

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 – 11:00am

Greetings and Welcome

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Gathering Hymn – “Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW 264

1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: **Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.

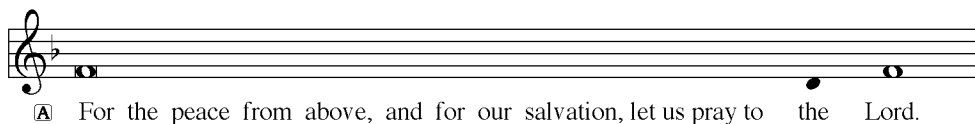
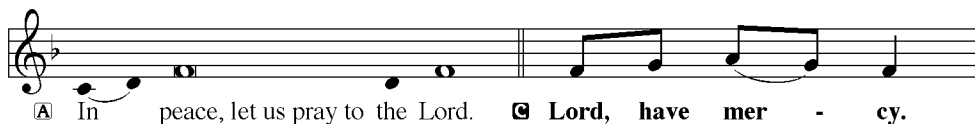
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

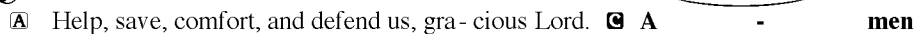
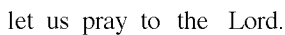
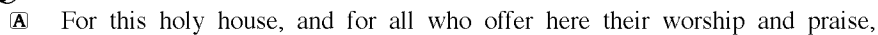
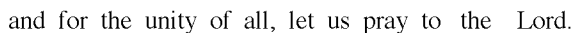
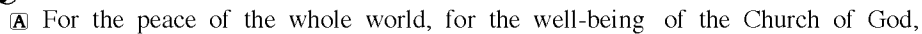
4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

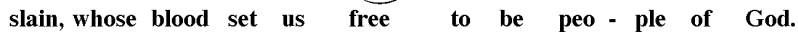
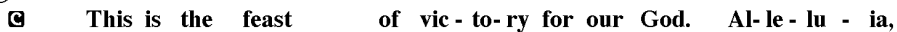
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

**Kyrie*





**Hymn of Praise*




 This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **II** Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.


This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

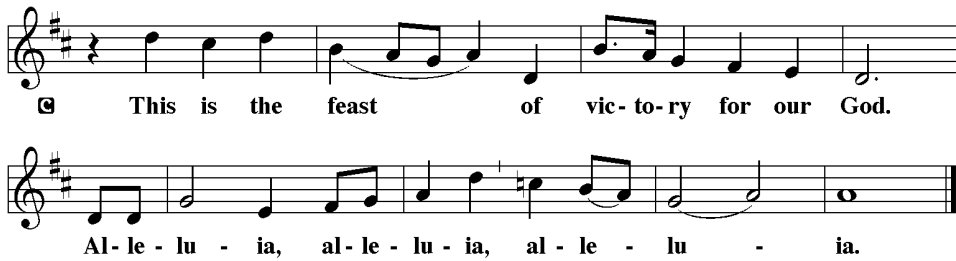
join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **III** For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



**Prayer of the Day*



P: Let us pray.

God of fiery flames,

Even the most raging fire could not destroy your servants when they called upon you in faith. Give us faith to withstand anything that rages to deter us from following you.

Give us hope to trust that you are with us, even in the fire.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise – “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254

- 1 **Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
- 2 **Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

WORD

Reading: Daniel 3:1-30

Reader: Patty Nelson

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods, and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in, so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you should fall down and worship the statue that I have made. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary ²⁰and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²²Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” ²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not scorched, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king’s command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.” ³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

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

**Gospel Acclamation*



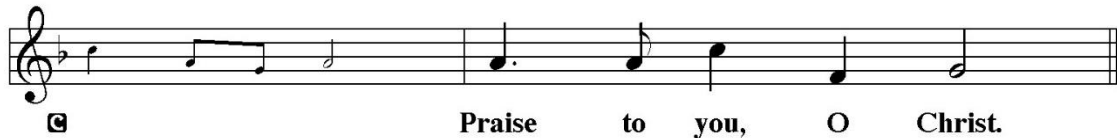
**Gospel Reading: John 18:36-37*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 18th chapter.



