

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 14, 2025 A.D.
Faith Ev. Lutheran Church – Pierre, SD
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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

"Hark the Glad Sound"

(LSB 349)

INVOCATION

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

EXHORTATION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

CONFESSION *and* ABSOLUTION

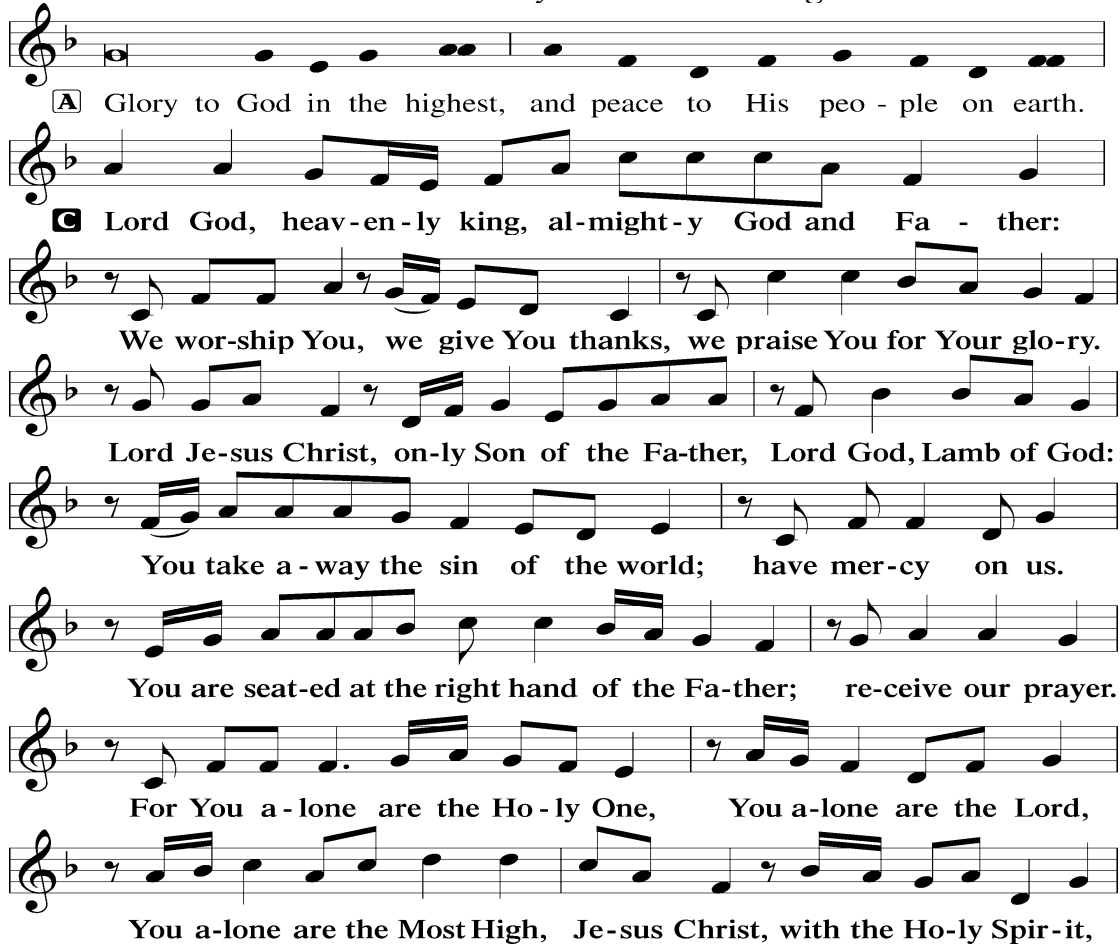
P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 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** ✠

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS “Glory to God in the Highest” *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



The musical score is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo and meter are not explicitly stated, but the notation suggests a moderate, steady pace. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score begins with a whole note chord (F major) and continues with a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth. C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther: We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,"

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:

We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



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 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 *Isaiah 35:1–10* (“Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.”)

