# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

## Gathering

**Welcome and Announcements**

(Please stand)

P: We begin our worship in the name of the

 Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy

 Spirit.

**C: Amen!**

P: Let us confess our sins to God as we prepare

 our hearts for worship. “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”

 (1 John 1:8, 9).

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 loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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.**

**Opening Hymn** **“Open Now Thy Gates of**

 **Beauty”** vs. 1, 3, 4 #533

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.**

(Please be seated)

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

P: The Advent wreath started in Germany as a Lutheran family tradition. Advent wreaths were originally used in the home as a preparation for Christmas, a way for parents to share about the meaning of the Christmas season. It wasn’t until the mid-20th Century that it became a common part of Lutheran worship in America. Today we light the candle of Hope.

**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 Hope**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to yourself. By his coming you give us the hope of eternal life. Shed Christ’s light into our hearts so that we may grow in faith, hope, and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Advent Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emanuel”**

vs. 1, 2 #257

**Baptisms of Baylor John Fochs, Ruby Beth Saunders and Maelyn Melissa Miller**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

 **creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of

 God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Scriptures**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 33:14 – 16

 *This is one of the most important promises of the coming Messiah in Jeremiah. The Messiah will be a descendant of King David, rule with justice, and be a savior for his people.*

 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.” L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**: 1 Thessalonians 3:9 – 13

 *Paul had to leave suddenly due to persecution. He is writing this letter to express his love and concern for this new church and that he desired to return and encourage them in the faith and in their love for one another.*

 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

**The Gospel:** Luke 21:25 – 36

 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

 “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

 Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

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

**Message** **Pastor Grant Applehans**

(Please stand)

**Hymn of Response**

 **“Be Thou My Vision”** #793

P: Let us pray together the prayer of St. Francis.

**C: Lord, Make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hated, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

We lift up the church and its leaders that we continue to proclaim the gospel of God’s love in Jesus Christ to every corner of the earth, so that all may know the hope of eternal life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up God’s creation, the seas and the creatures that live in them, for the lands of the earth, all creatures, vegetation, and the crops of farmers. May we be good stewards of all of God’s gifts. Lord in your mercy, h**ear our prayer.**

We pray for peace among nations, for governments, for all who have authority at any level, that they govern with justice and mercy. We lift up our country and those we have elected to govern. Give us and them your servant heart we pray. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing for Marlene Thomsen, Lynn Burzynski, Ray Rusch, Harry Kwasny, Connie Schisel, Donald Tienor, Lorraine Reindl, Delores Johnson, Ginger Linsmeier, Bob Klessig, Doug Wilson, Ivan Madson, Jim Loritz, Ronald Christianson, Elling Jones (brother of Ron Jones), Merle “Butch” Graf, Wayne Allen Huske. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We pray for Abbey Zutz, Paisley Loucks, Gary Olson and Carter Lenzner who are celebrating their birthday this week. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands we commend all for whom

 we pray, trusting in your mercy and love that

 we know we have through Jesus Christ our

 Lord.

