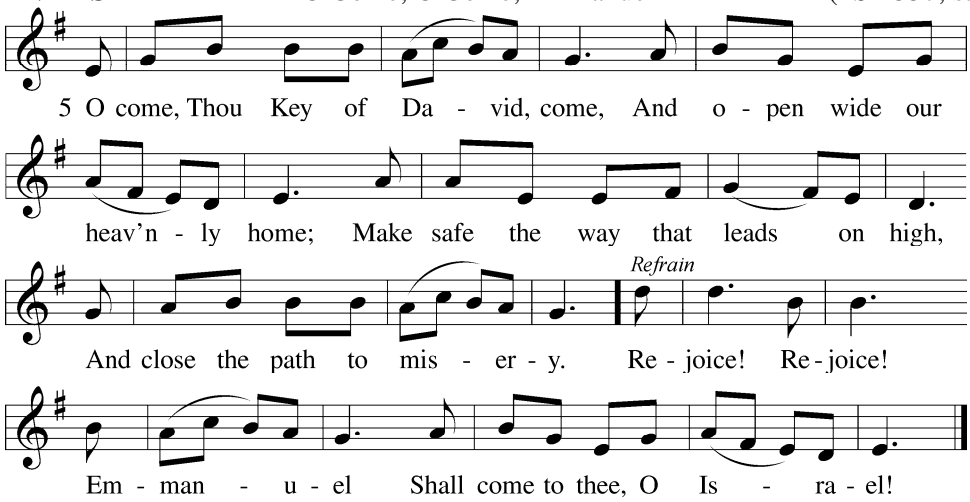
P "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my

Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ADVENT VERSE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*LSB* 357, sts. 5-6)



6 **O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,**
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. ***Refrain***

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✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 85:8-9, 2-13; antiphon: Psalm 85:7*

P Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
C **and grant us Your salvation.**
P Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
C for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
C that glory may dwell in our land.
P Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
C and our land will yield its increase.
P Righteousness will go before Him
C and make His footsteps a way.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
C **and grant us Your salvation.**

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

SALUTATION *and* COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ,
C **we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;**
P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11* ("The LORD has anointed me to bring good news.")

After the reading:
L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON *1 Thessalonians 5:16–24* ("Rejoice always. Do not quench the Spirit.")

After the reading:
L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SONG "I'm Forever Grateful" by Mark Altrogge

You did not wait for me to draw near to You, but you clothed Yourself with frail humanity.
You did not wait for me to cry out to You, but You let me hear Your voice calling me.
And I'm forever grateful to You, I'm forever grateful for the cross.
I'm forever grateful to You – that You came to seek and save the lost.

Praise Team and Congregation

(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:6–8, 19–28* ("Make straight the way of the Lord.")

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After the reading:
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON SONG "Comfort, Comfort All My People" (see insert)
(Praise Team will sing through the song twice; congregation can join in when able.)

SERMON *"Good News From God"* *(Is. 61:1-4, 8-11)*
Pastor Cory J. Rajek

CREED	*8:20am*	Nicene	*Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*
	11:00am	Apostles'	*Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*

OFFERING *We gather our tithes, gifts of love, and our "Building Together in Faith" gifts.*

(Please stand)

OFFERTORY "Jesus, Name Above All Names" by Naida Hearn

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.

Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God,
The Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of lords,
The way, the truth, and the life, Mighty Creator, my Savior and friend.

Praise Team and Congregation

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us joy.

Lord of joy, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts that we would be made ready to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth, but also in His body and blood. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant us joy.

P Lord of joy, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant us joy.

P Lord of joy, You have instructed us to pray for workers in Your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant us joy.

P Lord of joy, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant us joy.

P Lord of joy, You are the creator and sustainer of all things. According to Your will, grant healing to those who suffer in body and mind. Look with favor upon Your servants, *(especially . . .)*, and if it is Your will, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept tribulation, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant us joy.

