# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

The Birth of Our Lord Jesus

December 24, 2021

## Gathering

###### **Prelude and Welcome**

P: We begin our worship in the name of God the Father; Jesus, the Son whose birth we celebrate; and

 the Holy Spirit, through whom Mary conceived our Lord Jesus.

**C: Amen!**

**Carol** **“Oh, Come All Ye Faithful”**  #283

**3:00 “O Holy Night” Adult Choir**

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

 all (2 Cor. 13:14).

**C: And also with you.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Responsive Reading: **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a; 7:14**

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

**C: On those living in the land of the shadow of death, a Light has dawned.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders;

**C: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

###### P: Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end. Therefore the Lord Himself will

######  give you a sign:

**C: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son; and you will call Him Immanuel.**

**We Light the Christ Candle**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Lord Jesus, you came as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are one with God and you**

 **are one of us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are both the light and life of God**

 **and humanity, and if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light**

 **of life. Amen!**

**The Scriptures**

**The Birth of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-7**

 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

L: The Gospel of our Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Video “Some Children See Him”**

**An Angel Proclaims the Birth—Luke 2:8-20**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message** “Why Christmas?”Pastor Jim Wilson

**Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”** #279

P: Let us pray.

**C: Gracious Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for your many blessings in life, but especially**

 **for the gift of your Son, whose birth we celebrate this night. Help us to share the blessings of**

 **life generously, to be sincere in our love, joyful in our service, and patient always. May our**

 **lives be a prayer of praise and a song of hope, so joyful, that it leads others to know you and**

 **your love. Amen.**

**Offering**

**Special Music “Little Drummer Boy” The Lenzner Family**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**After each prayer:** P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power

 that is at work within us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever

 and ever!

**C: Amen**

**Our Lord’s Prayer**

**Holy Communion**

P: Let us confess our sins to God as we prepare our hearts for Holy Communion. If we say we have no

 sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful

 and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most Merciful God,

**C: We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we**

 **have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not always loved our**

 **neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus, have mercy on us. Forgive us and**

 **renew us we pray. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives

 you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of

 God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**The Words of Institution**

**Distribution Carols**  “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” #282

 “What Child Is This?” #296 “The First Noel” #300

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

P: Gracious Heavenly Father, pour out upon us your Spirit of love and wisdom. United us with Christ

 and all his people. And through your Word and this sacrament, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may

 Christ dwell in our hearts through faith.

**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**

###### **Carol “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! \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Serving Us Christmas Eve @ 1:00 pm**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Matt Krogh Greeters: Tim and Julie Endries

Acolyte: Carter Valleskey Ushers: Al Gilbertson, Earl and Barb Griffin Lector: Julie Endries

Sound Operator and Projection: Lyle Roehrig Communion Aides: Joan Pritzl & Kaye Jandrey

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

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Scott Reinertson Greeters: Mollie Junk & Bonnie Gordon

Acolyte: Usher: Ralph Christianson Sound Operator: Loren Ulness

Lector: Don Domrath Projection: Luke Evenson Live Stream/Video: Bill Riesterer

Communion Aides: Judy Valleskey and Don Schreiner

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

Organist: Peggy Madson Head Usher: Delton Duchow Greeters: The Meyer Family

Acolyte: Usher: Cheryl Duchow Sound Operator: Kelly Meyer

Lector: Cheryl Duchow Projection: Kai Meyer

**Last Week** – Sunday: 198 Video: 103 Wednesday: 15 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $9,345.00

**Known to have been hospitalized or in need of prayer:**  Kevin Schultz, Marlene Thomsen, Lynn Burzynski, Ray Rusch, Harry Kwasny, Connie Schisel, Donald Tienor, Lorraine Reindl, Delores Johnson, Ginger Linsmeier, Bob Klessig, Doug Wilson, The Andrew Madson Family, Jim Loritz, Ronald Christianson, Elling Jones (brother of Ron Jones), Merle “Butch” Graf, Wayne Allen Huske.

**Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the following who are serving in the military:** Daniel Brandl, Matthew Brill, Kyle and Dylan Conrad, Corey Evenson, Carter Hildebrandt, Jeff Konz and Andy Schnell. If there are others we should be remembering, please inform the church office.

All children are invited to pick up a Christmas Ornament on their way out of church today. Thank you Libby Olson for making them this year.

**There will be no worship Sunday, December 26 and Wednesday, December 29.**

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

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

Norman Bronk and Marvin Bronk by Ruth Torrison and family

In memory of Robert J. Burzynski and Marian Broich by Lynn and Laurance Burzynski

In loving memory of Bennet, Myrna, Betty, Ruby, Marlin, Gene, June, Donald, Roger and Dennis Evenson, Ted Jeske Sr., Bruce Jeske, Bud, Craig and Jay Meyer, Bill Wiegert, Kurt and Wally Evenson by Virginia Meyer and family

In memory of Larry Backus and in Special Thanksgiving to God by Jill Backus

In memory of Glenn Thomsen, Fred and Marion Brockman and Peter and Helen Thomsen by Marlene Thomsen and family

In memory of Herman Halverson and Clarence and Annabelle Ott by Esther Halverson and family

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

In memory of Alfred and Arlene Schad & Nick Schad by Dean and Rose Behnke and family

In memory of Carl and Olive Laveck, Virginia and Ernie Domrath and Richard Peters

by Don and Cheryl Domrath

In special thanksgiving for God’s blessings by John and Kerry Schnell

In memory of Roland Tonnell (Stepfather and pop) and Judy Tonnell (Mom and nana) by Susan Christel and Kayla

In memory of Paul Johnson by Keith and Brenda Johnson

In memory of Scott Madson by Mike and Marlene Zutz

In memory of Elmer and Alice Sebo and Debra Riesterer by Sandy Lemberger

In special thanksgiving to God by Julie Hartman

In memory of Dennis Evenson by Marlene, Debbie, Gail and families

In memory of Ralph and Melissa Evenson, Jay Stiefvater and grandparents by Steve and Ginny Schwoerer

In memory of Wayne Gilbertson and Nancy Braun by Alan Gilbertson

In memory of Robert and Salome Haupt and Mary and Mark Haupt by Joan Pritzl

In memory of Gilman and Grace Peterson and Elaine Peterson by Geneva, Carolyn and Jerry Peterson

In special thanksgiving to God by Bob and Julie Wigen

In memory of loved ones by Sue and Bill Riesterer

In memory of Grandma Dorothy Ulness by the Stefanie and Jake Kaderabek Family

In memory of Mike and Ludene McCulley by Mark and Gail McCulley and family

In memory of Larry Madson by The Madson Family

*Donations to World Hunger have been given:*

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

In memory of Marvin and Mabel Petersen, Raymond Rusch and Jay Hetland by Romelle Rusch

In memory of Larry, Kari, Bentley and Dawn by The Madson Family

In memory of Edward Streckert by Janice Streckert and family