# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 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** **“Prepare the Royal Highway”**  **#264**

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.**

**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.**

**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 Love**

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 hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the**

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

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

**The Scriptures**

### **First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16

10The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. 13Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.” L:  The word of the Lord. **C:  Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**: Romans 1:1-7

1Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, 6including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. L:  The word of the Lord. **C:  Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew’s story of Jesus’ birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means “God saves.”

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children’s Program**

**Message** Pastor Dan Lyman

**Hymn of Response “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”** **#272**

**Prayers of Intercession**

P: God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to

 our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that

 you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in

 repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming

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

P: God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for

 the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty

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

P: God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war

 and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment.

 Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and

 fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and

 speed their recovery. 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: Frank Griffin, Bob Wigen, Peter Reinertson,

 Pam Whitehouse, William Zutz, Susan Wenzel, Marcus Loritz. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for those who are in need of healing: Marlene Thomsen, 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. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P:Confident that you not only hear our prayers, 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). Help them to know that our prayers

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

**The Lord’s Prayer**

### **Offering and Offertory**

### **Invitation to Communion**

P: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

### **Distribution Hymns Away in a Manger #277 All People that on Earth Do Dwell #883**

 **My God, How Wonderful Thou Art #863**

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood

 of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this

 holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**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 “Once in Royal David’s City”** **#269**

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: Peggy Madson Head Usher: Tom Madson

Greeters: 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

**Serving Us Next Week**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Tom Madson

Greeters: Angie and Whitney Ulness Acolyte:

Ushers: Garrett, Mark and Ava Ulness Lector: Clarissa Ulness

Sound Operator: Video/Live Stream: Bill Riesterer Projection:

**Last Week** – Sunday: 100 Wednesday: 31 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $7,817.00

**Faith’s Opportunities December 18-25**

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

 10:15 A.M. Mixed Choir

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

 6:30 P.M. Council

**Tuesday** 9:00 A.M. Senior Christians at Perkins

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

 6:15 P.M. Worship

**Thursday**  Newsletter info due to office

 5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

**Saturday** 3:00, 5:00 & 10:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Services

**Sunday** 9:00 A.M. Christmas Day SErvice

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

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.

Christmas Eve Services are at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 pm with Holy Communion and Christmas Day Worship is at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion. There will be no worship Wednesday, December 28.