

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15, 2024 A.D.
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*A Christ Caring People Who Gather Around Word and Sacrament,
Yoked Together, In Personal Service to Christ in Worldwide Missions*



✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

OPENING HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” (LSB 849)

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *John 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Psalm 100:1–5*

- P** We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means “rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
- C** **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**
- P** Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!”

- C** Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
- P** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
- C** Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
- P** For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,
- C** and His faithfulness to all generations.”



Three Advent candles are lit.

EXHORTATION

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** 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.

† **WORD** †

INTROIT

Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

P Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

C **Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

P who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;

C **who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.**

P The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

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 Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

KYRIE

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

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

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14–20* (The joy and restoration of God’s People)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"I Was Hungry"

(Sara Thomsen)

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4-7

(Joy in and through Christ)

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

(Messengers from John the Baptist)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh 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)

BIBLE LESSON

SERMON HYMN

"Hark the Glad Sound"

(LSB 349)

SERMON

"Jail: A Death Sentence"

(Luke 7:23)

Pastor Sam Handschke

THE CREED

8:30 *Nicene* *Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*

11:00 *Apostles'* *Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*

OFFERTORY



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

OFFERING AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Please stand)

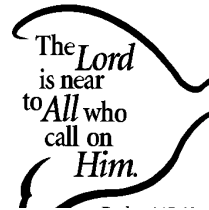
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, as You once sent messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, so strengthen and encourage pastors and church workers as they make known His saving name. Open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You rescue the daughter of Zion from her enemies and take away the judgments against her. Look with compassion upon Your people wherever they suffer for the name of Jesus. Give them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, provide for them when they suffer loss, give courage when they are afraid, and strengthen them in the midst of persecution until You deliver them.



Preserve us in the joyful hope that You will restore all that is lost with what cannot be taken away. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O God, Giver of all good gifts, look upon the households of Your people. Provide companionship for those who are alone. Strengthen the bonds of marriage. Equip parents to raise their children in love and faith. Grant that our homes may be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, You command us not to be anxious, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving to make our requests known to You. Give wisdom, health and success to the authorities who govern us and those newly elected. Give earthly peace in our time, even as Your Gospel gives eternally the peace that passes all understanding.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of all joy, You bid us to be anxious about nothing, but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to make our requests known to You. Forgive our anxieties and strengthen us to examine ourselves for whatever causes us to doubt Your mercy. Guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus and hear the prayers that we offer today. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Look with kindness on all people, especially those for whom we pray:
_____. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, the Son of Man came eating and drinking with sinners, that He might proclaim the kingdom and welcome them in by the forgiveness of sins. As He hosts His Supper this day for His repentant people, grant those who partake of His body and blood to be worthy and well-prepared, firmly believing the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 11:00 am service continues on page 12 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 our pastors**, before communing, in order that we might fulfill our responsibility of properly instructing people in the right use of the precious Sacrament.

Communion Distribution: We offer both the common cup and individual cup. If you desire to receive Jesus' blood in the common cup, you are invited to come forward in the first group (after the Elders and Pastors receive communion). If you desire to receive his blood in the individual cups, you may remain in your seat and the Ushers will dismiss you row by row. If you desire to receive Jesus' body and blood in your seat, please let one of our Ushers know and we will bring you communion at the end of the distribution.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

