

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, 2025 A.D.
Faith Ev. Lutheran Church – Pierre, SD
Website: www.faithluth.com
Email: faith@faithluth.com
Church Phone – (605) 224-2216

Rev. Sam Handschke – (314) 489-9181
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 Worldwide Missions*



✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

OPENING HYMN "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come" (LSB 350)

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** ✠

ANTHEM 11:00 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"... arr. Craig Courtney
Men's Ensemble

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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 7:10–17* ("The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel.")

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 1:1–7* (Long promised by God, the Savior, Jesus Christ, has come.)

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA and VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18–25* (“The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.”)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 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)

BIBLE LESSON

SERMON HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357)

Verses 1-4 before sermon, verses 5-7 after sermon

SERMON “Spoken by the Prophet: the Son” (Matthew 1:22-23)

Pastor Sam Handschke

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

OFFERING AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** O God, You have kept Your Word and delivered to us Your own Son by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin. Guide us so that we may rejoice in the Word made flesh and in the redemption He has won by His holy life, life-giving death and resurrection. Bless all pastors, that they may faithfully preach and teach this Gospel. Open the hearts of young men to hear and heed Your call to the ministry. Bless all church workers in their various vocations, that they may serve us well in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Holy Lord, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Heavenly Father, You raised up Joseph, a man honorable and just, to be the guardian and earthly father to Your Son. Give all earthly fathers wisdom, patience, pride of duty and, above all, faith and loyalty to Your Word, that knowing Your true Guardianship, they may head their households with godly forbearance. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.



P Almighty God, You do not bear with the tiresome flattery and unbelief of kings and rulers forever. Have mercy on us, Lord, and spare our nation. Clear away all empty shows of piety and renew genuine faith in the Virgin's Son, that His coming at the last may not be a sign against us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You are the giver of every good gift, O Lord, and You care for us in all our needs of body, mind and spirit. Give healing to the sick, relief to the suffering, peace to the dying and comfort to those who mourn
[especially _____ and those we name in our hearts].
According to Your gracious will, sustain them all by Your grace, and give them patience and courage as they await the unfolding of Your healing grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant, Holy Father, that all who eat today of this feast of joy may find in the Savior's body and blood a blessed foretaste of the feast to come, for the strengthening of their faith and the growth of their love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

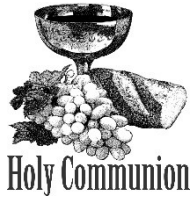
P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Dayspring from on high and the splendor of light everlasting. By His coming in the flesh and by His blessed Word, enlighten our hearts with the Gospel, enlighten the hearts of those who sit in the darkness of unbelief with the light of saving faith, and enlighten those who dwell in the shadow of death with the certain hope of the resurrection through Him. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; 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 11:00 am service continues on page 9 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 service

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

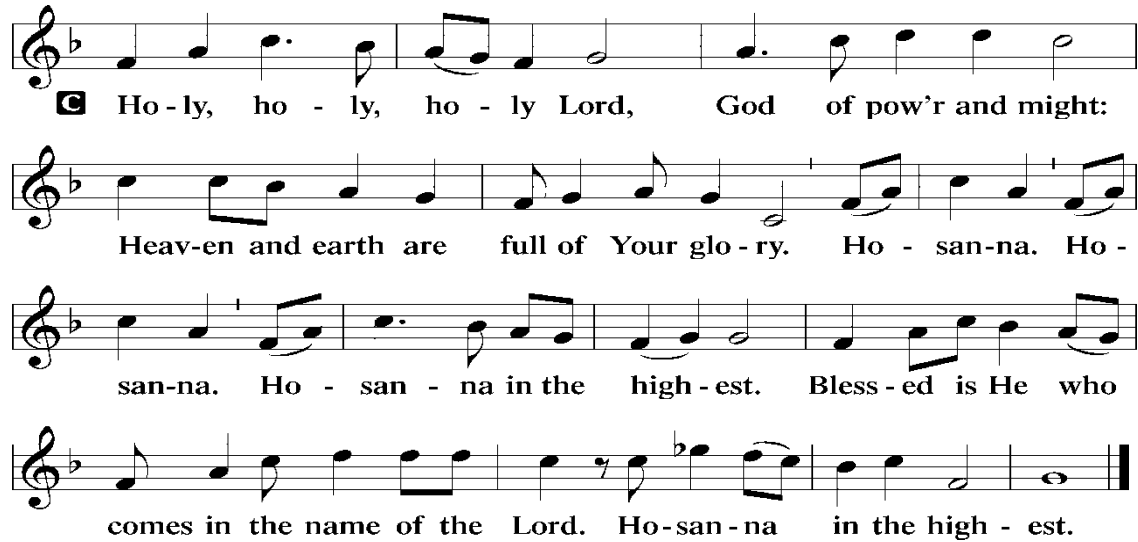
C We lift them to the Lord.

