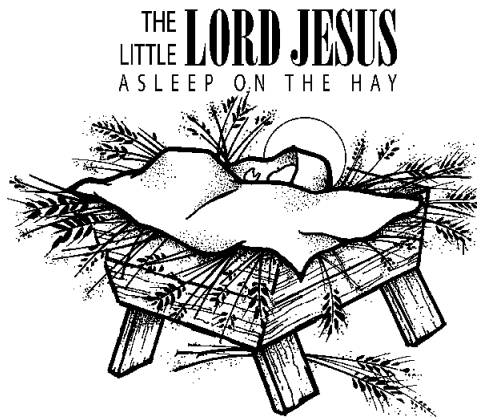


Christmas Day Service



December 25, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
1385 W. Walnut Street
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1385 W. Walnut Street Jacksonville, IL 62650

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2025

Adam Dichsen, *Pastor*

Jean Welch, *Music Director*

Sam Roth, *Digital Ministry Coordinator*

Sharon Zuiderveld, *Congregational Care Coord.*

Kris Roth, *Parish Secretary*

245-8919 / www.faithlutheranjacksonville.com / email: faithlutheran62650@frontier.com

Thank you for joining us for worship today as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Word who took on flesh to be with us. This Word is Jesus, the savior of the world who gave his life on the cross and rose from the grave for forgiveness and salvation... God's good news of great joy for all.

We celebrate this today in the sacrament of Holy Communion. As Lutherans of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) we believe that Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, is present in and with the bread and wine. Here a person receives forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith, and the certain hope of resurrected life with God. We welcome all who share this belief to receive the sacrament and these gifts of God's grace. At the appropriate time, come forward to receive the bread and select a prefilled cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty cup in the separate tray for empty cups. If you prefer not to commune, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

We welcome Bishop Emeritus John Roth this morning

Prelude by Maria Snodgrass: "Angels We Have Heard on High," by Chris Rice

Welcome

***Opening Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

ELW 289

- 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*

***Confession and Absolution**

P: When we come to God with honest repentance, God forgives us.
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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

***Creed**

P: Forgiven by God and living together in trust and hope, we declare our faith.
(Martin Luther's explanation to the second article of the Apostles' Creed)

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

**At great cost he has saved and redeemed me,
a lost and condemned person.**

**He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil,
not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious
blood and his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he has done that I may be his own,
live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting
righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.**

This is most certainly true.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

***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.

Anthem: “Like a Rose in Winter,” by Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Sung by Lily Snodgrass

Guitarist: Drew Snodgrass

Reading: Psalm 98

Reader: Barb Davenport

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

***Gospel:** Luke 2:8-14

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!’

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

Sermon: “The Word of the Angels”

- 1 **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

- Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**
- 2 **Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***
 - 3 **Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

***Prayers**

***Preface** (melody: "O Come, All Ye Faithful")

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with you, God's servant.

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

C: With hearts uplifted

Thanks and praise we render.

With joy we come before God,

In gratefulness implore God,

In bondless adoration,

Evermore.

P: Thanks and praise to you, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: (melody: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord!
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav’n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of your name.
Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest the Lord who now draws nigh
In the name of God the king,
Hallelujahs glad we sing.
Hail, hosanna! Praises due
Be forever, Lord, to you!**

***Words of Institution** (melody: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

P: Lord Jesus Christ did on that night, The night he was betrayed,
Take bread and wine into his hands And say to all the same:
“Take, eat, this is my body giv’n; take drink, my blood sets you free.
I give them to you from this day forth, A feast in remembrance of me.”

***Lord’s Prayer** (melody: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

**C: Our Father, Lord on heav’n’s high throne,
Most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done.
On earth, in heav’n, the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto you
In grateful love we bow;
And yours the pow’r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.
The glory yours; your praise be sung
By all, again and again,
In ev’ry land, by ev’ry tongue Forevermore. Amen.**

Hymn during distribution:

–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–

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW 283

- 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***
- 3 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***
- 4 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

*After distribution

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **C: Amen**

(melody: “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”)

**C: Lord, let your servant go in peace.
Your word has been fulfilled.
Our eyes have seen the saving work
Which for the world you willed,
The glory of your people now, As light for all revealed.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

***Benediction** (melody: “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”)

P: The Lord bless and keep you,
Grant you grace and mercy
The Lord look upon you with favor
And give you peace.

C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

**The Savior close beside us,
The Father’s love to guard us,
The Spirit’s pow’r to guide us
Evermore!**

***Sending Hymn:** “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.

Postlude

The poinsettias in the sanctuary were provided
by members and friends of Faith

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Barb Davenport

Reader: Barb Davenport

Ushers: Angie & Mike Fenner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Musician: Sandi Watts

Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe



Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Marilyn Dichsen

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 28, 9:30am: Service of Lessons and Carols

Thursday, January 1 – **Happy New Year**

Saturday, January 3: 8:00am Cooking for
9:00am Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 4, 9:30am: Contemporary Service
11:00am: Traditional Service

News Updates

Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 28 at 9:30 a.m.

This service will be packed with good news and great joy as we hear the story of the Word made flesh from Old Testament and New and sing the story with some of our Christmas favorites.

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!*

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2025, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 11**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 25, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 18.

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with the men as we share our faith and enjoy good food on **Saturday, January 3!** At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

First Sunday Schedule January 4

We continue to offer two worship services on the first Sunday of each month. Contemporary at 9:30am and Traditional at 11:00am.

Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany

As we near the 12th day of Christmas, we join the three Magi in celebrating Jesus as a light to all nations. Each of our two services will be filled with light, and we are sent out to shine the Light of the World to others.

Contribution Envelopes for 2026 are available in the gathering area to start using in January. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please talk to Kris Roth, Barb Davenport, or Pam Devlin.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, starting after January 1, 2026. We will gather weekly at Faith to discuss our insights and reflections. We'll be utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. Dates and time are to be determined. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area.

Doorbell Dinners

Our next time to deliver is **January 12-16**. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

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We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$9.00** regular & decaf; **\$3.00** tea). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Post-Service Discussions after Worship resume in January

In January, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Bible Boot Camp & Confirmation

Stay tuned for a schedule for 2026!

Pillars Giving Tree

Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry. The Giving Tree in the gathering area is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box.

Your generosity will bring joy and hope to these precious children, reminding them that they are loved and valued. Thank you for helping make this Christmas a special one for those in need. For questions or more details, please contact Melissa Street, Kevin Krohe, or Patty Nelson. Thank you for being a blessing this holiday season!