

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17, 2023 A.D.  
Faith Ev. Lutheran Church – Pierre, SD  
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Email: [faith@faithluth.com](mailto:faith@faithluth.com)  
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Senior Pastor  
Rev. Brad Urbach – (605) 280-2838  
Visitation 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*



## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

**OPENING HYMN**      “Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates”      (LSB 341)

### INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

### EXHORTATION

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the gifts of our Lord Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament, 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.

### CONFESSION *and* ABSOLUTION

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

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 126*

**P** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**C** **Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”**

**P** The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.

**C** **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!**

**P** Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!

**C** **He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.**

**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** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
We were like those who dream.

### KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



## LSB 946 Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise



1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
Who with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

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### **SALUTATION** and **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and 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.

**ANTHEM**

"Hodie"

(Jacob Narverud)

*Women's Ensemble***Latin:**

*Hodie Christus natus est:  
 Hodie Salvator apparuit:  
 Hodie in terra canunt Angelie,  
 Laetantur Archangeli  
 Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
 Alleluia.*

**Translation:**

*Today Christ is born:  
 Today the Savior appeared:  
 Today on Earth the Angels sing,  
 Archangels rejoice:  
 Today the righteous rejoice, saying  
 Glory to God in the highest.  
 Alleluia.*

**EPISTLE***1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

(Rejoice always.)

*After the reading:***L** This is the Word of the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.**ALLELUIA and VERSE****C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.**HOLY GOSPEL***John 1:6–8, 19–28*

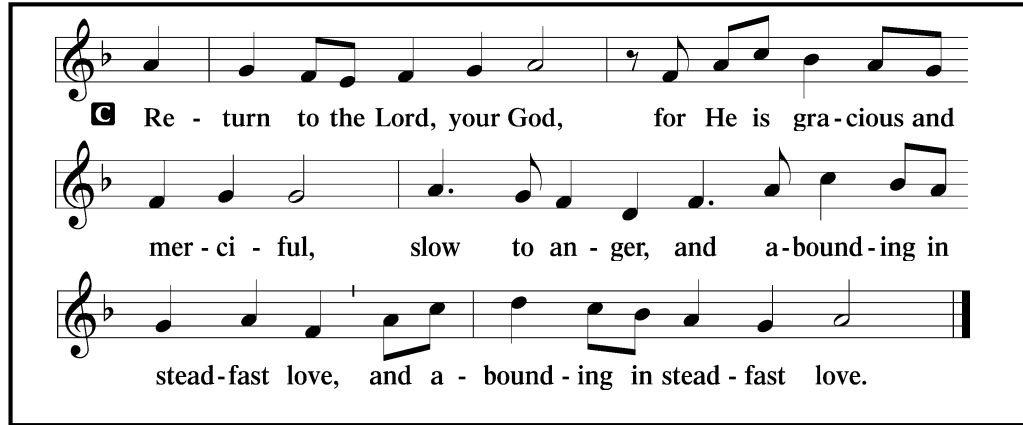
(The testimony of John the Baptist)

**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.**

**SERMON HYMN** "The Advent of Our King" (vs. 6 We Rise) (LSB 331)

**SERMON** "Returned" (Psalm 126)  
Pastor Brad Urbach



**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**THE CREED** 8:30 Nicene *Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*  
11:00 Apostles' *Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*

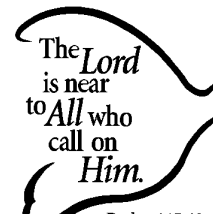
### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

**P** Almighty God, You sent John the Baptist to proclaim the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Grant that we who prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ may die to sin and rise to new life, that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by Your forerunner. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** You sent John to proclaim the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers. Bless Matthew, our Synod president; Scott, our district president; Wade, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Gather and preserve Your Holy Christian Church by Your voice, and send us faithful preachers who will not deny but confess Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,



**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation. Preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by Your Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Righteous Lord, You rule over all things in heaven and on earth. Until that day when Your Son comes in glory to usher in His kingdom, give wisdom and insight to all leaders, that we may live peaceable lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Creator of all, many in our midst have been afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties. Be merciful to those who are close to us, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that they may be granted health or strength to endure their afflictions. Help us all to see that when Christ returns in glory, our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when He makes all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, Your Church eagerly awaits the return of her Bridegroom. Grant that we would not grow weary. Strengthen us through Your Word and Sacraments, that we would ever hold fast Your promise of salvation won for us by Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together 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, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and 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 10 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 pastor**, 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 ✠**  
**8:30 am Service**