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



C 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

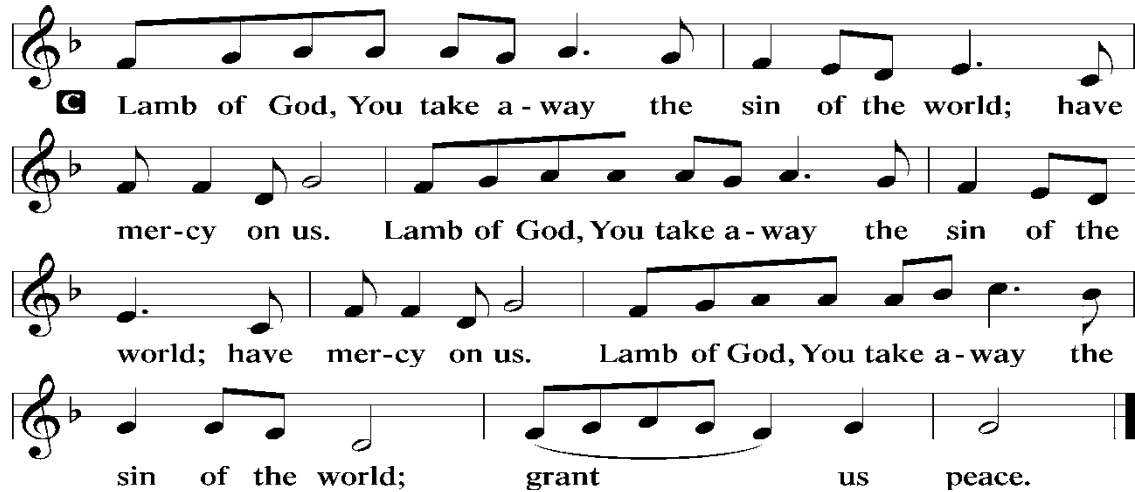
Matt 26:26–28; Mk 14:22–24; Lk 22:19–20; 1 Cor 11:23–25

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

ANTHEM 11:00 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"... arr. Craig Courtney
Men's Ensemble

"Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming"

(LSB 359)

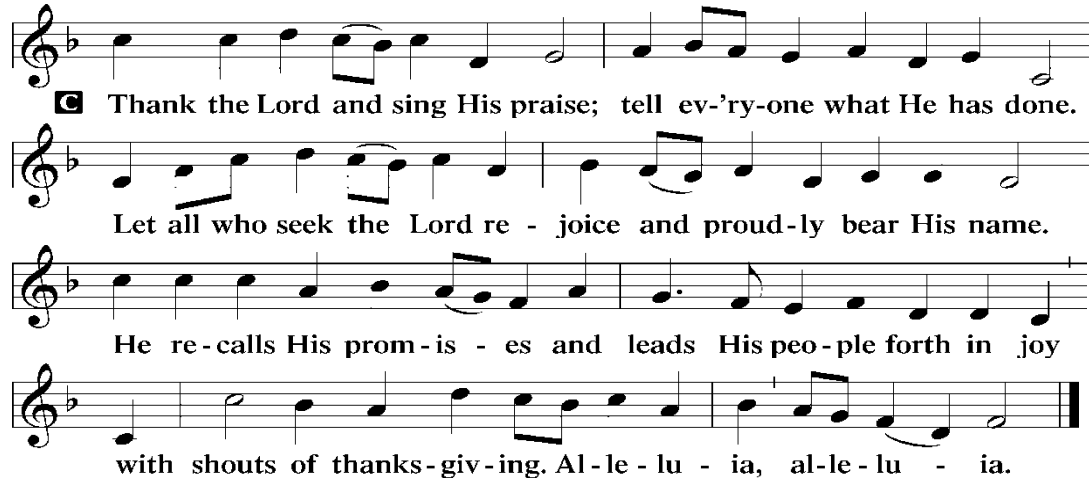
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

(LSB 361)



(Please stand)

THANK THE LORD

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "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. He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

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.
He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

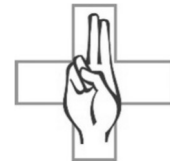
C Amen.