8:30 am

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

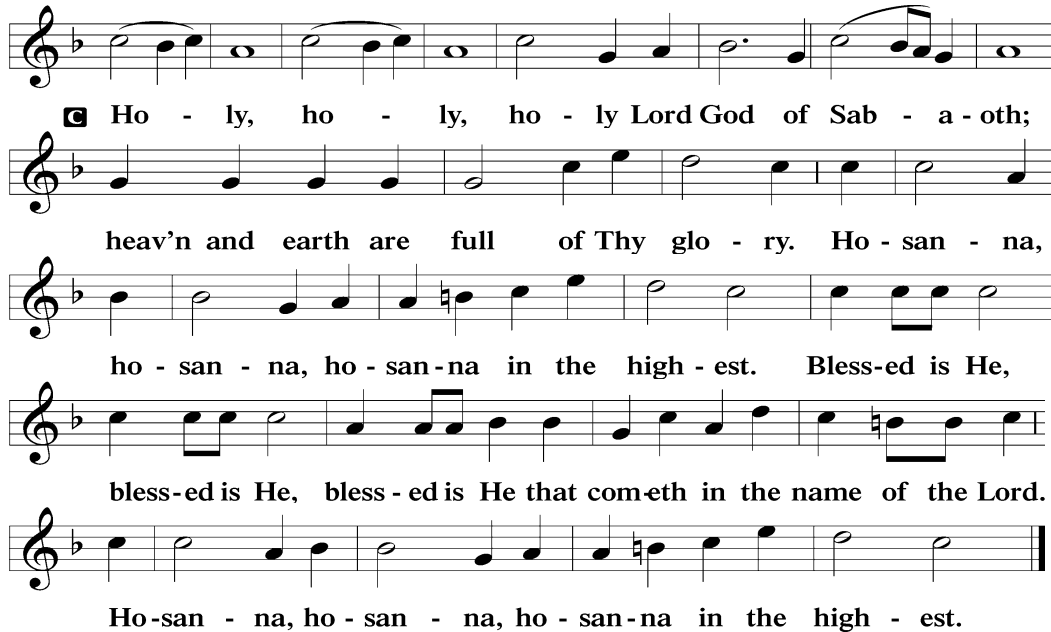
C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

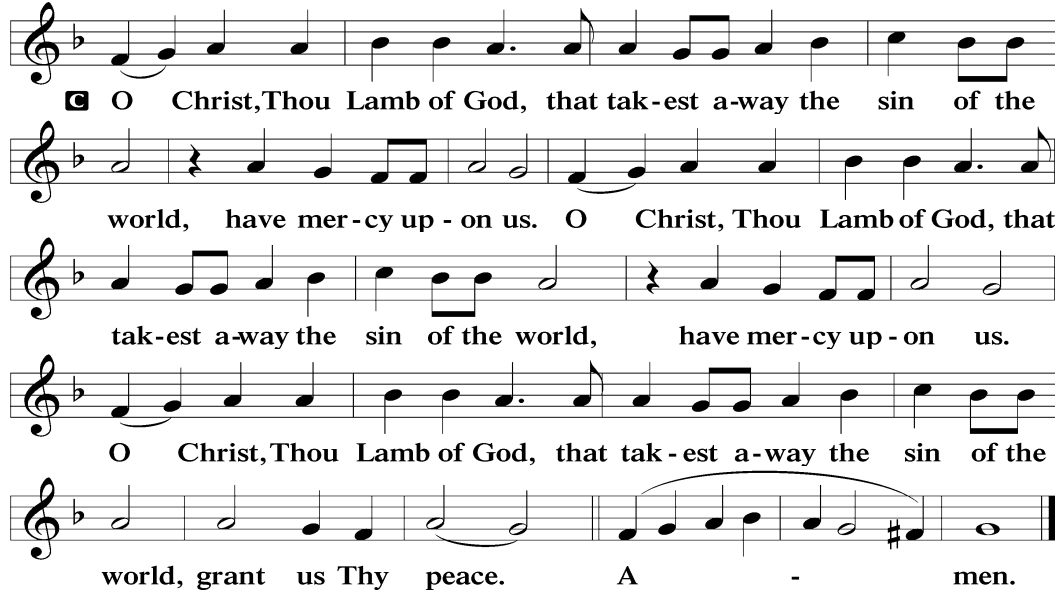
Matt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" (LSB 637)

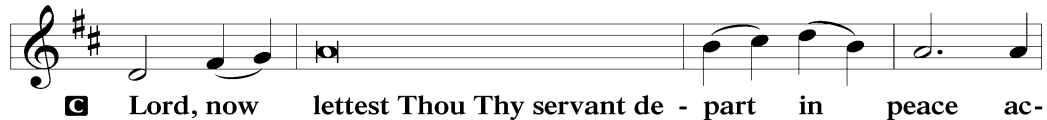
"Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing" (LSB 737)

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" (LSB 347)



(Please stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

BENEDICAMUS

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

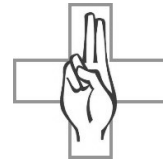
BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

CLOSING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

(LSB 515)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



AS WE GATHER Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God’s eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! LSB 357 Refrain*

If there are prayer concerns for you, your family, your friends, or your neighbors, please put them on the yellow prayer request 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

Welcome to Faith Evangelical Lutheran on this Third Sunday in 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.