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(8:00am only)*

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The 11:00am service continues on page 11 with the Benediction.

IN REGARD TO HOLY COMMUNION: According to Scripture, Holy Communion should be celebrated by those who are: **United in a common faith** (1 Cor. 10:16-17, 21-22; Rom. 16:17); **Repentant of sins** (1 Cor. 5:11, Matt. 18:17-18); **Able to examine their lives** (1 Cor. 11:27-29); and believe that in this precious meal they **receive the true body and blood of Jesus** given and shed for the forgiveness of their sins (Luke 22:19-22).

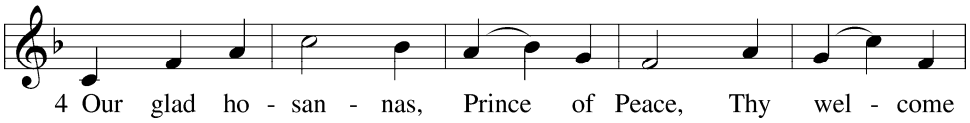
Since Scripture teaches that those people who do not fully understand the meaning of this meal eat and drink to their own harm (1Cor. 11:27-29), and because the Lord's Supper is the supreme act of stating our unity in faith and doctrine, we would ask those people who are visiting with us to **please speak with one of our pastors**, before communing, in order that we might fulfill our responsibility of properly instructing people in the right use of the precious Sacrament.

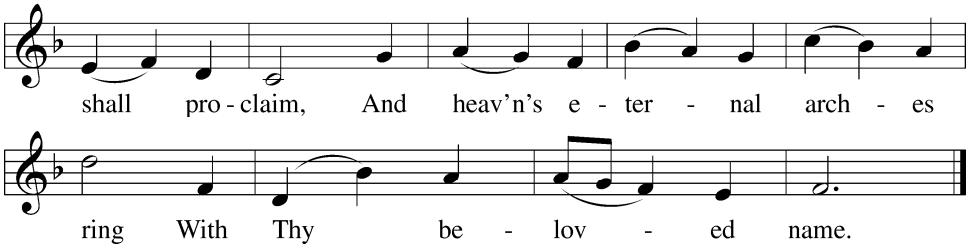
✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠
8:20am Service

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You kept Your promise to prepare Your way in the person of John the Baptizer, calling us to repentance, that we might greet our coming Savior with hearts that are forgiven and at peace. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS "Hark the Glad Sound" (*LSB* 349)





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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You sent Your Son to fulfill the words and promises of the prophets that the Messiah would come. In repentance and thanksgiving we come before You to receive the salvation that Christ won for us through His coming, life, death, and resurrection.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

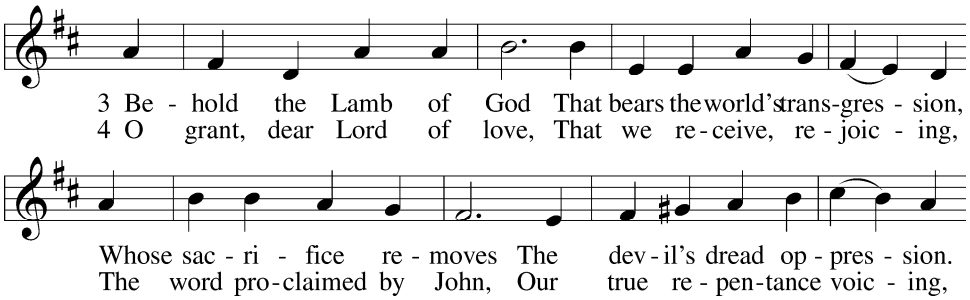
WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matt 26:26–28; Mk 14:22–24; Lk 22:19–20; 1 Cor 11:23–25*