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

A Suite on

“Savior of the Nations, Come”... Paul Manz, arr. Hyslop

1. Canon
2. Trio
3. Andante
4. Choral

Megan Bauck & Andrew Wulf, flute

Tiger Duinkherjav, oboe

EPISTLE *James 5:7–11* (“Be patient . . . until the coming of the Lord.”)

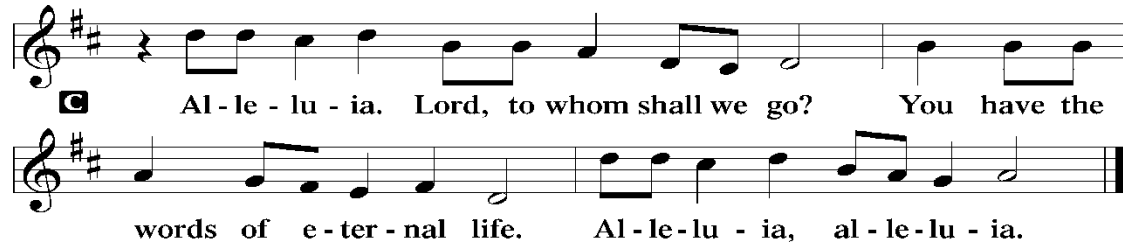
After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA and VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 11:2–15* (“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh 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 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (LSB 338)

SERMON “Spoken by the Prophet: the Messenger” (Matthew 11:10)
Pastor Sam Handschke

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

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.

Lord, You are the source of all joy. Even the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad at Your appearance. Sustain us in the time of waiting for Your will and purpose to unfold in these latter days. Give us patience under trials and hope that endures the changes and chances of this mortal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O God, You have sent messengers to prepare the way of Your Son's coming. Grant us ears to hear and hearts to believe the words delivered by pastors and all who bear Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious Lord, You have instituted the home to be a refuge for husbands and wives and a place of growth and safety for children. Look with favor upon the homes of our land, and grant that the faith might be delivered from one generation to the next. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, give guidance to those entrusted with positions of leadership in government. Protect service men and women who defend us against the enemies of our nation, and those who enact and enforce laws that protect us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.



P O Lord, our God, the prophet Isaiah looked for the day when blind eyes would see, deaf ears would hear, lame legs would leap and mute tongues would sing. Until the final day of restoration, draw near to all who have requested our prayers, *[especially _____,]* and give them healing according to Your gracious will. Bind up those who grieve, that they may look for the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, You give strength to those who are anxious. Give us hearts that trust in You at all times. Grant us courage to confront our doubts and fears with Your Word, and give us strength to fulfill our vocations of worship, witness, prayer and works of mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P With great jubilation, O Lord, we rejoice at Your Son's gracious visitation in His body and blood in the fellowship of this altar. Grant us faith to receive Him worthily as He comes in this foretaste of the Lamb's marriage feast. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and eagerly expecting His gracious visitation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 8:30 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 ✠ 11:00 service

