# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of mercy,

C: **we confess that we are sinners.** **We put our trust in earthly powers and human authority. Fearfully we cling**

 **to false comforts.**

P: God of might,

**C: we confess that we are sinners. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false and worldly**

 **promises.**

P: God in our midst,

**C: we confess that we are sinners. We plead: O Lord, come to us. We look for the birth of mercy in our lives.**

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

 By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ☩ Christ Jesus, whose day draws

 near.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn “O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1,2,3,8 #257**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in**

 **your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who**

 **lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**(Candle is Lit)**

**Advent Hymn “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”** vs. 1-3 **#240**

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord. L:  The Word of the Lord.  **C:  Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading:**Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. L:  The Word of the Lord.  **C:  Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

###  Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia P. 142

**Gospel**: Luke 3:7-18  **C: Glory to you O Lord.**

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” 10 And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11 In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” 15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” 18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sunday School Christmas Program**

**Hymn “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” vs. 1,2,4 #272**

**The Apostle’s Creed**

**Passing of the Peace**

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

**Prayers of Intercession**

P: God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks of kindness and

 mercy that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: God who leads, this world cries out for divine justice. Increase the desire to care for all who are confronted with

 discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: God who embraces, help us to open our eyes and our hearts to the places where your people are hurting or sick. Teach

 us how to show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and

 make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

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

 your pathways. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

 Stenzel, Randi Hetland, Kristy Wagner, Clarissa Ulness, Frank Griffin, Robert Wigen and Peter Reinertson. Lord, in

 your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: We pray for all those who are in need of healing and comfort. We pray especially for Tom Behnke, Gloria Smith,

 Marge Klessig, Larry and Sharon Naidl, Judy Jorgenson, Jim and Jan Reinertson,Harry Kwasny, Ginger Linsmeier,

 Dennis O’Leary, Sheila Crochley, Merle Graf and Wayne Allen Huske. Lord you are the Great Physician. Lord, in

 your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: We pray for the family of Ruth Torrison as they grieve her passing. Help us to comfort each other with the good news

 of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: We remember all those who are currently serving in the military, especially:Daniel Brandl, Carter Hildebrandt, Andy

 Schnell and Ethan Tienor. Be their constant companion and bring them safely home to us. Lord, in your mercy,

 **receive our prayer.**

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

 firmly believe that you are with them. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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 Response “He Came Down” vs. 1 #253**

**Offertory Prayer**

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these

 gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus

 Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Invitation to Communion** P: Come to the table that our Lord has prepared.

**Distribution Hymns “Fling Wide the Door” vs. 1-3 #259 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” #265 vs. 1,3,4**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life and for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, and

 for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy and for sending us into the world. Come, Lord

 Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction**

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ☩ bless and keep

 you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” vs. 1,3,5 #295**

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 Today**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Glenn Otto

Greeter: Marlene Evenson Acolyte: Mitchell Kaderabek

Ushers: Ron and Kaye Jandrey, Tyler Madson Lector: Jenniffer Zutz

Sound Operator: Lucas Spindler Projection: Addison Spindler

Video/Live Stream: Carter Kuenstler

**Serving Us Next Week**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Tom Madson

Greeters: Ron and Jo Jones Acolyte: Zachary Lenzner

Ushers: Bonnie Gordon, Lori Propson, Dean Behnke Lector: Ava Ulness

Sound Operator & Projection: Erin Ulness Video/Live Stream: Carter Kuenstler

Last Week – Sunday: 111 Wednesday: 40 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $7,893.00

Please stop after service in our gathering space to support our High School Youth group… Faith on Fire!  There will be lots of baked goods.  Suggested prices will be set but please give what you are able!  Thank you in advance for your support!  All are welcome to stay and enjoy coffee and fellowship.

Faith’s Opportunities December 15-22

**Sunday** 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour, Cookie Walk

 10:15 A.M. Inspiration Choir, Sunday School, 9th grade confirmation

**Monday** 9:00 A.M. Women’s Bible Study

 5:30 P.M. Board of Stewardship and Jazzercise

 6:30 P.M. Council

**Tuesday** 9:00 A.M. Senior Christians at Perkins

 3:00 and 6:00 P.M. Bible Study

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

 6:15 P.M. Worship

 7:00 P.M. Confirmation

**Thursday**  8:30 A.M. Secretary’s Meeting

 5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

**Friday** Annual reports due to the office

**Saturday** 9:00 A.M. Open Pantry

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

 8:50 A.M. Sing along

9:00 A.M. Worship

 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour

 10:15 A.M. Inspiration Choir

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**Join us Tuesday, December 24 for our Christmas Eve services at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. with Holy Communion.**

**Christmas Day Service is Wednesday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.**

Please sign the thinking of you cards for our military in the Gathering Space. They appreciate hearing from you.

The 2025 offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Space. Please secure yours today. If you can take a family member’s envelope with you, please do so. Thank you.

Worship opportunities (lector, greeter, ushers, etc.) are available to assist with the Christmas Eve Services at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 pm and Christmas Day Service at 9:00 am. Sheets are available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your help.

We wish to thank all those who purchased quilts as well as bid on the silent auction quilts.  Because of your generosity we will be able to continue to make warm quilts in 2025.  This year we completed 410 quilts. Thank You! The Valders Faithful Quilters.

**Singing loud for all to hear – You can help spread holiday cheer!** Help Crossways win a $15,000 community grant this holiday season with just one click! Crossways has been selected to participate in Thrivent's Carol for a Cause and your vote can help raise $15,000 in community grants from the Thrivent Member Network – East WI & Upper MI Region. **Vote online at** https://bit.ly/ECarols24 today!