# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 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** **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #254**

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 Peace**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 & 2 **#240**

**The Scriptures**

### **First Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10

###  1A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. 7The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. 9They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. 10On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

### **Second Reading**: Romans 15:4-13

4Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; 10and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; 11and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; 12and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” 13May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

**Anthem** “Living Hope” Mixed Choir

**In As Much Gifts**

### **The Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

1In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ” 4Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

**Message** Pastor Dan Lyman

**Hymn of Response “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”** **#249**

**Prayers of Intercession**

P: God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (*especially John of*

 *Damascus, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your

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

P: You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be

 stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has

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

P: You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and

 serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who

 cannot advocate for themselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused,

 especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Inspire us to provide safety and help to our

 neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and

 care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from

 loved ones. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P:We pray for healing for: Jim and Jan Reinertson,Harry Kwasny, Donald Tienor, 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.

 Lord, 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. Lord,

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

P: We pray for those who are celebrating their birthday this week: Dayton Goehring, John Ergas, Quinten

 Robley, Jomarie Ergas, Carol Nelson, Landen Pinkerton, Elizabeth Robley, Marlene Evenson. Lord in your

 mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Offering and Offertory**  **“We Give Thee but Thine Own”** vs. 1 **#686**

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

**Distribution Hymns #460 #471 #491**

**Prayer after Communion (Please stand)**

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. **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 “People, Look East”** **#248**

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: Peggy Madson Head Usher: Glenn Otto

Greeter: Audrey Sorenson Acolyte: Landen Pinkerton

Ushers: Earl and Barb Griffin Lector: Jenniffer Zutz

Communion Aide: Jenniffer Zutz Sound Operator: Makenna Kaderabek Projection: Stefanie Kaderabek Video/Live Stream: Carter Lenzner

**Serving Us Next Week**

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

**Last Week** – Sunday: 130 Wednesday: 41 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $5,207.00

**Faith’s Opportunities December 4-11**

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

 10:15 A.M. Mixed Choir

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

**Tuesday** 6:00 P.M. Board of Evangelism

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

 6:00 P.M. Card Making in Community Room

 6:15 P.M. Worship

 7:15 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. Christmas Sing a long

9:00 A.M. Worship

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

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

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.

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 this morning 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!