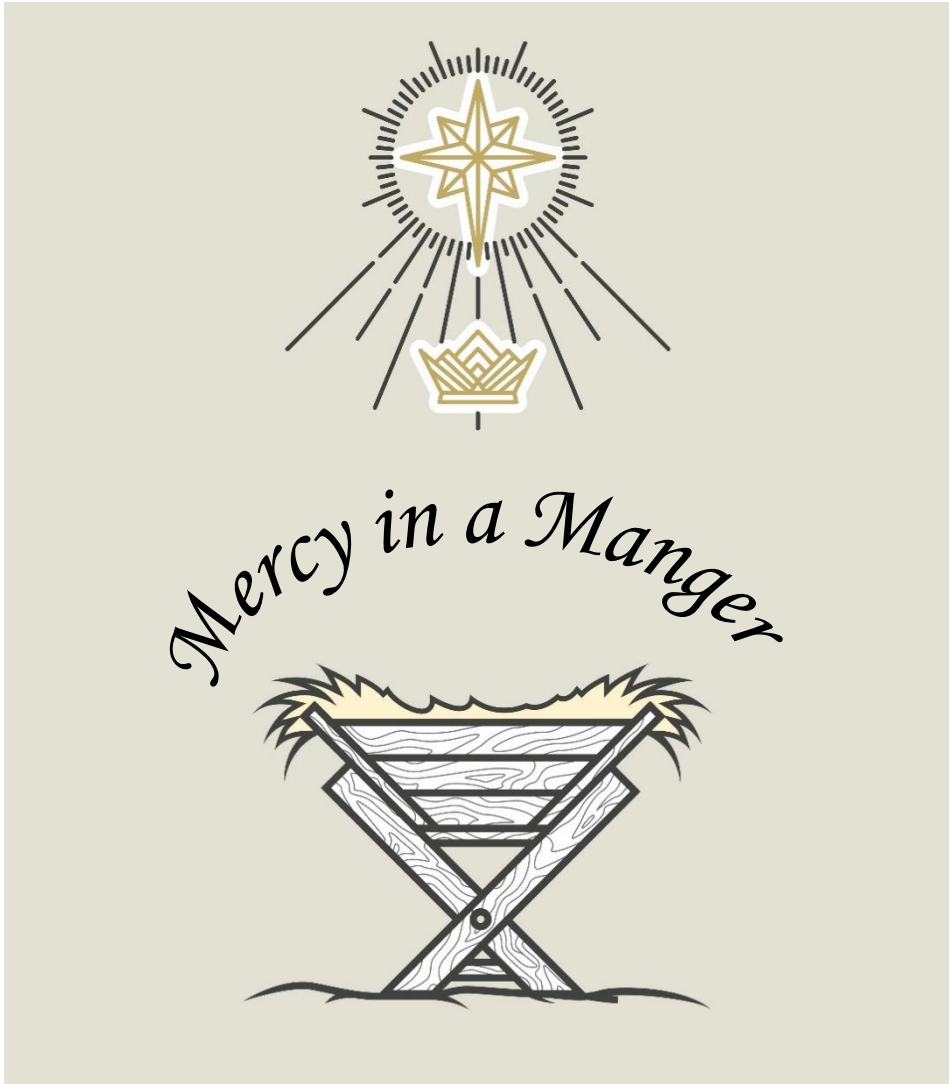


CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 2025



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE, IL

Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship at Faith Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you have come to celebrate the good news of great joy for all in Jesus Christ. Our mission is “to be a Christ-centered community that shares the love and joy of Jesus with one another and our neighbors.” We pray God’s grace will touch you through your time with us. Here are a few things to help make your worship with us comfortable and meaningful.

- You will see that we love **music**! Our music is a gift we give to God, and we invite you to sing joyfully together. All of the lyrics are printed in this bulletin and will be projected on the screens. Some hymns are selected from the red hymnal in your pew and are indicated with “ELW” and hymn number. You may find the full score there if you would like to read the notes and sing harmony.
- In the sacrament of **Holy Communion**, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine with gifts of love, forgiveness of sins, and new life. We celebrate an open table and welcome all who share in this belief. An usher will invite your row forward. After you receive the bread, you may select a prefilled cup of red wine or white grape juice. Place your empty cup in the separate tray.
- During our stewardship time, we will be passing offering plates as an invitation to partner in the spiritual practice of stewardship. We welcome your financial offerings and also invite you to fill out the welcome card in your pew, share a prayer request, and place it in the offering plate.
- You were given a **candle** as you entered the sanctuary to be lit for our carol sing. Remember, in order to prevent burns, never tip a lit candle.
- Last but not least, **restrooms** are located across the gathering area before the ramp.

Thank you for worshiping with us tonight. We pray that the Holy Spirit stirs within you as we celebrate God's great gift of mercy in a manger. Please join us for worship soon.

Christmas Morning Worship

December 25, 9:30 a.m.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

December 28, 9:30 a.m.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

“Faith’s Little Flock” for young children during a portion of the service
and fellowship and Bible study afterwards

*For more information about ministry at Faith, you may take one of our newsletters from the pew,
visit us online, ask one of our members, or schedule a time to visit with Pastor Adam.*

CHRISTMAS EVE 2025

WELCOME

Gathering

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: Terri Kimler

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***PROCESSIONAL SONG** – “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” ELW 275, vv. 1-2 (organ)

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

***BIDDING PRAYER FOR CHRISTMASTIDE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Beloved in Christ, this Christmastide, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the true story of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would bring joy to Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;

For peace upon the earth he came to save;

For love and unity within the one Church he built;

For goodwill among all peoples.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who don't know the Lord Jesus or have grieved God's heart of love.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Lastly, we remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. We pray that you would allow us to walk here on earth in the light of Jesus' presence, and in the last day wake to the brightness of your glory – in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Word

READING – Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Barb Davenport

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were

there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

R: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON – *Mercy in a Manger*

SPECIAL MUSIC – “*Mercy In A Manger,*” by Evan Craft
Duet

***CHRISTMAS CONFESSION OF FAITH**

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 persons 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 persons 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.

