# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2022

## Gathering

**Welcome and Announcements**

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** **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**  vs. 1-4 **#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.**

**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.**

**We Light the Candle of Joy**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that,**

 **transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives**

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

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

**The Scriptures**

### **First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-10

1The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees. 4Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” 5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L:  The word of the Lord. **C:  Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**: James 5:7-10

7Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.  L:  The word of the Lord. **C:  Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” 7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ 11Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Message** Pastor Dan Lyman

**Hymn of Response “Blessed Be the God of Israel”** **#250**

**Prayers of Intercession**

P: Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in

 every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your

 mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens

 flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and

 praise you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned

 or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

 **hear our prayer.**

P: Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss.

 Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to

 keep others safe. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and

 friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them

 with loving support. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P:Confident that you not only hear our prayer, but listen to them, you not only listen, but care. You not only

 care, but act with Almighty Love. Confident in your Almighty Love we name now before you those in need of

 your presence and care \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (others may be named)

P: We pray for those who are in need of healing: the family of William Pautz who passed away last Thursday,

 Norma and Bob Argall, Jim and Jan Reinertson,Harry Kwasny, Donald Tienor, Don and Delores Johnson,

 Ginger Linsmeier, Bob Klessig, Eliza Dekker (granddaughter of Earl and Barb Griffin), Ilan Walny, Matt

 Kerkhoff, Tom Titzkowski, Henry Holzer, Jim Loritz, Merle “Butch” Graf, Wayne Allen Huske. Help them to

 know that our prayers are with them and you are with them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P:We remember and commend to your care those who are currently serving in the military:Daniel Brandl,

 Matthew Brill, Kyle Conrad and Dylan Conrad, Corey Evenson, Carter Hildebrandt and Andy Schnell. God,

 in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for those who are celebrating their birthday this week: Bonnie Gordon, Ava Wenzel, Steve Ahrens,

 Bob Pautz, William Pautz, Jerome Hoefner, Ethan Ulness, Veryl Hein, Terry Stenzel, Randi Hetland, Kristy

 Wagner, Clarissa Ulness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Offering and Offertory**

**Blessing**

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,

 bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** vs. 5-8 **#257**

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: Glennn Otto

Greeters: Bob and Julie Wigen Acolyte: Addison Spindler

Ushers: Paul and Michele Schmidt Lector: Judy Harris

Sound Operator: Lucas Spindler Video/Live Stream: Michael Lenzner Projection: Ethan Ulness

**Serving Us Next Week**

Organist: Peggy Madson Head Usher: Tom Madson

Greeters: Keith & Audrey Lippert Acolyte: Tristan Teuke

Ushers: Dean & Rose Behnke Family Lector: Makenna Kaderabek

Communion Aide: Stacy Wilker Sound Operator: Erin Lenzner

Projection: Makenna Kaderabek Video/Live Stream: Bill Riesterer

**Last Week** – Sunday: 136 Wednesday: 40 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $6,985.00

**Remember to turn in your Time and Talent sheets to the office or one of the ushers during worship. Thank you.**

**Faith’s Opportunities December 11-18**

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

 10:15 A.M. Mixed Choir and 9th grade Confirmation

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

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

 5:00 P.M. Board of Stewardship

 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. Walk Through Bethlehem in fellowship hall

 6:15 P.M. Worship

**Thursday**  Newsletter info due to office

 5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

**Friday** Annual Reports are due the office

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

 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. Walk Through Bethlehem in fellowship hall

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

8:50 A.M. Christmas Sing a long

9:00 A.M. Worship

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

 10:15 A.M. Mixed Choir

Worship Opportunities (lector, greeter, ushers, etc.) are available for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please sign up on the sheets in the Gathering Space on the Information Desk. Thank you for your help.

**Poinsettia Orders will be taken through December 14. Plants are red in color and are $10.00 a plant. Please see the table in the Gathering Space to place your order.**

**Upcoming Events**

**Walk Through Bethlehem**

Wednesday, December 14th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 17th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Follow the star and join us for a guided tour through the streets of ancient Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth.  You will enter Bethlehem during the time of Caesar Augustus’ census. Visit the busy marketplace and watch the basket makers work, see and smell the fresh breads and produce being sold, and talk with the merchants selling their wares. Hear the locals talk with excitement about the young couple that has traveled through town, ready to have a baby.  Walk through the fields and see the animals on your way to the stable where you will be greeted with the joyous reason for the season. The journey will then continue to reflect upon the scenes in Jesus’ life. All are welcome! Invite your family, friends and neighbors.

**Our Annual Sunday School Christmas Program ~ “A Super Christmas”**

Sunday, December 18th at 9:00 Service

 “A Super Christmas” features a variety of well-known superheroes who are worried about losing their jobs to a new superhero coming to save the Earth. Can they find him in time? What will this new super hero be like?  The seventh and eighth grade confirmation students make up the main cast. The Sunday school kids will be singing a variety of songs. Practice has begun, and let me tell you. This one is a hoot! Everybody needs to see it!

The 2023 offering envelopes are arranged alphabetically on tables in the Gathering Space. Please secure yours today. If you can take envelopes for another family member or friend, please do so. This will save on mailing costs. Thank you.