³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

P: The gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego"

Hymn of the Day – “Son of God, Eternal Savior” ELW 655

- 1 **Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrong, and help our need.**
- 2 **As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.**
- 3 **Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, stem our selfish greed of gain.**
- 4 **Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257

Sandi Watts, organ

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are
communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

**The Offertory*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

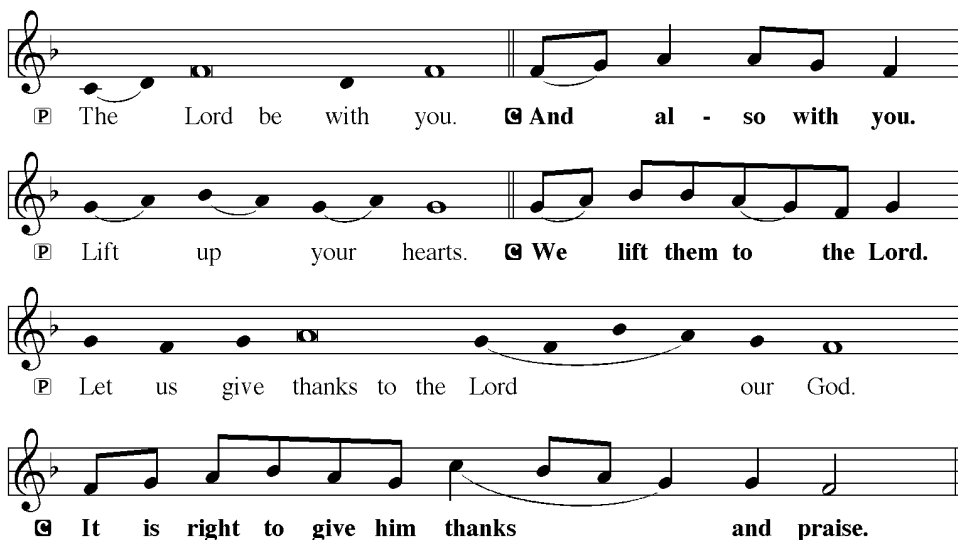
**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*



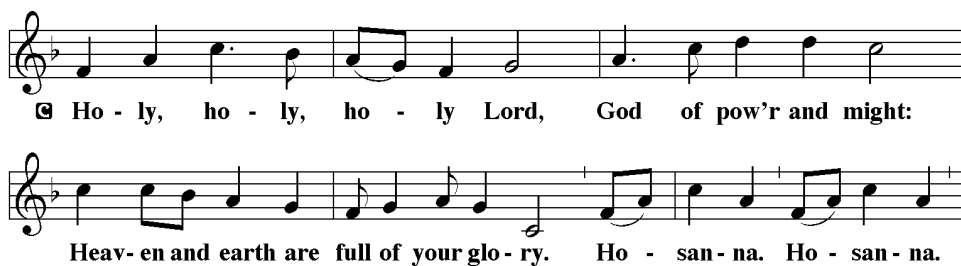
♩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

♩ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

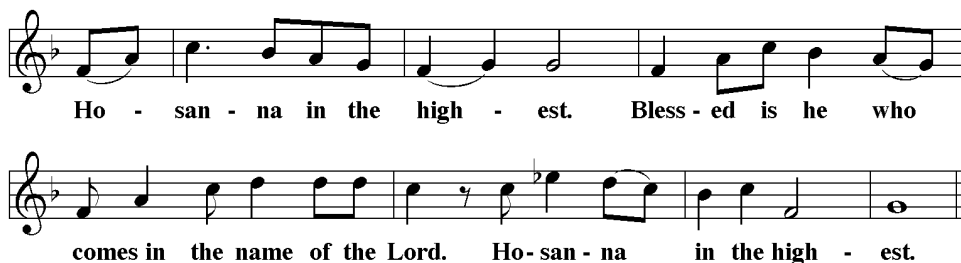
☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.



