# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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 “Hark, the Glad Sound!” vs. 1-4 #239**

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the**

 **world knowledge of your salvation; 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. 1-2 **#240**

**First Reading:** Malachi 3:1-4

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.L:  The Word of the Lord.  **C:  Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Luke 1:68-79**

P:68 Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel, you have come to your people and | set them free.
**C: 69 You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior, born of the house of your | servant David.**
P: 70 Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,71 from the hands of | all who hate us,
**C: 72 to show mercy | to our forebears, and to remember your | holy covenant.**P: 73 This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham: 74 to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,
**C: free to worship you | without fear, 75 holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.**

P: 76 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,
**C: 77 to give God’s people knowledge | of salvation by the forgiveness | of their sins.**P: 78 In the tender compassion | of our God the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,
**C: 79 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death, and to guide our feet into the | way of**

 **peace.**

**Second Reading:**Philippians 1:3-11

3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. 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. P. 151

**Gospel**: Luke 3:1-6 **C: Glory to you O Lord.**

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ” P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message ~ Pastor Dan Lyman**

**Hymn “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” vs. 1,3,5 #249**

**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: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the

 gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. By your grace you have made us a priesthood of all

 believers. Help us to believe rightly and follow you closely. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that work for peace and care for

 refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. We pray especially for all who are caught in the conflicts

 in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and Sudan. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by

 worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Prepare us to

 receive the Christ child into our lives with open joyous hearts. 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: Elizabeth Robley,

 Bob Mattern, Marlene Evenson, Bonnie Gordon, Ava Wenzel, Steve Ahrens, Robert Pautz, Jerry Hoefner, and Ethan

 Ulness. 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 Gloria Smith, Ruth Torrison,

 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 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.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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 “Prepare the Royal Highway” vs. 1-4 #264**

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: Glenn Otto

Greeters: Tom and Rae Madson Acolyte: Ethan Spindler

Ushers: Keith Lippert, Richard Menza, Brian Ulness Lector: Don Schreiner

Communion Aide: Al Gilbertson Sound Operator: Loren Ulness

Video/Live Stream: Eric Thomsen Projection: Mollie Junk

Last Week – Sunday: 126 Wednesday: 17 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $6,000.36

**Poinsettia orders will be taken through December 11.** The color is red, and they are $10.00 a plant. Please see the table in the Gathering Space to place your order.

Faith on Fire will be having their 2nd Annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser following the Christmas Program on Sunday December 15th! Please drop off any cookie donations before service

(between 8 & 9am). The cookie walk will run from 10-noon in the gathering space. Coffee and milk will be available for fellowship. Come support our youth and stock up on some delicious Christmas treats for your own home!

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

Faith’s Opportunities December 8-15

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

 10:15 A.M. Inspiration Choir and Sunday School

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

 5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

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

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

 6:00-9:00 P.M. Cookie Making

 6:15 P.M. Worship

 7:00 P.M. Confirmation

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

**Saturday** 9:00 A.M. 2nd Saturday Bible Study

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

 8:50 A.M. Sing along

9:00 A.M. Worship

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

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

Donations of baked goods are being accepted for the “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” event, Saturday, December 14 at First Presbyterian Church in Manitowoc. Please see the poster in the gathering space for instructions and to sign up for what you will be donating.

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.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for this year's Sharing Tree.  Your generosity was inspiring and will positively touch the lives of the families you supported. God Bless!

NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP DONATIONS TO MANITOWOC HEALTH CARE CENTER

Sweatpants/sweatshirts (men & women), slipper sox (grippers on bottom), individual snacks and small soda cans, hand lotion, light colored nail polish/removers, undershirts, disposable razors/men & women, stationary/pens/assorted greeting cards/Christmas cards, large print word search, lipstick/blush, body cologne/spray-men, puzzles, note cards/envelopes, fleece blankets, crayons, watercolor paints, color pencils, markers, drawing paper, wall calendars, pajamas (men & women), regular socks (men & women), DVD’s, CD’s. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Manitowoc Health Care Center. You will have brightened Christmas for many!

THANK you for everything! Sometimes, there are not enough words to captivate the essence of a truly thankful heart and put it on paper. So, this is my way of saying you are one in a million, and you’ll never truly know the difference you have made in supporting Faith’s Open Pantry. I am so grateful for your food donations and monetary support going to our pantry. I’d like to thank everyone individually, but the list goes on and on, and you know who you are. Thank you! Right now, we are helping anywhere from 14 to 20 families per month from Valders, St. Nazianz, Whitelaw, Reedsville, Brillion, Two Rivers, Mishicot. Families of one member to families of 8 or more. We are there to help anyone. I have gotten to know almost everyone who walks in the door, and they are so grateful for our help. Please continue to donate as the pantry is bare after each pantry visit. Again, thank you very much. Sandy Halverson, Pantry Coordinator

Our friends at St. James Episcopal Church where Pastor Brian Staude is serving, is holding a Christmas event today from 1-4 entitled “The Wonder of Christmas”. It is a display of hundreds of artistically arranged nativity scenes. Soup and sandwiches are available.