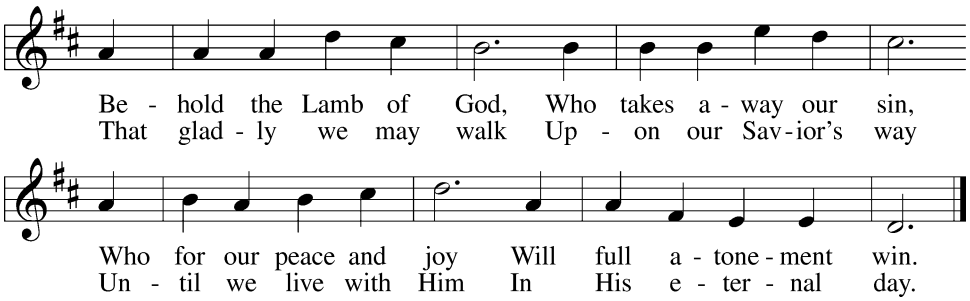
PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI "When All the World Was Cursed" (*LSB* 346, sts. 3-4)





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(Please be seated)

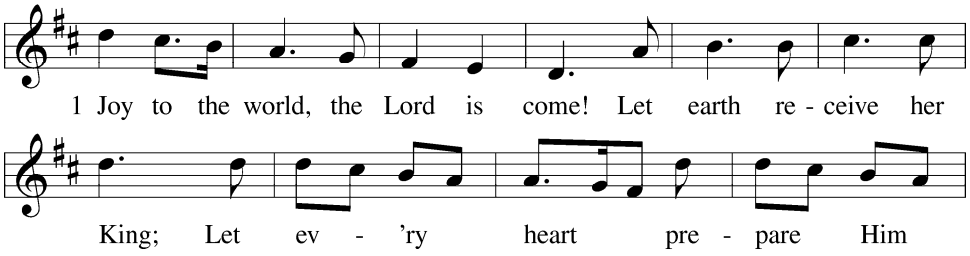
COMMUNION SONG **"**Change My Heart, O God" by Eddie Espinosa

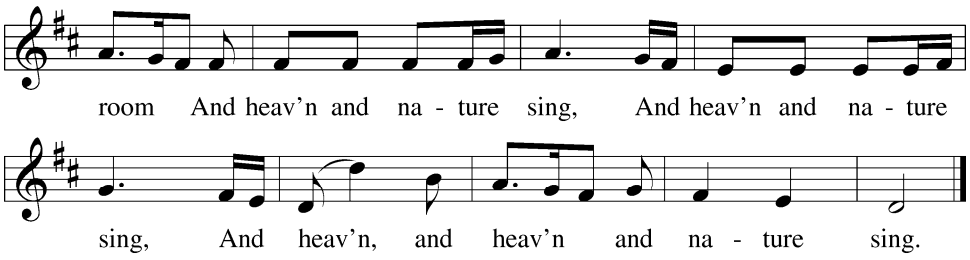
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray. ***(repeat)***

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.
Praise Team and Congregation

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (*LSB* 398)
"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" (*LSB* 563)
"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" (*LSB* 636)

(Please stand)
POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Joy to the World" (*LSB* 387, st. 1)





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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You spoke through John to point people to Jesus, the Christ. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, work through us to bear witness to Christ as well; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *1 Thessalonians 5:16–18*

P Rejoice always,

C pray without ceasing,

P give thanks in all circumstances;

C for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

C Amen.

CLOSING SONG "God With Us" by Jason Ingram and Leslie Jordan

Oh, You've come – to bring peace, to be Love, to be nearer to us.
You've come – to bring life, to be Light, to shine brighter in us.
Oh, Emmanuel, God With Us.

(refrain)
Our Deliverer, You are Savior. In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our Redemption, God With Us. You are God With us.

Oh, You've come – to bring hope – to this world, for Your honor and name.
And You've come – to take sin, to bear shame, and to conquer the grave.

Oh, Emmanuel, God With Us. ***(refrain)***

You are here. You are holy. We are standing in Your glory.
You are here. You are holy. We are standing in Your glory, Lord.
Our Deliverer, You are Savior. In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our Redemption, God With Us.