Preaching today is Reverend Sam Handschke.

Holy Communion is celebrated at our 8:30 service this Sunday. In this Sacrament, our Lord gives His true body and blood for our forgiveness. Those who confess the faith declared at this altar and who desire to receive communion today are asked to read our communion statement found in the bulletin. Thank you.



Want to listen to our worship service via livestream? Go to: www.faithluth.com. Click on livestream and it will take you to the service or if you have missed the service it will take you to the archived services. We livestream our 8:30 service each Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Wed. Dec. 4, Att. 149; Offering \$631.00; **Sun., Dec. 8, Att. 258;** General Fund \$23,047.69; Building Fund \$285.00; Love Fund \$100.00; Contingency Fund \$100.00; Preschool \$100.00; Organ Fund \$600.00; Thanksgiving \$60.00; Mexico Mission \$1,625.00; Broadcasts \$100.00; Bus Maintenance \$232.00; Insurance Refund \$1,025.55; Flowers \$50.00.

ENDOWMENT FUND When giving to the Endowment Fund **PLEASE** make it a **SEPARATE CHECK**. Must be a **CHECK** as the account doesn't accept cash for the deposit. It is not always easy to find a check for the correct amount to substitute for cash or for a check made out for multiple purposes that includes an Endowment donation. The counters would greatly appreciate your help in this matter. Thank you.

Thanks to “Do-Gooders” – Each week we will highlight people who are doing good within our church, community, and world, with the intent of affirming the ways that all of us “do Good.”

This week we would like to thank the Ryckman family (Dennis, Carolyn, Cassandra, and Joshua) for providing last Wednesday's Advent meal on Dec 4. We would also like to thank the members of the Board of Property Management (Steve Bontje, Darin Charlson, Steve Ingram, Steve Johnson, Dale Knapp, Ed Poile, Dennis Ryckman, and Joshua Ryckman) for providing the Advent meal on Dec 11. These meals give a wonderful opportunity to spend part of your evening at your church home, seeing familiar faces, meeting new ones, and worshipping our Lord who comes to us in the Word made Flesh.

Forever Young Potluck This Thursday, December 19 at noon will be our Forever Young Christmas Potluck. The Christmas ham will be furnished by the Urbachs. Please bring your favorite sides that will complement the ham. We will try to play some bingo. You may win some Christmas napkins.



Graduate Mailings Faith Circle will be sending the 2024 high school graduates as well as the college students a Christmas greeting. It will be sent to their home addresses. We are letting parents know this so they can expect a small envelope in their mail to pass on to their young adults.

If there is a better way to connect with these young adults, please contact the church office to let us know. Thank you for your support of this

ministry. God's Blessings Members of Faith Circle

Offering Envelopes The 2025 offering envelopes are on the tables in the Narthex. *Please pick yours up today.* Even if you give on-line there are additional envelopes you can use: Building, Endowment, Special Missions, Lent and Advent. The use of envelopes is helpful for our counters and posters. If you don't use envelopes, it is helpful if you put your envelope number on your check.

Caroling The Board of Missions will sponsor a night of caroling **tomorrow**, December 16th. Please join us at the church at 6:00 pm and we will enjoy sharing the 'Reason for the Season' with our local community and handing out Christmas goodies.



Collection for Pastor Utecht Ministry and Christmas Party at Rosebud

The Board of Missions is sponsoring a collection for Pastor Utecht's ministry in Rosebud and Parmalee. An area is set up in the Narthex to collect the following items:

- Winter clothing items
- Blankets
- Nonperishable food items
- Toilet paper and other such items
- Laundry detergent

Thank you for your generosity. **TODAY, December 15th** we will take a church van to Rosebud with the items collected, **departing at 12:00 pm.** Please join us on this trip. While in Rosebud we will do Christmas caroling, help with a community meal, assist with the puppet play presentation, and distribute items collected from our Faith Lutheran congregation.