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

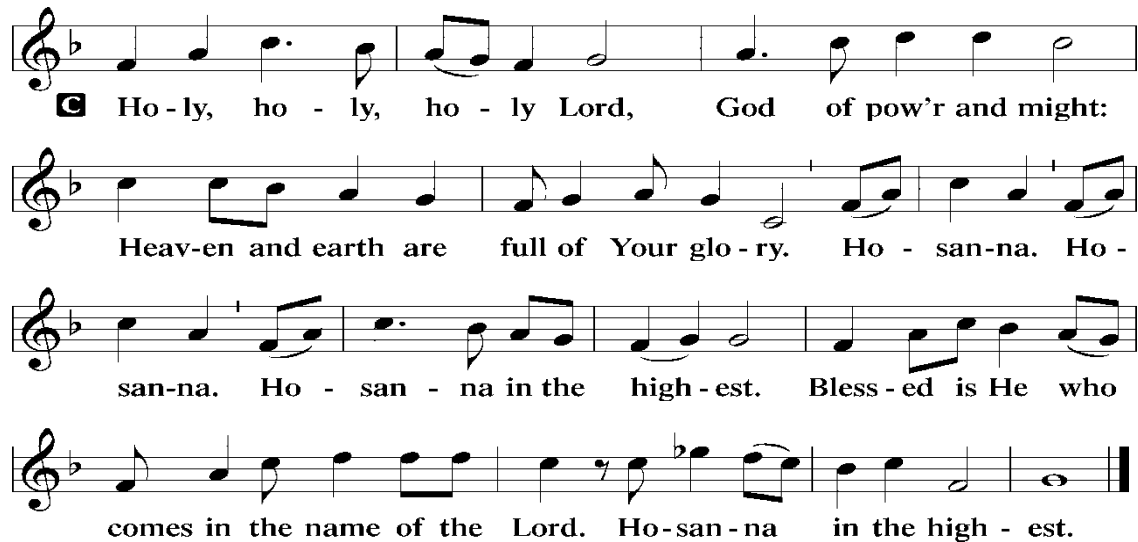
C We lift them to the Lord.

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who at His transfiguration revealed His glory to His disciples that they might be strengthened to proclaim His cross and resurrection and with all the faithful look forward to the glory of life everlasting. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

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

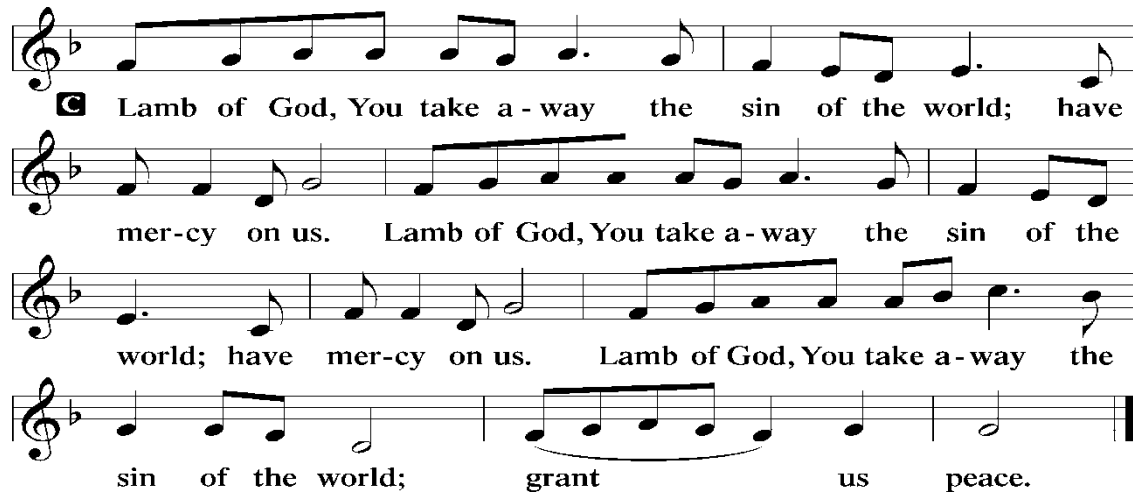
Matt 26:26–28; Mk 14:22–24; Lk 22:19–20; 1 Cor 11:23–25

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

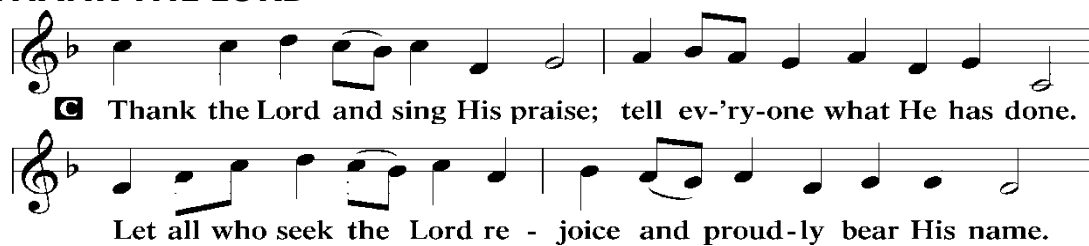
"Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior" (LSB 627)