(refrain)

Oh, God With Us. You are God With Us.

Praise Team and Congregation

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Welcome to Faith Evangelical Lutheran on this Third Sunday of Advent! We are delighted to have you in worship with us. If you are visiting from out of town, we bid you welcome and God-speed on your journey. Should you be from our community, and have no church home, we invite you to make Faith your church home.

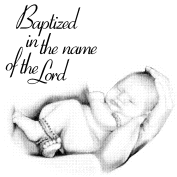
Greeting you this morning:

Before Early Service	**After Early Service**	**Before Late Service**
James & Phyllis Douglas	Bob & Nancy Shoup	Gloria Welk
Tim & Teresa Flannery	Matthew & Carissa Naasz	Vernon & Gloria Bump

Preaching this morning is Reverend Joshua Baumann, our Associate Pastor. Reverend Cory Rajek, our Senior Pastor, is our Liturgist.

Holy Communion is celebrated at our 11:00 service this Sunday. In this Sacrament, our Lord brings us strength and forgiveness to be about His vision and mission. Those confirmed Lutherans who come to the Sacrament of the Altar today are asked to read the communion side of our information card found in the pew rack and to sign the bottom of the reverse side so that our communion records might be complete.

Holy Baptism This morning at our 11:00 service Easton William Waldron becomes a child of God through God's holy Word and ordinary water. Easton is the son of Dustin & Deanna Waldron and joins older sister Emma in the family. Sponsors for Easton are Allissa and Joe Beaudoin. May God richly bless Easton and his family.



December Voter's Meeting will be held **today**, December 17, 2017. The meeting will be after

the 11:00 service with sub sandwiches and chips provided.

Adult Bible Study There will be NO Adult Bible study today.

Sunday School There will be NO Sunday School today. The Children's Christmas Programs will take place at 9:45 for the N-3rd grade and the 4th-8th grade program is as the 11:00 service.

Nursery Nursery is available during the 11:00 service. Nursery is located in the **F/G Room downstairs**. It is for children ages infant through 5 years old.

God Be With You!

* * *

Our Broadcasts Our Sonrise Broadcast is made possible this week by Loni Shoup in memory of Ben Shoup's birthday and their wedding anniversary. May God give you comfort and bless your memories of Ben.

Did you know that "Sonrise"is streamed on KCCR live? If you are away, log on to www.TodaysKCCR.com. The Broadcast schedules are on the traveling Bulletin board, which is in the Narthex. **COST:** You may sponsor the radio broadcast of Sonrise for $30.00. This radio broadcast is on 1240 AM KCCR at 6:40 a.m. on Sunday morning.

To meet the 2017 Budget: $16,495.00 per week is needed in Total Funds.
December 10 Total Funds: $13,767.80

Sun., Dec. 10, Att. 712; General Fund $9,654.80; Building Fund $2,810.00 (Debt Retirement $2,810.00); Advent $10.00; Love Fund $200.00; Contingency Fund $100.00; Thrivent Automatic Withdrawal $1,085.00 (General $1,055.00, Debt Retirement $30.00); Radio Broadcast $30.00; Flowers $78.00.

This Week at Faith Lutheran

Today: Dec. 17
8:20 am Communion
9:45 am **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
11:00 am Worship
Mon: Dec. 18
6:00-9:00 pm Robotics Club
6:30 pm Christ Care
Tues: Dec. 19
8:25 am Staff Devotions
10:15 am "Forgiveness" Women's Study
5:30-7:00 pm Pickleball
Wed: Dec. 20
10:30 am Preschool Christmas Program
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm **NO MIDWEEK**
7:30 pm Advent Worship Service
8:00 pm LYF
Thurs: Dec. 21
8:20 am Staff Devotions
10:30 am Preschool Christmas Program

12:00 Forever Young
2:30 pm Preschool Christmas Program
Sun: Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
8:20 am Advent 4 Worship
9:45 am NO Sunday School
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
7:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship
Mon: Dec. 25 Christmas Day
9:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Reminder: Please return your Faith Promise Card.

