

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Children's Christmas Program

"Joy to the World"

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel," arr. Galbraith

GATHERING

**Call to Worship*

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

C: Amen.

**Confession*

P: Almighty God, who loves the world, who took on flesh to walk the world with us: fill us with your Holy Spirit, cleansing our hearts, that we too would love... love you and love our neighbors around the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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 tender mercy of our God, Jesus Christ was born, true God and true man. He lived a life among us, among sin. He confronted the brokenness of the world, and he loved. He loved the woman caught in adultery. He loved the leper, unclean and alone. He loved Zaccaeus who took advantage of others through an unjust system. He loved a mother, weeping at the loss of her son. And he loves you. He loves you and he loves

the world, all the sinful, unclean, unjust, broken people of the world, and God loved the world so much that 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.

Children's Sermon

Lighting of the Advent Wreath with the children

Gathering Song – “Come thou Fount, Come Thou King”

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fill my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy good-ness prove.**

**I was lost in utter darkness 'til you came and rescued me.
I was bound by all my sin when your love came and set me free.
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home.
Now your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.**

Refrain:

**Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.
Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.**

**O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.**

Refrain:

**Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.
Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.**

**Greeting*

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.

**Prayer of the Day*

Hymn of Praise: “While We Are Waiting, Come”

- 1. While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**
- 2. With pow’r and glory, come; With pow’r and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**
- 3. Come, Savior, quickly come; Come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Reading – John 3:16-17

Reader: Louis Dichsen

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

God loves you and God loves me, but John 3:16 reminds us that God loves the entire world. From Jacksonville, around the globe, to all places, to all people, to Uganda where we have been working with children through HUGS, and to places we’ve never seen. This is the story of God loving the world so much that he gave us his only son, Jesus, so that all the world might be saved through him.

Songs during the program

“Away in a Manger” ELW 277

*Solo: Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

**2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

“Silent Night” ELW 281

*Solo: Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

**2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

*Remember, God gave his son because God loved the world! Not just you and me, but
everyone! Jesus is God's greatest gift to the world, better than any gift under the
Christmas tree. Jesus is a gift for everyone, every child and every adult. Jesus is God's
gift of forgiveness, God's gift of new life, and God's gift of joy. Not just joy for you and
me, but Joy to the world!*

“Joy to the World” ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

****A Christmas Creed***

- I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.
I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings
life to people all over the world.**
- I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess
that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.**
- I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never
understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from
people of hungry hearts.**
- I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.**
- I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in
Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at people and made them see
what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and
lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.**
- I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness
and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts
grown cold.**
- I believe in God who loves unconditionally; Jesus, the Son, born in Bethlehem this
night, for me and for the world; and the Holy Spirit, who makes our hearts its
home.**

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“Light of the World,” arr. Stacey
Jean Welch, piano

*—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—*

**Offertory*

“Holy Child Within the Manger”

- 1. Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to ev’ry stranger, come as hope for ev’ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.**
- 3. Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
so we see in ev’ry stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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.

Communion Songs

“A Communion Hymn for Christmas”

- 1. Gathered round Your table anxious to receive,
Viewing Bethlehem's stable we rejoice and grieve;
Joy to see You lying in Your manger bed,
Weep to see you dying in our sinful stead.**
- 2. Prince of Glory, gracing Heav'n ere time began,
Now for us embracing death as Son of Man;
By Your birth so lowly, by Your love so true,
By Your cross most holy, Lord, we worship You!**
- 3. Bethlehem's Incarnation, Calvary's bitter cross,
Wrought for us salvation by Your pain and loss;
Now we fall before You in this holy place,
Prostrate we adore You, for Your gift of grace.**
- 4. With profoundest wonder we Your body take--
Laid in manger yonder, broken for our sake;
Hushed in adoration we approach the cup--
Bethlehem's pure oblation freely offered up.**

**5. Christmas Babe so tender, Lamb who bore our blame,
How shall sinners render praises due Your name?
Do Your own good pleasure in the lives we bring;
In Your ransomed treasure reign forever King! Amen.**

“Emmanuel”

*Refrain: Come, come, Emmanuel! Son of God, appear. Heaven and earth, rejoice!
Salvation is drawing near. Salvation is drawing near.*

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

**3. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem; from ev'ry foe deliver them,
That trust your mighty pow'r to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

**4. O Come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of humankind;
Make all our sad divisions cease, And be for us the King of Peace. Refrain**

**(Coda) Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: 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.
C: Amen.

**Sending Song – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” ELW 836*

- 1 **Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 **All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**
- 3 **Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Barb Davenport

Greeter: Kay Woodworth

Reader: Louis Dichsen

Usher: Pat Glyshaw

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Host: Martha Krohe

Singers:

Maddie Crossin

Benen Dichsen

Kelly Hartz

Terri Kimler

Adam Krohe

Kris Roth

Cole Street

Melissa Street



Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson
Ken Devlin

Marilyn Dichsen
Kelly Hartz

Greg Kimler
Patty Nelson

Monica Proefrock
Kay Schnitker
Kelly Street

Song Credits

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“Emmanuel,” by Janis Ian & Kye Fleming, © 1987 MCA Music Publishing. CCLI#973583

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. During worship today, our 3-7 year olds will join several of the older youth to share the story of Jesus' birth through narration, costumes, and songs.

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

(continued)

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.