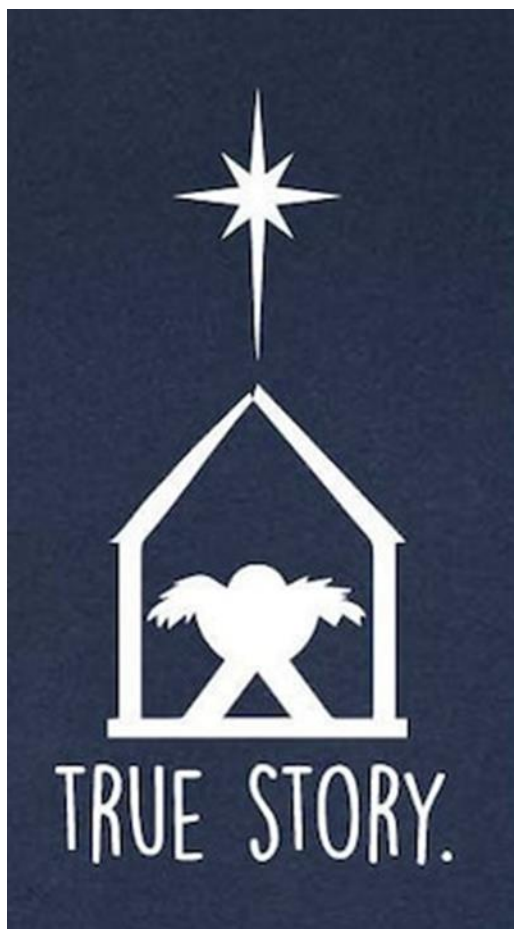


CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
2023



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 “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. Empty cups can be placed in the separate empty tray. If you would like to learn more about our beliefs and practices, please schedule a time to talk with Pastor Adam.
- While we will not be passing offering plates, we welcome your financial support and partnership in our ministry. **Offering boxes** are located in the gathering area.
- You were given a **candle** as you entered the sanctuary. We will light these at the conclusion of the service for our carol sing. Remember, in order to prevent burns, never tip a lit candle. If you did not receive a candle, please notify an usher.
- Last but not least, **restrooms** are located across the gathering area before the ramp.

Thank you for worshipping with us tonight. We pray that the Holy Spirit stirs within you as we share in God’s true story of love for us all in Jesus, the Christ Child. Please join us again for worship soon.

Christmas Morning Worship

December 25, 9:30 a.m.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

December 31, 9:30 a.m.

Sundays

9:30 a.m. with Sunday School afterwards

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

POEM – “He Came”

WELCOME

***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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*PROCESSIONAL SONG – “Holy Child Within the Manger”

(piano)

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.
2. Once again we tell the story – how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev'ry land and race.

True Story

FIRST READING – Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: Barb Davenport

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

Psalm 96

Reader: Adam Krohe

- ¹O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ²Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- ⁴For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

***GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-20**

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.

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

“Holy Child Within the Manger”

(piano)

**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.**

SERMON – “True Story”

- 1 **Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

- 2 **Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

- 3 **Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

***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 – “Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah),” arr. Galbraith
Sung by the Faith Singers

While we will not be passing offering plates, we welcome your financial support and partnership in our ministry. Offering boxes are located in the gathering area.

—Please take a moment to sign into the welcome folder in your pew—

Truly Present

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*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 *(organ)*

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!

“A Communion Hymn for Christmas

(piano)

1. Gathered round Your table on this holy eve,
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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

True Light

CAROL SING

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW 279, vv. 1, 2, & 4 (*organ*)

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW 270, vv. 1 & 2 (*organ*)

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*

“Away in a Manger” ELW 277 (*piano*)

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

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
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.

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.

“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*

“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 1:5).

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

True Joy

***SENDING SONG**

"Joy to the World" ELW 267, vv. 1, 2, & 4 (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, ...
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**

Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Jean Welch
Guitarists: Marilyn Dichsen & Bishop Emeritus John Roth
Violinist: Taylor Justison
Drummer: John Demien
Acolyte: Louis Dichsen
Crucifer: Adam Krohe
Readers: Barb Davenport, Karen Dean, & Adam Krohe
Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe
Communion Assistant: Barb Davenport
Ushers: Paul Scheerer & Sarah Sexton

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Song Credits:

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

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.

The Dichsen family	In Thanksgiving for our Faith Family
The Dichsen family	In memory of Don & Judy Dichsen
Judy Dillard	In memory of Chuck Dillard & Patsy Miller
Amy Stevens-Kaufmann	In memory of Dr. Tom Stevens
Lillian Korous	In honor of my family
Kevin & Martha Krohe	In honor of our Lord and Savior's birth
Curry May	In memory of Sue May
Shelley McDaniel	In memory of William McElhaney
Trish Phelps	
Vicki Robson	In memory of David & Kelly Robson
Vicki Robson	In memory of Alvin & Dolores Reichert
The Roth-Snodgrass Family	In memory of Bob & Joy Ferber, & Samuel Roth
Theresa Savoie	In memory of John & Louise Savoie
Theresa Savoie	In memory of Mary Carolyn
Mary & Paul Scheerer	In memory of Anna May Flynn, Lawrence Flynn, & Carl Scheerer
Gayla Smith	In memory of Marilyn Smith
Carol Squibb	In celebration of Martha Sturgeon's Christmas Day birthday
Sandi Watts	In memory of Herb Leenerts
John Williams	In memory of Dixie Williams
John Williams	In memory of Wilma Williams
Kay & Sharon Woodworth	In memory of Larry Noble
Sharon Zuiderveld	In memory of Rudy Zuiderveld

Flows. Grows. Shows



*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.
- Sunday school for all ages following worship.
- Confirmation and youth group that meets twice each month.
- Lively music program that includes Faith Singers, Exaltation Ringers, 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."
- Growing small-group ministry including:
 - o Men's Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 7:00am.
 - o Women of Faith Fellowship Nights on 3rd Wednesdays at 6:00pm.
 - o Discipleship Group on 3rd Wednesdays at 10:00am.
 - o Men's Breakfast 1st Saturday of the month at 9:00am..
 - o "Pastor's Pick" book of the month.
 - o "Films of Faith" movie showings.
- 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.