BUILDING NEWS

Thank you for your continued gifts to our Building Fund – We thank you for your gifts last Sunday to the Building Fund of $2,840.00. The gifts were designated as follows:

The Debt Retirement Account: $2,840.00
The Building Fund: $0.00

Debt Retirement Once again a very generous member family has offered a $10,000.00 challenge for Debt Retirement. All gifts given from October 1 through December 21, up to $10,000.00, will be matched. What a great way to pay off our debt! There are Debt Retirement envelopes in your box of offering envelopes or you can use some of the pink envelopes that are on the oak table in the Narthex.

The Endowment Fund Board is looking for suggestions for the distribution of Endowment Fund Interest. There are forms on the oak table if you have a suggestion as to where some of these funds should go. The Board would like them turned in by December 17. Please turn them in as quickly as possible so the Board can make their decisions.

Building Security To ensure that the church is properly locked and secured overnight, an automatic door lock system has been installed. All doors to the main entrance of the church will remain open during regular business hours as before, however, the door with the remote lock at the main entrance will be open from 6:45 am to 9:30 pm. The church will be locked at all other times. Anyone needing access outside of those hours can get a keycard from Helen in the main office. Note that the regular keys will continue to work as well for those that have them. Finally, please be aware that security cameras have also been placed at all entrances to the building.

Greeters List Once again it is time to start to assemble a new greeters list. If you are already on the list and no longer want to be on the list please call the office or Deborah Hepper 224-4936 and let them know so we don't have to change the list once it is already printed. If you are not on the list and would be willing to help out please give us a call. We are always short, especially for the late service.

Typically you would only serve once every 16-17 weeks. But if we do not get more volunteers it would be more often. Please give this your consideration. Thank you.

Our Usher teams are in need of at least 2 (3 would be better) ushers for the 11:00 service for the months of March, July and November? They just need to be confirmed members and can be either male or female. If there interest have them contact Ed Poile at 224-5112 or Monte Farnsworth at 224-4786. Thank you very much!

The Board of Stewardship is looking for someone to be a part time financial secretary at Faith Lutheran Church. Please contact John Barber at 605-220-2660 if interested. Thanks!!

Altar Guild would like to thank AJ Lenz for building the poinsettia tree that adorns the narthex.

THANK YOU, to all the helping hands who worked this Christmas season to beautify our church home.

Bill Markley's Bible Study Class will resume January 3, 2018.

Dear Members of Faith,
Thank you, Thank you for your generous outpouring of clothing and books for our Rosebud Reservation drive! The items have been delivered. We knew we had very loving people in our church but the amount that was donated was unbelievable! Thank you again for helping the people of the Rosebud Reservation.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Board of Missions & Evangelism

Main Street Living—Did you know the Main Street Living program is broadcast throughout South Dakota and into bordering states on two TV stations: KDLT in Sioux Falls at 10:00 AM central and KEVN at 8:00 AM mountain in Rapid City? **Did you know** you can see the Worship Service and Kid's Crossing on our website at anytime? All programs are streamed on www.mainstreetliving.com, and are available the day before they are broadcast.
December 17, 2017
Kid's Crossing -This week's story is the birth of Jesus in the stable and how Joseph traveled to Bethlehem with Mary. Nurse Stacy shows us how we can use our senses to enjoy Christmas even more.

Worship Service-Rev. Iver Possehl of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Watertown. SD presents today's message, "Good News For the Poor", based on Isaiah 61: 1-2. The Main Street Living Choir will lead the singing of: Hark the Glad Sound; Come Thou Long Expected Jesus; and Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People. The program is interpreted and closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Life Quotes "The hinge of history can be found on a Bethlehem door." *Evangelist J. John – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

Faith Lutheran Youth

Here's what's happening with the youth of Faith Lutheran….