**PREFACE**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

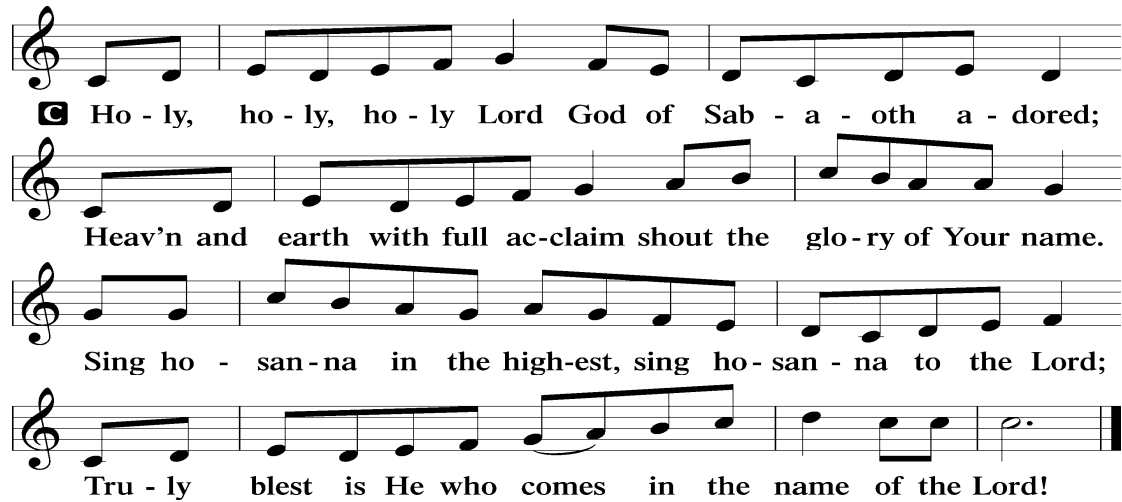
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**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 the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

**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** Amen.



## AGNUS DEI

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*(Please be seated)*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" (LSB 525)

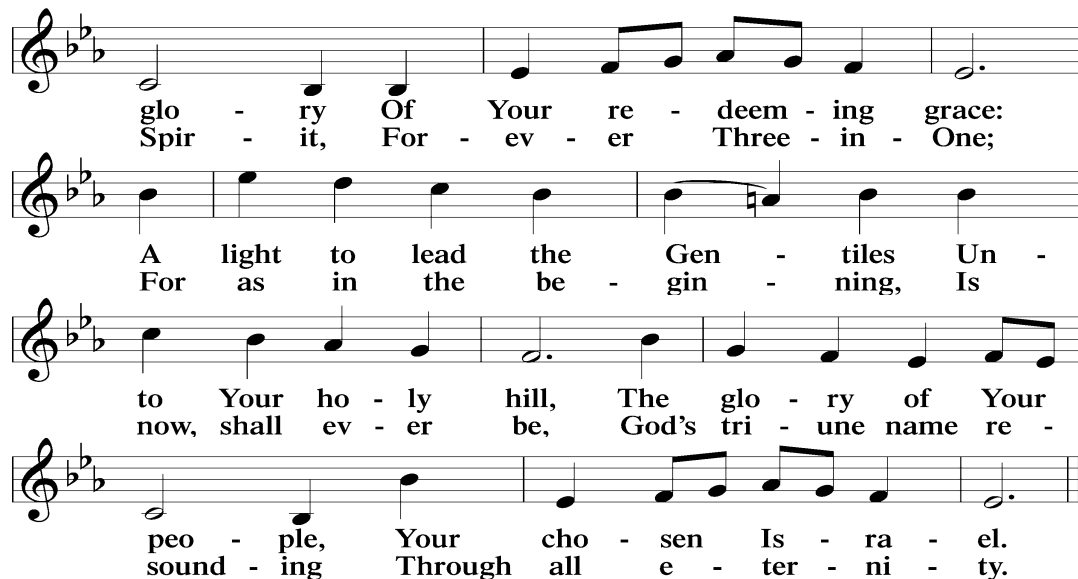
"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared" (LSB 622)



*(Please stand)*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

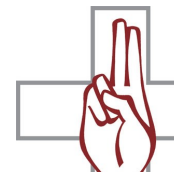
**BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**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

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” (LSB 348)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



**AS WE GATHER** Advent is the season of waiting! As we wait, we have a special job to do. We joyfully get ready for Jesus’ arrival by remembering the ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the centerpiece of God’s plan to save the world; no, John’s life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to the rescue of His people. In many ways, we are invited to be like John. Through our personal witness to Christ in our interpersonal relationships with others, God is working through us so that others will come to know His Son. Our goal is not only to trust in Jesus for ourselves but also to let the world know that He is coming to save them too. And His soon-to-come arrival will be well worth the wait!

They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even . . . whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” *John 1:25–27*

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** this morning is Rev. Brad Urbach, our Visitation Pastor. Rev. Sam Handschke is our Liturgist.

**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.

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## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

**Wed. Dec. 6, Att. 111?**, Offering \$1,135.00; **Sun., Dec. 10, Att. 305**; General Fund \$8,785.37; Sunday School \$6.00; Building Fund \$460.00; Love Fund \$100.00; Contingency Fund \$100.00; Broadcasts \$60.00; Mexico Mission \$270.00; HVAC \$450.00; Flowers \$60.00; Todd's Electric Donation for a family in need \$1,000.00; Endowment Fund in memory of Forrest Wixon (Foundations) \$50.00, (Future) \$50.00.