"Arise, O Christian People" (LSB 354)

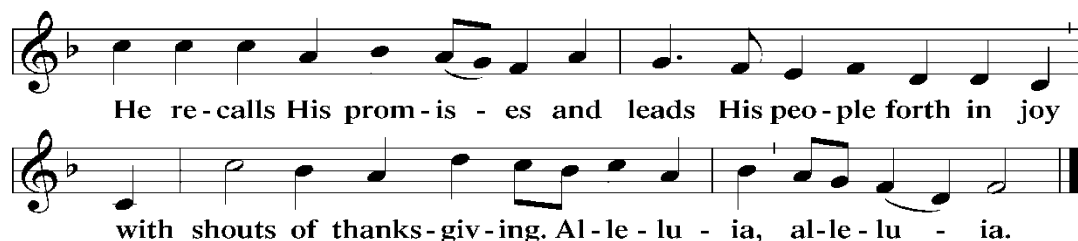


(Please stand)

THANK THE LORD



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



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.

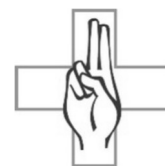
C Amen.

BENEDICTION

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



CLOSING HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" (LSB 343)

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



AS WE GATHER It is certainly easy to complain. We all do it. We look around and see all those things that are not what we think they should be. We look in the mirror and we see what we lack. When John sent his disciples to Jesus, Jesus called them to rejoice in what is already present. Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, had come. He brings healing and salvation to all who will receive Him. Quite

literally, these miracles are still happening all around us. Those wounded by affliction and despair find healing in Christ. The dead in trespasses and sins are raised up to life. The weak are made strong, the poor are made rich, and those with only a past are given an eternal future. What do you see and hear? Look at the world, and you will find only complaint and fear; but look to Jesus, and you will find peace that surpasses all understanding and joy without end.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. James 5:7–8

If there are prayer concerns for you, your family, your friends, or your neighbors, please put them on the back of the blue attendance/communion 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. Sam Handschke. Pastor Sam will also be preaching at Blunt between our services.

Holy Communion is celebrated at our 11:00 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. 3, Att. 144; Advent Offering \$835.00; **Sun., Nov. 23, Att. 211;** General Fund \$12,872.24; Sunday School \$0.00; Building Fund \$365.00; Love Fund \$100.00; Contingency Fund \$100.00; Bus Fund \$2,400.00; Bible Study Books \$30.00; Mexico Mission \$1,550.00; Advent Meal (Rosebud) \$169.00; Flowers \$60.00; Rosebud Donations \$200.00.

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!

Offering Envelopes The offering envelopes will be coming. They will be put on tables in the Narthex as soon as they arrive. Thanks for your patience.

Greeters Faith Lutheran is wanting to get our greeters crew up and going again. If you are willing to greet on Sundays **please sign the sheet in the Narthex.** *We are still in need of more greeters.* The more we have the better. If we get enough, they may only have to greet a couple times a year. Please consider joining this group.



GREETERS SCHEDULE EARLY

December 14th Tim & Jan Larson – B/A

LATE

Dale & Renee Knapp – B/A
Grandkids too

B = Before

A = After

B/A = Greet Before & After

Broadcast Ministry – Livestream help needed You can be part of our broadcast ministry, the team responsible for getting our worship service into homes in Ft. Pierre and Pierre, and across our state and country. The reach of this ministry is immense, and we need your help to consistently make this critical broadcast available. Members of the team are trained in controlling the broadcast computer and cameras. This ministry requires some technical skills – if you can operate your phone then you can control our broadcast. Our goal is to have each volunteer scheduled once every six to eight weeks. Please talk to one of the Elders or Pastor Sam if you have questions or if you would like to volunteer.



