# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship “The World in Solemn Stillness Lay” Bell Choir**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**C: Blessed be God’s name forever.** **Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and

 just. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of new beginnings,

**C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.** **We have strayed from your paths.** **We prepare for war**

 **instead of peace.** **We dishonor one another and your creation.** **Purify us with your refining fire and set us again**

 **on your way of love,** **that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,** **and welcome your coming among us.** **Amen.**

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are

 joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the

 Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #275**

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.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to yourself. By his coming you give us the hope of eternal life. Shed Christ’s light into our hearts so that we may grow in faith, hope, and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**(Candle is Lit)**

**Advent Hymn “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”** vs. 1-4 **#240**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that**

 **would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and**

 **reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

1Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” 3Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.” 4But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” 8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 16Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

25Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—27to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message** ~ Pastor Dan Lyman

**Hymn “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” #295**

**The Apostle’s Creed**

**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: You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring,

 and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring

 for our world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in

 due season. Protect animals in the lean season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility and kindness to all in positions of authority. Break

 down systems of oppression, do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice.

 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who

 experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search

 of a safe and stable home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and

 chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee

 Services and other ministries that welcome strangers into new homes with us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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, Neil

 Meissner, Jim Loritz, Merle “Butch” Graf and Wayne Allen Huske. Lord you are the Great Physician. Merciful God,

 **receive our prayer.**

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.

 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God, **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 “The King Shall Come” vs. 1-2 #260**

**Offertory Prayer**

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings.

 Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we

 may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**C: Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Benediction**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you, and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you now

 and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #288**

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: Tom Madson

Greeters: Brenda Freiberg Acolyte: Westen Schisel

Ushers: Tom and Kathy Muench Lector: Carol Ulness

Sound Operator: Loren Ulness Projection: Kolten Schisel

Video/Live Stream: Travis Schisel

**Serving Us Next Week**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Tom Madson

Greeters: Bob and Julie Wigen Acolyte: Zachary Lenzner

Ushers: Richard and Linda Menza Sound Operator: Erin Lenzner

Projection: Luke Evenson Video/Live Stream: Carter Lenzner

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

**Faith’s Opportunities December 24-31**

**Sunday** 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Services

**Monday** Merry Christmas! No Worship

**Tuesday** Office Closed

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

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

**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

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Interested in purchasing a new FLC Photo Directory? The cost is $15.83 and forms can be found on the table in the Gathering Space. Place your order form and money in the envelope provided and put in the offering plate or bring to the church office.

**Directory Activity Pages**

Now that we have completed the smiling faces portion of our new directory, we need to work on the Activity Pages.  I need your help collecting pictures of all of Faith's activities that have occurred in the last 3-5 years.  This would include all youth events (VBS, Christmas programs, Kids Nights Out, Faith on Fire), all fellowship & special events (Senior breakfasts, chili cook-off, Advent event, annual meetings, etc.), quilting & all other missions of Faith, God's Work, Our Hands, small group pictures, altar decor, or basically anything that goes on at Faith.  Even some funny candids would be great.  Please send any pictures you have to my email address, along with the name of the event: cjpritzl3@gmail.com, or text them to me at (920) 905-9791. Thank you, Joan Pritzl

**Kids Night Out Winter Edition**

Need a break from your children while they’re on Christmas break? We’ve got you! Drop them off at church on Wednesday, December 27th from 6-8 pm and they will enjoy holiday inspired activities such as cookie decorating, a snowman building/decorating contest or a “snowball” fight. Any children ages 4-10 are welcome. Please contact Erin Lenzner at 901-7089 to sign up.

A friendly reminder to have all of your 2023 offerings to the church office by Sunday December 31. Thank you.

*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