Acolytes for Sunday

Please note that these worship times for special holidays were not decided on and finalized until after the acolyte schedule was drafted and sent out, and it was more productive to get students who are going to be here for the holidays rather than place students on who are not going to be here and then work around that conflict. Parents, thanks for all your help in this regard!

December 17
Early: Carson Tschetter, Paige Brandt
Late: Melissa Hedglin, Lane Hedglin

December 24 (Sunday)
8:20 Only: _____, _____

December 24 Christmas Eve -- Need 5 each service
5:00 (need 5) _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____

7:30 (need 5) _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____

***December 25 Christmas Day -**
9:00 a.m. Bailey Siebrasse, Kassie Tronvold

December 31 New Year's Eve
8:20 Early: Maria Noyes, Nathan Shoup
11:00 Late: Trenton Gore, Elliot Leif

* If acolytes are not able to be present for their assigned day, it is their responsibility to call someone else to find a replacement and then notify the church office. Thank you so very much!

Verse(s) of the Week: *(ESV)*

John 20:15-16 "'Woman,' He said, 'why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking He was the gardener she said, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, '*Rabboni*!' (which means Teacher)."

→ PRAYERS of all types and sorts:

In your prayers this week, please pray for what we would call- *the deaf ministry*. That means, there are people who cannot hear God's Word like you and I can with their ears, but they can do sign language and understand God's Word with their hearts and minds in a different way. We want to pray for the work of teachers and Pastors to tell about Jesus' love to those who cannot hear when someone uses their voice to talk to them, but can hear when sign language is used. We pray for the deaf ministry work that takes place in Sioux Falls specifically, and across the world globally.

Lord in Your mercy…Hear our prayer.

***Thank you to Lurene Denke, Noel Clocksin our musician, our Board of Education and to our wonderful teachers and helpers for all of their assistance in coordinating and organizing our children's Christmas programs! Praise God for the gift of their presentations on the birth of Jesus our Savior.**

Reminder to Parents There will be **NO** Sunday School class Dec. 17th, the 24th of the 31st for the holidays! God's rest and blessings to all our students.

→ 6-8th Grade Junior Youth Ministry – Here are the dates we are planning on meeting from 2-4 pm at Faith up in Jon's Place throughout the year:

- January 21st
- February 18th
- March 18th
- April 15th
- May 20th
- June 1-2 Crazy Horse Volksmarch Trip

LCMS National Youth Gathering?
For More Info Check Out: www.lcmsgathering.com

Reminder to Parents The Nursery – 3rd grade Sunday School children will be singing at the

11 o'clock service on Jan. 14th

→ **8th Graders** are welcomed to join HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP please just come Wednesdays at 8 pm in the gym unless directed otherwise!!!

→ **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** meets every Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m. at faith. Open to anyone in high school and is intended to be a safe place where high school aged youth can come together to spend time and fellowship together as young Christians each week. Pastor Baumann and Michael Shoup co-lead the group and love to spend time with each person that comes. If you have an activity that you would like to do, please let either of us know! Creativity is welcome!

Did you know? – Next Year's Bible Bowl Date is going to be: Saturday, April 7th 2018 at Faith.

Upcoming Youth Dates to Keep in Mind:

Advent Services → 20TH from 7:30-8:00 p.m.
Dec. 17, 24, 31 → No Sunday School Class
Dec. 20 & 27 → No Midweek Classes
Jan. 3rd → Midweek Resumes
Jan. 7th → Sunday School Resumes
April 7th → Bible Bowl at Faith
July 2019, 11-15th → LCMS Natl' Youth Gathering - Minneapolis, MN

On The Lighter Side…

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?"
"That's disgusting — Son, don't talk about things like that at the dinner table," the dad replies.
After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, tell me, what did you want to ask me?"
"Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him