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

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

(LSB 343)

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



AS WE GATHER It is still Advent, but today we hear an account of the Christmas story early so that we may know what to look for later this week. The Son of Mary by the Holy Spirit is Jesus, who saves us from our sins and who fulfills the promise of Immanuel: God is with us. Perhaps the richness of the details of Luke's account sometimes distracts us from the message. The Lord has come to keep His Word, to save us from our sins, and to keep us in His hand so that we may be His eternally. None of this was obvious to either Mary or faithful Joseph, and yet the Lord was at work through it all to deliver to us His Son to be our Savior. We will still worry when things do not go as we plan, and we will still struggle with doubts and fears, but the angel of God's presence is no mere messenger sent in His place. No, the angel of God's presence is His only-begotten Son, whose name is Jesus and whose work is our salvation.

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:23

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 Fourth 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 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. 10, Att. 153; Offering \$146.00; **Sun., Dec. 14, Att. 252;** General Fund \$21,294.98; Sunday School \$5.00; Advent \$335.00; Christmas Eve \$200.00; Christmas \$100.00; Building Fund \$240.00; Love Fund \$100.00; Contingency Fund \$100.00; Utecht Ministry \$20.00; Bible Study Books \$30.00; Mexico Mission \$2,005.00; Advent Meal \$95.00; Early Educ. \$55.00; Flowers \$60.00; Workman's Comp. refund \$737.62.

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.

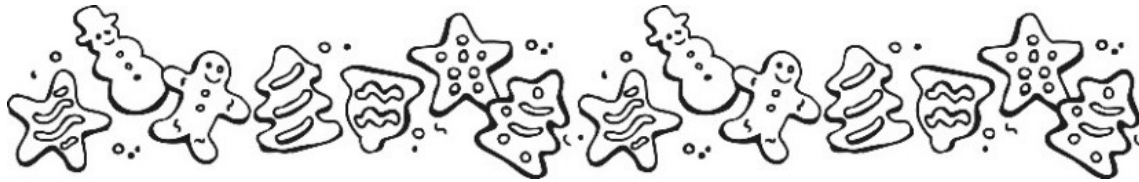
Greeters Faith Lutheran is wanting to get our greeters crew up and going again. If you are willing to greet on Sundays **please sign the sheet in the Narthex.** *We are still in need of more greeters.* The more we have the better. If we get enough, they may only have to greet a couple times a year. Please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



GREETERS SCHEDULE	EARLY	LATE
December 21st	Steve & Cindy Fiechtner B/A	
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, **TODAY 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.

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: Here's a simple yet challenging Christmas week question for your contemplation: How has the fact that Jesus was born over 2000 years ago impacted the life you're living today? Read aloud the Luke 2 Christmas story together, ponder this question, and encourage your family members to share their answers. From the funny response of a preschooler, the shoulder shrug of a teenager, or the wise words shared by an older person, it will be interesting to see how each individual family member answers. Remember, even those who don't answer are still listening! *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* *Matthew 1:21* A Blessed Celebration of Jesus' Birth to you from your partners at **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 21, 2025

KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

10:00am - "Christmas on Main Street" The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.

10:30 AM - Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, presents a Christmas message. This program is interpreted

and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Life Quotes “As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us pray for all mothers who find themselves pregnant and afraid. Abortion is never the answer. We pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all expectant mothers who find themselves alone and seemingly without hope and that He will help them choose life. Every human being’s life is a precious and beautiful miracle.” *Judie Brown, American Life League – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

This Week at Faith Lutheran

Today: 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 Bd. of Education

Mon: Dec. 22

6:00 pm 3rd grade Boys Basketball
6:30 pm Caroling

Tues: Dec. 23

8:00 am Staff Devotions
12:00 pm Mary/Martha Circle
6:15 pm *Raising Kids* Study
7-8 pm 5th grade girls Basketball

Wed: Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

2:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
7:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Thurs: Dec. 25 Christmas Day

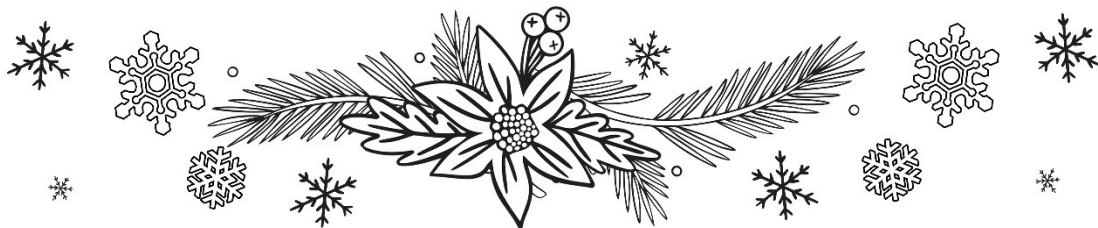
9:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Fri: Dec. 26

Office Closed

Sun: Dec. 28 1st Sunday of Christmas

8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Rebekah Circle
11:00 am Communion



Christmas Schedule

“Our Dear Christ Enters In”

**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”