STEWARDSHIP – “Silent Night,” arr. Lorie Line

Martha Krohe & Sandi Watts, Flute and Organ

Please fill out a Welcome Card in your pew, sharing a prayer request if you like.

*As we pass the offering plates, we will collect worship cards and offerings,
celebrating our partnership in ministry.*

Meal

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION -- to the tune of Cradle Song**

***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 HYMNS

“What Feast of Love” ELW 487 *(piano)*

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?

What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what holy drink from heaven?

What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

“The First Noel” ELW 300 *(organ)*

- 1 **The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 **They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***
- 3 **And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

- 4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We Celebrate Jesus... Mercy in a Manger

CAROL SING BY CANDLELIGHT

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW 283, vv. 1 & 2 (*organ*)

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

“Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW 289 (*organ*)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

“What Child Is This?” ELW 296, vv. 1 & 2 (*organ*)

- 1 **What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 2 **Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

“Silent Night”/“Night of Silence” ELW 281 (*piano*)

Choral Group: Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth, Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Choral Group: Voice in the distance, call in the night
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, Rumors of a dawn so embracing
Breathless love awaits darkened souls, Soon will we know of the morning.

**All: 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.**

**All: 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.**

**All:
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.**

Choral Group:
Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings
from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

***BENEDICTION**

P: “How beautiful are the feet of the messenger who announces peace and brings good news” (Isaiah 52:7).

C: We are messengers of this good news, sent to share it with the world.

P: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:4-5).

C: Let us go forth in joy... good news and great joy!

Sending

***SENDING SONG**

“Joy to the World” ELW 267 *(organ)*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room 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, ...
- 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, ...

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, share the good news,

C: Thanks be to God!



***POSTLUDE**

Song Credits:

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“Night of Silence,” from **Hymnal Supplement**, © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL. Used by permission.

Pastor:	Adam Dichsen
Music Director:	Jean Welch
Organist:	Sandi Watts
Pianist:	Jean Welch
Guitarists:	Marilyn Dichsen & Bishop Emeritus John Roth
Acolytes:	Maddie & Nola Crossin
Crucifer:	Louis Dichsen
Readers:	Barb Davenport & Terri Kimler
Chancel Committee:	Martha Krohe
Communion Assistant:	Barb Davenport
Ushers:	Judy Dillard, Vicki Robson, & Paul Scheerer

Poinsettias

The Poinsettias were given by members and friends of Faith in celebration of the lives of those who were or are special to them.

Jan Boes	In memory of cousin, James Boes
Janet Chipman	In memory of Charles & Wilma Williams
Janet Chipman	In memory of Dixie Williams
Diane & John Craig	In memory of Zeke Beranek
Helen Cumby	In memory of William Cumby
The Dichsen Family	In gratitude for our Faith Family
The Dichsen Family	Continued peace and hope for Marilyn's healing
Angie & Mike Fenner	In memory of our loved ones
Carol Freesen	In Celebration of Jesus' birth
John & Kelly Hartz	In memory of Lynn Stroheker
Kim & Pat Heise	
Celeste Hill	In Honor of Jesus' birth
Amy Stevens-Kaufmann	In Celebration of Jesus' birth
Carol Kilver	In memory of Robert Clark
Carol Kilver	In memory of Chrissy Clark Lewis
Greg & Terri Kimler	In memory of parents
Larry & Mary Kuster	In memory of our parents Ferne, Rosemary, & Donald
Curry May	In memory of Sue May
Kim Nelson	In memory of all our loved ones

Gail & Kay Patterson	In memory of Robert E. Patterson
Vicki Robson	In memory of loved ones
Susan Roegge	In memory of Jerry & Kris Roegge
Susan Roegge	In Celebration of the birth of Jesus
The Roth-Snodgrass Family	In memory of Bob & Joy Ferber, & Mary & Samuel Roth
Theresa Savoie	In memory of John & Louise Savoie
Theresa Savoie	In memory of Mary Carolyn Savoie
Mary & Paul Scheerer	In memory of our parents Anna May & Lawrence Flynn, & Carl Scheerer
Gayla Smith	In memory of my mother
Eleanor Stevens	In celebration of Jesus' birth
Kathy & Robert Trenter	
Sharon Zuiderveld	In memory of Rudy Zuiderveld

*In response to God's grace **flowing** through Christ,
we **grow** in faith and **show** Christ's love.*



Come and join us in the mission we share!

- Vibrant worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30, both in person and online.
- Children's Sunday school during a portion of worship.
- Bible Study after worship.
- Confirmation and youth group that meets twice each month.
- Lively music program that includes Faith Singers, and a number of small ensembles.
- Active outreach through Doorbell Dinners, Jacksonville Food Center, Salvation Army, partnering with local churches, and working together to "Share the Light."
- HUGS ministry in Uganda (Hearts United in God's Service).
- GiFT (Gather in Faith Together) events such as our "Extra Christmas Cheer" celebration, Dec. 27, 4-6pm for cookie decorating, hot cocoa bar, pizza, and a movie.
- Bible Study groups after worship for youth and adults.
- Weekly Bible Study "Read the Bible in One Year."
- Men's Breakfast 1st Saturday of the month at 9:00am.
- And more!

To learn more, contact the church office at 217-245-8919, by email at faithlutheran62650@frontier.com, online at www.FaithLutheranJacksonville.com, and on Facebook and YouTube.