**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

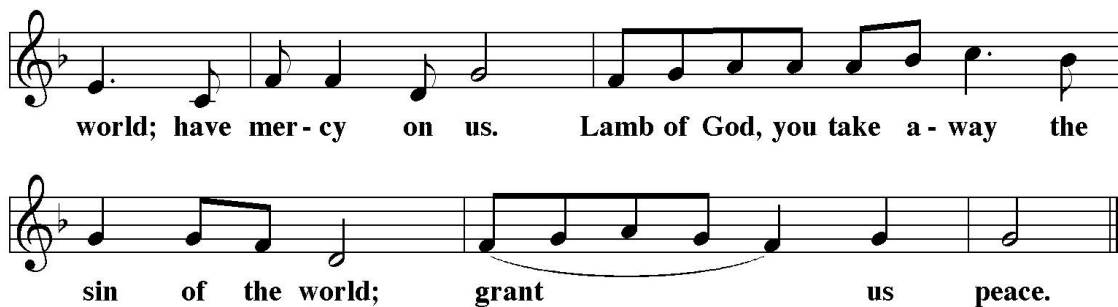
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Agnus Dei*



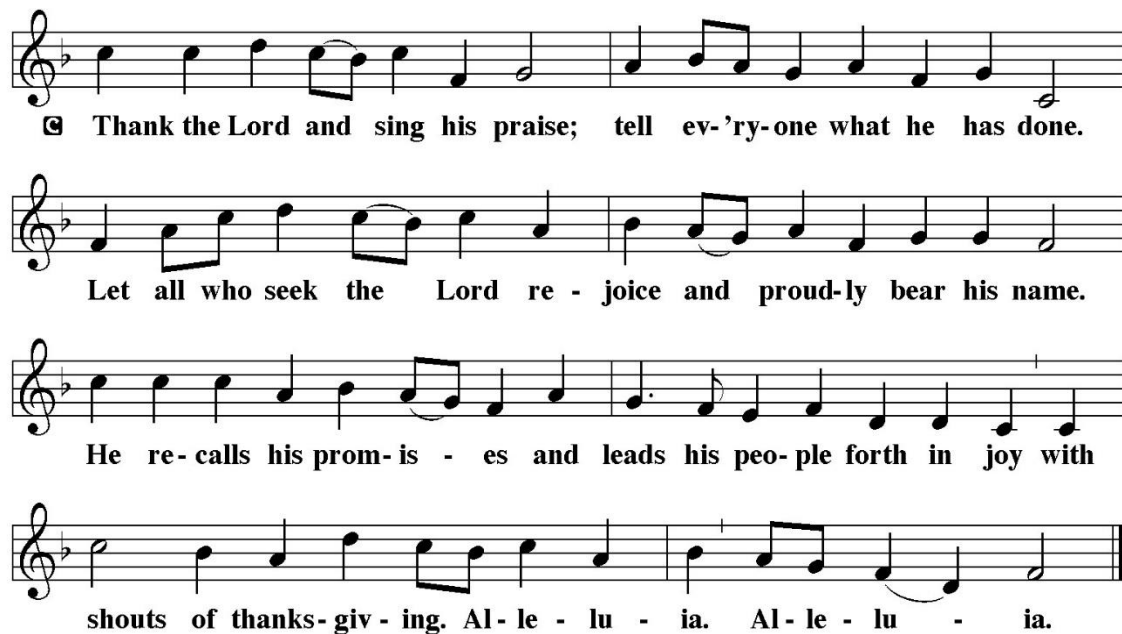


Communion Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation” (ELW 796)