**Endowment Fund** There are lime green envelopes on the back side of the large center support post in the Narthex for your use. Donations do not have to be in memory of someone, they can be in celebration of an event in your lives, to the glory of God, or any number of happenings in your lives. The envelopes have an area where you can designate where you wish the funds to go. Please use a separate **check** for your donation. Where we deposit the funds does not take cash, so **it needs to be in the form of a check**. The counters cannot always find checks to cover when cash is given. Thanks for your help!

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**Sunday School Christmas Program** Our Sunday School youth would love for you to attend their Christmas program between services at **9:45 this morning**.



**Offering Envelopes** The 2024 offering envelopes are on a table in the Narthex. Please pick yours up **today** if you have not already done so. Even if you do not use them please take them. We cannot give them to anyone else as they are assigned to you. We do not have room to store them once assigned. Thanks for your help.

**Mexico Mission** As members of the body of Christ, we all have gifts according to the grace given us. On the Mexico Mission trip, we all have a purpose and contribute according to our own gifts. The mission trip is life changing, both for you and for those on the border whom we will serve. Will you or you and your family join us this year on the Mission trip to Mexico? If so, we would like to hear from you soon. The trip is scheduled for the end of May 2024. Please contact the Church office, 605-224-2216, and we will relay the request to Dennis and Carolyn Ryckman.

**Forever Young Christmas Potluck** This Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at noon is our Christmas Potluck meal. Big Tom's will cook the Roast



Beef and mashed potatoes & gravy for us. Please bring a favorite side to share. Hope to see you there.



**Christmas Flowers** Today is the last day to sign up to give Christmas flowers. Helen will pull the chart tomorrow to add to the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may still call Helen to add your name and dedication until Tuesday early afternoon.

**Annual Giving Statements** Your annual giving statement will be coming to you in the first few weeks of January. Any donations you want for the year 2023 **must be given by December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Any donations coming in the first week of January but dated for 2023 will be credited for the year 2024.



**Main Street Living** “Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life.” Both can be viewed on KDLT (NBC) & KEVN (FOX) Visit [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) to view current and past episodes. **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](http://www.mainstreetliving.com), and are available the day before they are broadcast.

**Dec 17, 2023**

*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. Dennis Mercer**, pastor at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church in Black Hawk, presents a message titled “Jesus Christ, the Fulfillment of All Our Hopes.” This sermon is based on Matthew 11:1-6. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com)

**Life Quotes** “I don’t know what exactly you expect this Christmas. But I can tell you to set your expectations high as you listen to God’s Advent call. Listen to His promises. Look in the manger. And you’ll find hope and unity now and into eternity.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

# Faith Lutheran Youth

**Midweek classes** will resume January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Sunday School Classes** will resume January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Bible Bowl 2024** We received word from the South Dakota LCMS district on the 2024 Bible Bowl. The books of the Bible are Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Students from sixth grade to seniors are eligible to participate. The statewide competition is before Palm Sunday. **The Bible Bowl is set for March 23, 2024.** For more information or to register please see Bible Bowl coach LeRoy Kropuenske. He is around on Sunday for Sunday School and Wednesday for confirmation.

**Higher Things Retreat** Is for High School and college age youth and is being held at Faith Lutheran January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm on Sunday through 5 pm on Monday. Speak with Pastor Handschke if you are interested in attending.

## ***This Week at Faith Lutheran***

### **Today: Dec. 17 Advent 3**

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am *Luke* Study

9:45 am Children's Christmas Program

11:00 am Communion

2:00 pm Board of Education

6:30 pm *1, 2, 3 John* Bible Study

7:30 pm Board of Missions

### **Mon: Dec. 18**

6:30 pm Prayer Care

### **Tues: Dec. 19**

8:00 am Staff Devotions

9:30 am *Truth Project*

10:30 am *Unshakable* Women's Study

5:30-6:45 pm Soccer

6:00 pm Board of Early Education

### **Wed: Dec. 20**

6:00 pm Midweek/Catechism

6:00 pm *Luke* Bible Study

6:00 pm *Engagement Project*

6:30 pm *John* (in homes)

7:00 pm Advent Worship

8:00 pm LYF

### **Thurs: Dec. 21**

8:00 am Staff Devotions

12:00 pm Forever Young Christmas

Potluck

6:00 pm *Reading the Psalms*

### **Sun: Dec. 24 Advent 4 & Christmas Eve**

8:30 am Advent 4/Communion

3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship

### **Mon: Dec. 25 Christmas Day**

9:00 am Christmas Day Worship

**Join us next Sunday for our Advent 4 worship service at 8:30 am  
and for our Christmas Eve worship services at 3, 5, and 7:30 pm.  
"O Come Let Us Adore Him!"**