# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” 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 “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” #436**

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.**

**Responsive Reading:** Isaiah 42:1 – 4

P: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

**C: He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.**

P: In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.

**C: In his teaching the islands will put their hope.**

P: I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand.

**C: I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to set the captives free, and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.**

**(Candle is Lit)**

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.**

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

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of**

 **our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the**

 **Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

1O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—2as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him. 5You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people. L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-94I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

### Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

 [Jesus said:] 24“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Bring “Inasmuch” gifts forward**

**Message ~** Pastor Dan Lyman

**Hymn**  **“My Lord, What a Morning” #438**

**Holy Baptism – Charlie Terese Saunders**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**

 **suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he**

 **rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living**

 **and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the**

 **resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**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: Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Inspire your faithful people to live

 with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come

 among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: All creation bears the imprint of your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living

 things in their diversity. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace

 to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain

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

P: Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults,

 stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and

 comfort filled with your presence. 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: Carter Lenzner,

 Dayton Goehring, JohnMarc Ergas, Quinten Robley, Jomarie Ergas, Carol Nelson, Landen Pinkerton, Elizabeth Robley

 and Bob Mattern. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We pray for all those who are in need of healing, especially: the family of Donald Tienor, Carol Nelson, 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.**

**Great Thanksgiving Page 144**

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 our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

 almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his

 glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on

 earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.**

 **Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

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

**Distribution Hymns “On Jordan’s Bank The Baptist Cry” vs. 1-3 #249 “Come thou Long Expected Jesus” #254**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal,

 send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**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 “The King Shall Come” vs. 3-5 #260**

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!**

**Serving Us Today**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Glenn Otto

Greeter: Carter Kuenstler Acolyte: Ariana Herrick

Ushers: Marcus Galien, Ethan Ulness, John Robley Lector: Joyce Sorenson

Communion Aide: Audrey Sorenson Sound Operator: Loren Ulness

Video/Live Stream: Gage Spindler and Carter Lenzner Projection: Mikaela Spindler and Carter Lenzner

**Serving Us Next Week**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Glenn Otto

Greeters: Allison Goehring and Cambria Behnke Acolyte: Liam Cline

Ushers: Dean Behnke Lector: Sheryle Lyman

Sound Operator: Bill Riesterer Projection: Gage Spindler Video/Live Stream: Mikaela Spindler & Bill Riesterer

**Last Week** – Sunday: 79 Wednesday: 57 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $4,500.00

**Faith’s Opportunities December 3-10**

**Sunday** 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour and Sunday school

 10:15 A.M. Inspiration Choir

 1:00 P.M. Advent by Candlelight

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

 6:00 P.M. Boards of Lay Ministry and Evangelism

**Tuesday** 2:00-6:00 P.M. Blood Drive

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

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

 3:00-9:00 P.M. Picture Taking

 6:00 P.M. Card Making in Fellowship Hall

6:15 P.M. Worship with Walk thru Bethlehem

 7:15 Confirmation

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

**Saturday** 9:00 A.M. Church Christmas Decorating and 2nd Saturday Bible Study

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

 8:50 A.M. Sing-a-long

9:00 A.M. Worship with Walk thru Bethlehem

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

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

Today is “Inasmuch” Sunday. Inspired by Matthew 25:40 “Inasmuch as you have done it for the least of these my brethren you have done it for me.” We gather gifts for local families in need.

**This morning, we welcome Charlie Terese Saunders into God’s kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism.** Charlie was born to Caleb and Cheyenne Saunders on May 17 and her baptismal sponsor is Jordan Saunders. Big sister is Ruby. Grandparents are Kenneth and Beth Popp and Jon and Cheryl Saunders. We rejoice at Charlie’s rebirth through water and the Word!

Poinsettia orders will be taken through December 13. The color is red and they are $10.00 a plant. Please see the table in the Gathering Space to place your order.

A Cookie Walk will take place Sunday, December 10 after worship in the fellowship hall. Come for a variety of baked Christmas goodies. Proceeds go to support our high school group “Faith on Fire.” If you are willing to donate some baked goods for this event, you can sign up on the board in the Gathering Space or contact Bridget at 920-905-5273.

Please join us at Manitowoc Health Care Center on Friday, December 15th at 6:00 pm as we Christmas carol for the residents. We will plan to meet at MHCC and after we have spread some Christmas cheer, will return back to church for pizza and hot chocolate. All ages are welcome! The more the merrier!

"How the Grinch Found Christ in Christmas"

Our Children's Christmas Program will take place on Sunday December 17th during the 9am service.  All children should meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30am dressed as Who's from Whoville ready to perform our version of the Grinch.  We encourage all attending to also wear fun Christmas sweaters/ shirts!

The Advent wreath started in Germany as a Lutheran family tradition. Advent wreaths were originally used in the home as a preparation

for Christmas, a way for parents to share about the meaning of the Christmas season. It wasn’t until the mid-20th Century that it became

a common part of Lutheran worship in America.