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:

Gently used or new Winter Clothing
Christian Books/Games for Gifts*
Nonperishable Food Items
Personal Hygiene Items
Laundry detergent

*Examples of kids' books and games are in the Narthex. If you would rather donate monetarily, these books and games will be purchased. Please donate to the church office or in the collection box.

Thank you for your generosity. **On Sunday, December 21st we will take a church van to Rosebud with the items collected, departing at 2:00 pm.** Please join us on this trip. While in Rosebud we will Christmas carol, help with a community meal, assist with the puppet play presentation, and distribute items collected from our Faith Lutheran congregation.



Caroling The Board of Missions will sponsor a night of caroling on Monday, December 22nd. 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.

Advent Meals Advent meals will be served before the evening Advent worship. Please come for a hot meal and fellowship between 5:30pm and 6:45pm.



Forever Young Potluck All of our members 55 and older are invited and encouraged to join us for our Forever Young Christmas luncheon this Thursday, December 18 at noon. The Urbach's are furnishing the Christmas ham. Please bring sides or salads and desserts to share. We will sing some Christmas carols and acknowledge December birthdays and anniversaries. Always great food and fellowship! Please join us!

New Church Cookbook It has been 29 years since we have had a new cookbook. Bring your recipes. Please write legibly so recipes can be printed accurately. Cookbooks make great gifts. Your family members will be interested to see what recipes you have entered.



Building Healthy Families: *“Children are a gift from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.” Psalm 127:3* For over 124 years, Lutheran Family Service has connected children to parents through adoption and still serves families through this and a multitude of other ways, all consistent with the teachings of the LCMS church and without the interference of being tied to government funding. In thanksgiving to God for an important child or grandchild He has put in your life, celebrate the blessing of family with us this Christmas by making a gift in their honor or memory. Your gift in their honor will help a child, teen, or family in need of support this year. It’s easy and you can do it right now from your smart phone by VENMO to @LutheranFamilyService, make your gift online at the “donate” tab on our website, or send your gift by mail to LFS/Admin Office, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite C, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. On behalf of those we serve, we thank God for your partnership and generosity!
Lutheran Family Service www.LutheranFamilyService.org

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 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, and are available the day before they are broadcast.

Dec 14, 2025

KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

10:00am - “Christmas Is” The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the

importance of Christmas

10:30 AM - Rev. David Warner, pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Custer, SD, presents a message titled “A Different Kind of Greatness”. The sermon is based on Matthew 11:2-15. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Life Quotes “And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God.” *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

This Week at Faith Lutheran

Today: Dec. 14 ADVENT 3

8:30 am Worship

9:45 pm Sunday School/*Revelation*

11:00 am Communion

11:00 am Bd. of Missions & Evang.

1:00 pm Bd. of Stewardship/Endow.

Mon: Dec. 15

6:00 pm 3rd grade Boys Basketball

6:30 pm Christ Care

Tues: Dec. 16

8:00 am Staff Devotions

10:30 am Women’s Study ‘*Joshua*’

6:00 pm Board of Early Education

6:15 pm *Raising Kids* Study

7-8 pm 5th grade girls Basketball

Wed: Dec. 17

5:30-6:45 pm Advent Meal

5:45 pm *Revelation* Study-Wulf home

6:00 pm Midweek/Catechism

6:30 pm *Galatians* Study in homes

7:00 pm Advent Chapel

8:00 pm LYF

Thurs: Dec. 18

8:00 am Staff Devotions

12:00 pm Forever Young

Sun: Dec. 21 ADVENT 4

8:30 am Communion

9:45 am *Revelation* Bible Study

9:45 am Youth Christmas Program

11:00 am Worship

3:00 pm Board of Education



Third Sunday of Advent

**Special Advent and Christmas Schedule
“Our Dear Christ Enters In”**

Wednesday, December 17, 2024

Midweek Advent 3

7:00 p.m.