**C: Amen!**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Hymn “Go My Children With My**

 **Blessing”** #543

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**

Greeters: Don and Cheryl Domrath

Head Usher: Scott Reinerston

Ushers: Jim Ahrens and Keith Lippert

Acolyte: Lucas Spindler

Lector: Stefanie Kaderabek

Sound Operator: Gage Spindler and Loren Ulness

Projection: Makenna Kaderabek

Video/Live Stream: Hunter Spindler/Mike Lenzner

Song Leader: Terry Huske

**Serving Us Next Week**

Greeter: Mitchell Zutz

Head Usher: Glenn Otto

Ushers: Steve and Ginny Schwoerer

Acolyte: Lucas Spindler

Lector and Communion Aide: Brian Ulness

Video & Live Stream: Hunter Spindler& Carter Lenzner

Projection: Gage Spindler and Erin Lenzner

Sound Operator: Addison Spindler

**Last Week** – Sunday: 95 Video: 75

Thanksgiving: 45

Offerings to the Lord’s work: $4,735.00

**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.

**This morning, we welcome three new members into God’s kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism.**

 Baylor John Fochs was born June 2 to Kade and Natalie and his baptismal sponsors are Karlee Wech & Brett Dvorachek and Caleb & Cheyenne Saunders. Grandparents are Shelly & Rick Smallish, Kyle & Becky Fochs, Eric & Belinda Schuh. Great grandparents are Ron & Nancy Oestreich, Kathy Stiefvater, Richard & Suzanne Fochs.

 Ruby Beth Saunders was born September 21 to Caleb and Cheyenne and her baptismal sponsors are Hunter Popp & Abigail Hantke. Grandparents are Ken & Beth Popp and Jon & Cheryl Saunders. Great grandparents are Gerald & Dianna Popp, the late Ralph & Melissa Evenson, Charlie & Christine Saunders and Norbert & Catherine Muehlbauer.

 Maelyn Melissa Miller was born August 3 to Zachary and Michiela and her baptismal sponsors are Shawnae & Marcus Galien and Elise Miller & Jordan Steckler. Grandparents are Steve & Ginny Schwoerer and Barry & Eileen Miller. Great grandparents are Lyle & Luann Schwoerer, the late Ralph & Melissa Evenson, Shirley & Jack Pagel and Laurian Miller.

 We rejoice at Baylor’s, Ruby’s and Maelyn’s rebirth through water and the Word!

Worship ministry opportunities are available for Christmas Eve at 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. and for Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. Please take a look at the list located at the Information Desk and signup. Thank you.

**Faith’s Opportunities Nov. 28-Dec. 5**

**Sunday** 10:00 A.M. Sunday School

 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour

**Monday** 9:00 A.M. Remove quilts from pews

 6:00 P.M. Tel. Worship/Jazzercise

**Wednesday** 6:00 P.M. Card Club

 6:15 P.M. Worship

 7:15 P.M. Confirmation

**Thursday** 6:00 P.M. Jazzercise

**Sunday** 8:00 A.M. Bds. Christian Ed/Youth

 8:50 A.M. Carol sing a-long

 9:00 A.M. Worship

 10:00 A.M. Sunday School & Fellowship Hour

![C:\Users\Christine\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\W2RNEJ1V\poinsettia-1024[1].jpg]()Poinsettia Orders will be taken December 1-12. Plants are red in color and are $10.00 a plant. Please see the table in the Gathering Space to place your order.

![C:\Users\Christine\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\NQNN1MJM\26531-1-christmas-ornaments-transparent-image[1].png]()Join us Saturday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. for decorating the church for Christmas.

![C:\Users\Christine\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\NQNN1MJM\23651971910_16b122a265[1].jpg]()**Walk Through Bethlehem –**

**Cast Members Needed**

 Be part of an amazing experience as we guide family and friends

through the streets of old Bethlehem!

Excitement is in the air - a child has been born!  Sign up to be an Innkeeper, Guide, Jewelry Seller, Basket Weaver or a variety of other people that are buzzing at the news of Jesus' birth.  Speaking and non-speaking roles are available.

  The signup sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the church office.  All ages are encouraged to participate at one or all of the dates:  December 15, 18 and 19.  Hope to see you there!

![C:\Users\Christine\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\EMY800IC\green-and-orange-dinosaur-plush-toy-63637[1].jpg]()This year In as Much Sunday will be Sunday, December 12th. We are asking children, Sunday school students and confirmation students to bring in an unwrapped present for a child in need. During the service, we will have everyone bring the presents up to the altar area. We ask each student to think of something he/she would like to receive for Christmas, and then bring that item for a child in need. Board games, books, toys, and gift cards are just some ideas. Please consider participating in this annual event. All donations will be given to a local charity.