Instrumental

**Post-Communion Canticle*



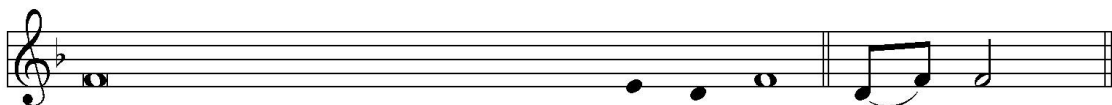
**Sending Prayer*

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

**Benediction*



☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

☐ A - men

**Sending Hymn* – “Hark the Glad Sound” ELW 239

- 1 **Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**
- 2 **He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.**
- 3 **He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.**
- 4 **Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeter: Carol Freesen

Reader: Patty Nelson

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Financial Assistants: Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Marilyn Dichsen

Greg Kimler

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson



Monica Proefrock

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 7, 9:30am: Worship with Children's Christmas Program

11:00am: Traditional Worship

Wednesday, December 10, 11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch in Great Room

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert – Matthew Nall, piano

Thursday, December 11, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Sunday, December 14, 9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

Wednesday, December 17, 10:00am Discipleship Group

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch in Great Room

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert – Tyler Carpenter
& Emma Jensen on percussion

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock -- (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion. Our 3-7 year olds joined several of the older youth to share the story of Jesus' birth through narration, costumes, and songs this morning at 9:30.

Throughout the rest of December, our crafts and activities will reflect the Christmas season, focusing on the message of hope we have in Jesus.

We are always grateful for our wonderful adult and "big kid" helpers. If you feel called to help with Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

Post-Service Discussions after Worship – next Sunday

Grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concert

We have a great lineup for this year's Advent Allegro concert series.

December 10: Matthew Nall on piano

December 17: Tyler Carpenter & Emma Jensen on percussion

The brief concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and begin at 12:15pm. Lunch of soup, chips, fruit, and dessert will be served beginning at 11:30am and after the concert for \$5. **We could use some help with serving the meal and providing cookies and soup.** If you would like to pitch in, contact the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.** Thank You!

Blessing Blitz: Faith in Action -- *A joyful, all-ages adventure in giving — where carts become blessings and faith takes action.*

Immediately following our **December 14th service**, we invite children, families, and all who want to share in the spirit of giving to gather in the narthex for **Blessing Blitz: Faith**

in Action. Participants will be divided into teams and caravan together to our local Walmart. Each team will receive a list of items to find in a fast-paced "shopping scavenger hunt." Once the lists are complete, teams will regroup at the designated checkout area.

We are collecting special cash offerings to fund this mission. The items purchased will directly support three local charities:

Jacksonville Food Center

The Hobby Horse House Hygiene Closet

The Foster Care Closet

After the shopping trip, all team shoppers are invited to the **Faith Great Room** for a simple luncheon with hot cocoa — a warm way to celebrate fellowship and the joy of giving together. This event is designed to be fun for kids, engaging for adults, and meaningful for everyone. Together, we'll be faith in action, mercy in motion, and a blessing blitz to our neighbors in this season of Advent.

Discipleship Group

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at **10:00am on Wednesday, December 17**, in the Faith Library as we meet for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. We have a lot of fun with lively discussions. Let's grow together in compassion, connection, and purpose.

Poinsettias

To purchase a poinsettia to help decorate the church for Christmas, please sign up at the counter by the Coffee Sales and drop your check (or cash) into the decorated box; the cost is **\$10.00**. Please make your check out to Faith Lutheran Church, with a notation for *Poinsettia*, or call or email the church (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) **by December 15** and send your check to the church (1385 W. Walnut St., Jacksonville, IL 62650). Please indicate if the poinsettia is in honor or memory of someone special.

Jacksonville Area Community Food Center

There is always a need for food donations at the Food Center. Some ideas: canned pasta and meat (Chef Boyardee), canned chicken or tuna, cereal, canned soups, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, Ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, juice, canned fruit, Gatorade, and Jello or pudding cups. Please consider donating to the Food Center – you can put your donations in the cloth bins in the Mission and Ministry Center (coat closet). Donations of money are also greatly appreciated – those can be placed in the offering plates, if they are clearly marked for the Food Center.