# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

# *Sharing God’s Word; Showing God’s Love; Serving God’s World.*

Christmas Eve – The Birth of Our Lord Jesus

December 24, 2023

###### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship (5:00) “O Holy Night” Inspiration** **Choir**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

 *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of life,

**C: you promise good news of great joy for all people,** **and call us to be messengers of your peace.** **We confess that too**

 **often we hoard our joy,** **our resources, and our security.** **We nurture conflict and build barriers.** **We neglect the**

 **needs of our neighbors** **and ignore the groaning of creation.** **Have mercy on us.** **Where we are self-centered, open**

 **our hearts.** **Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust.** **Keep us in**

 **communion with the promised child in the manger, the Christ on the cross, and the Risen Christ at the empty**

 **tomb. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In

 ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**  **#283**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

**C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie** Pages 138-139

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray

 to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

 **We Light the Christ Candle**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we**

 **may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son,**

 **Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2b-7 2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. 3You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. L:  The word of the Lord. **C:  Thanks be to God.**

**Second Lesson:** Titus 2:11-14

11The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. L:  The word of the Lord. **C:  Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** Luke 2:1-20

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message** Pastor Dan Lyman

**Hymn of Response “Angels We Have Heard on High” #289**

**Passing of the Peace**

*(We are conscious of the returning flu season. You may shake hands, but feel free to offer your elbow for social distancing. There is sanitizer available in each pew.).*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

P: Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ’s holy birth. Give your church a joyful

 song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery

 of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

 **Your mercy is great.**

P: Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of

 oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O

 God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Glory to you, God, for Mary’s loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your

 presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or

 illness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for our Bishop Anne Edison-Albright, our presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, our pastor, and for all the leaders

 of Faith Lutheran Church. We pray for this community of believers, inspire us with your Holy Spirit and lead us in your

 pathways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Every year is a year with you Lord. We pray for those who are celebrating their birthday this week: Daryl Gilbertson,

 Don Johnson, Holley Jeske, Colton Wenzel, Seth Madson, Warren Wenzel, Bridget Biely, Lana Nelson, Parker Ulness

 and Melissa Boll. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for all those who are in need of healing, especially: Marge Klessig, Bev Hildebrandt, Larry and Sharon Naidl,

 Judy Jorgenson, Marlene Thomsen, Jim and Jan Reinertson,Harry Kwasny, Ginger Linsmeier, Jim Loritz, Merle

 “Butch” Graf and Wayne Allen Huske. Lord you are the Great Physician. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: We remember all those who are currently serving in the military, especially:Daniel Brandl, Matthew Brill, Dylan

 Conrad, Carter Hildebrandt and Andy Schnell. Be their constant companion and bring them safely home to us. Hear us,

 O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P:We name now before you, Lord, those in need of your presence and care \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Help us to show and help

 them to know that you are with them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your

 compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Offering**

**Offertory Music** (3:00) **“O Holy Night” Inspiration** **Choir**

(10:00) **Lauren Kristoff and Haley Pritzl**

### **Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

### **Invitation to Communion** P:Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

**Distribution Hymns**  **#275 #277 #279** vs. 1, 2, 4, 6

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send

 us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our

 Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**Candle Lighting:** Please, dip the ***unlit*** candle to your neighbor’s lit candle. The organist will play through Silent Night once or twice while the congregation lights their candles. Please wait to sing along when everyone’s candles are lit.

**Carol** **“Silent Night” #281**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, You made this holy night to shine with the brightness of the one true light. Help us here on earth to walk in the light of Jesus your Son, and on the last day, awaken to the brightness of His glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.** (Extinguish your candles)

**Benediction**

P: God bless you and keep you, ☩ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and

 forever. **C: Amen.**

###### **Closing Hymn “Joy to the World” #267**

P: Go in the Spirit of Christ to love and serve the Lord!