“Baby Names”

Christmas Eve, December 24

2:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:30pm

Candlelight Service

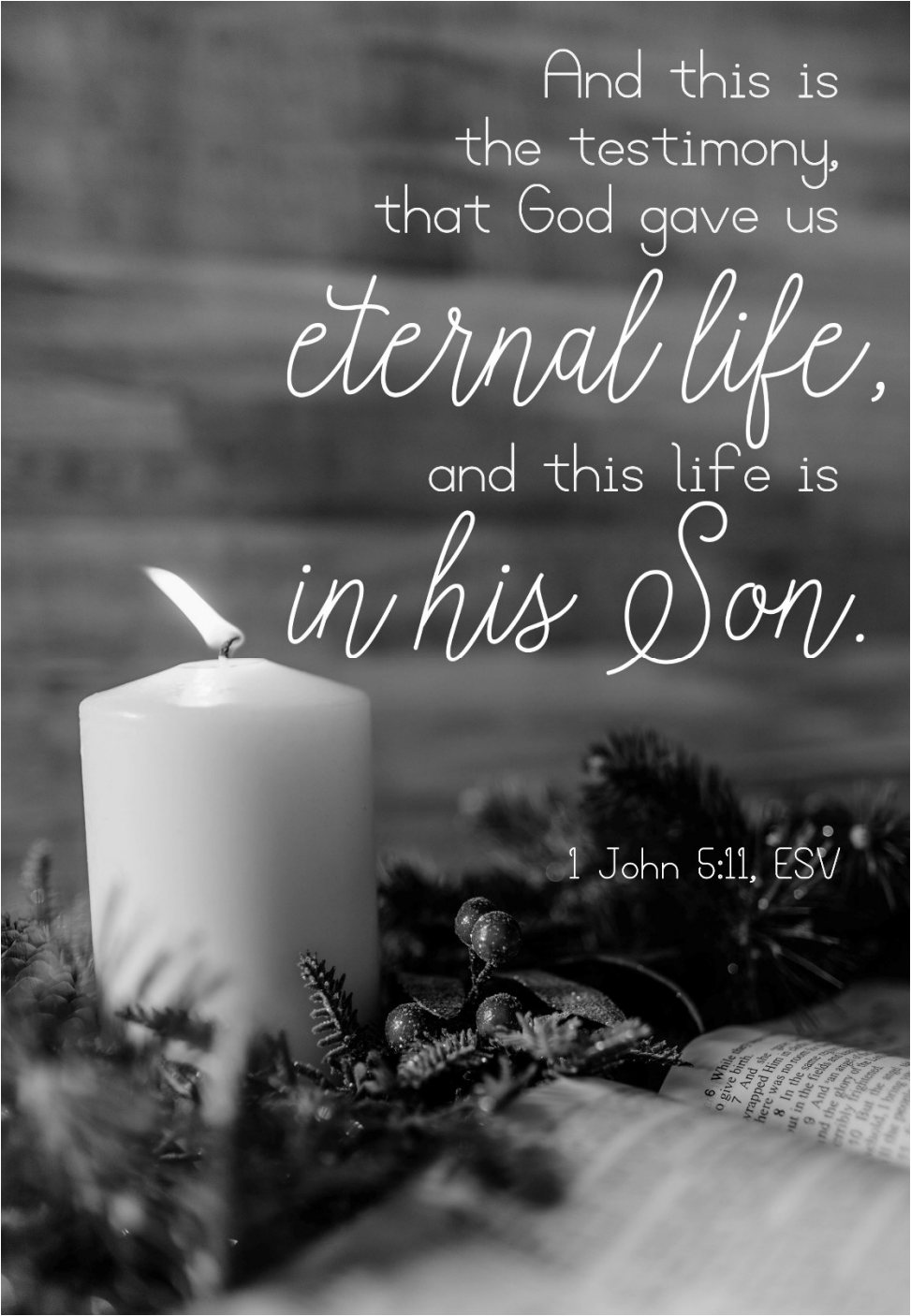
“Great Joy”

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

9:00 a.m.

“In Our Hearts”



And this is
the testimony,
that God gave us
eternal life,
and this life is
in his Son.

1 John 5:11, ESV