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.

Dec 15, 2024

KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

10:00 AM - “Christmas Is” The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas.

10:30 AM - Rev. James Travis, pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Sioux City, IA, presents a message titled “Flag on the Play.” The sermon is based on Philippians 4:2-7. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Life Quotes “Who is going to be king? Christ or Herod? Christ or I? Every day we make dozens of decisions which either acknowledge Christ’s lordship or which assert our own. The star of the Magi reminds the Christian that he has a gracious King to whom he can, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, submit his will and live. By His word Christ desires to reign in our hearts through faith!” *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



Faith Lutheran Youth

Attention...Parents of children from birth to three years who are on the Cradle Roll (any Baptized at Faith or elsewhere that are members). These children will be given a Christmas card and gift from Priscilla Circle. Please check the table in the Living Room area to find your child's card. Thank you. Members of Priscilla Circle

E It's time once again to start thinking about the LCMS Youth Gathering! The LCMS Youth Gathering will be July 19-23, 2025, in New Orleans, Louisiana. LCMS youth and adult leaders will visit the city under the theme Endure based on Hebrews 12:1-3. Held every three years, LCMS Youth Gatherings provide young people an opportunity to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. During the five-days of the Gathering youth spend time together in worship, God's Word, prayer, song and service. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in Saint Louis, Missouri.



Children's Christmas Program The Children's Christmas program will be from 9:45-10:45 (between services) TODAY. We will have Saturday morning practices from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on December 7 & 14. The children will be sharing the good news of our Savior's birth. Parents, this is a fantastic opportunity to get the last-minute Christmas shopping, baking, or wrapping done while the children are at church!

This Week at Faith Lutheran

Today: Dec. 15 Advent 3

8:30 am Communion
9:45 am Children's Christmas Program
9:45 am Adult Bible Study
11:00 am Worship
1-4 pm Model Trains Showing
1:00 pm Bd. of Stewardship/Endow.
3:00 pm Board of Education

Mon: Dec. 16

5:30 pm Board of Early Education
6:30 pm Christ Care
7-10 pm Pickleball

Tues: Dec. 17

8:00 am Staff Devotions
10:30 am Women's Bible Study
5:30-8:00 pm Foster Care Party

6:30 pm Mary/Martha Circle

Wed: Dec. 18

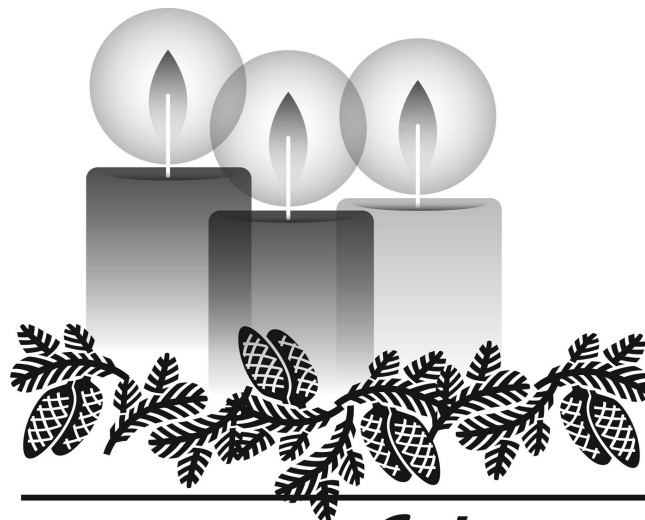
6:00 pm Midweek/Catechism
6:00 pm Jeremiah/Lamentations Study
6:30 pm "Jesus" Bible Study in homes
7:00 pm Advent Chapel/Communion
8:00 pm LYF

Thurs: Dec. 19

8:00 am Staff Devotions
12:00 pm Forever Young Christmas

Sun: Dec. 22 Advent 4

8:30 am Worship
11:00 am Communion



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*