**C: Sharing God’s Word, Showing God’s Love, and Serving God’s World!**

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**Serving Us Christmas Eve @ 3:00 pm**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Matt Krogh Greeter: Ralph Christianson

Acolyte: Audrey Sorenson Ushers: Al Gilbertson, Delton & Cheryl Duchow Lector: Cheryl Duchow

Live Stream/Video: Bill Riesterer Communion Aides: Audrey Sorenson, Joyce Sorenson and Judy Valleskey

Sound Operator and Projection: Loren Ulness

**Serving Us Christmas Eve @ 5:00 pm**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Glenn Otto Greeters: Michelle & Logan Bratt

Acolyte: Logan Bratt Ushers: Al Gilbertson & Otto Family Lector: Erin Lenzner

Sound Operator: Carter Lenzner Projection: Zach Lennzer Communion Aide: Al Gilbertson

**Serving Us Christmas Eve @ 10:00 pm**

Organist: Lauren Kristoff Head Usher: Scott Reinerston Greeter: Jill Backus

Acolyte: Ushers: Mark & Angie Ulness Family Sound Operator: Garrett Ulness Lector: Larry Burzynski Projection: Whitney Ulness Communion Aide: Joan Pritzl

**Last Week** – Sunday: 278 Wednesday: 35 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $9,558.75

**Faith’s Opportunities December 25-31**

**Monday** Merry Christmas! No Worship

**Tuesday** Office Closed

**Wednesday** 9:00 A.M. Jazzercise

 6:00-8:00 P.M. Kids Night Out

 NO Worship or Confirmation

**Thursday**  5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

**Saturday** 1:00 P.M. Kiara Krogh and Tyler Miller Wedding

**Sunday** 8:00 A.M. Bell Choir

 9:00 A.M. Worship

 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour

*THANK YOU to the following for the poinsettias which make our sanctuary so festive this holiday season:*

In memory of Donald Evenson and Kurt Evenson by the Matt and Kelly Krogh Family

In memory of Ralph and Melissa Evenson and Jay Stiefvater by the Steve and Ginny Schwoerer Family

In memory of Larry Madson, Kari Reinertson, Bentley McDonald and Dawn Hill by Joy Madson and family

In memory of Dennis Evenson by Debbie and Gail and families

In special thanksgiving to God by the John and Marilyn Robley Family

In memory of Jim Hansen, Marty VanLishout and in honor of Gladys Hansen by Darlene & Grant VanLishout

In memory of Dennis Evenson by Marlene Evenson

In special thanksgiving to God for all his blessings by John and Kerry Schnell

In memory of Larry Backus by Jill Backus

In memory of Rollie Tonnell and in honor of Judy Tonnell by Sue Christel

In memory of Robert Burzynski and Marian Broich by Lynn and Larry Burzynski

In special thanksgiving to God by Sue and Bill Riesterer

In memory of Edward Streckert by Janice Streckert and family

In memory of Marlyn and Margaret Evenson by Marilyn and Tony Schad and family

In loving memory of Glenn and Tom Torrison, Orin and Clara Torrison, Victor and Regina Bronk and

 Norman and Marvin Bronk by Ruth Torrison and family

In special thanksgiving to God by Bob and Kathy Mattern

In memory of our departed loved ones; Domrath and Laveck Families by Don and Cheryl Domrath

In memory of Bethany Sorenson by the Bethany Sorenson Family

In memory of Orin and Sylvia Gilbertson and Otis and Martina Gilbertson by Alan Gilbertson

In memory of family and friends by Ellen Polifka

In memory of grandparents, aunts, uncles and Richard Kornelly by Scott and Amy Reinertson

In memory of Bob Meyer by Virginia Meyer and family

In memory of Glenn Thomsen by Marlene Thomsen

In memory of Doris Heinisch and Elizabeth Lyman by Dan Lyman

In memory of Ted, Betty and Bruce Jeske by the Jeske Family

*World Hunger donations were given:*

In memory of Donald and Ilene Pederson, Brandon Schroeder and Peter Robley by the Pederson Family

In memory of James and Ramona Madson, Peggy Madson and Tara Sousek by the James Madson Family

In memory of my family by an anonymous donor

In memory of Marvin and Mabel Petersen and Raymond Rusch by Romelle Rusch