



## **WELCOME TO FAITH**

### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel to all people so they may know and trust in Jesus as their savior for eternal life, grow in knowledge and faith, and show this faith in their daily lives.

*Upon entering the sanctuary, please use this time to prepare for worship; suggested prayers can be found on the inside cover of this folder (as found in the front page of Lutheran Service Book) and on the back pages of this folder (as found on page 308 of the LSB). (“Be still and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:10a)*

*Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don’t feel you have to suppress it in God’s house. All are welcome!*

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service**

**December 24, 2023 — 7:00 PM**

**No Room?**

## As We Gather

One of the charming traditions of days gone by, still observed by some families, is the designation of a Christmas room in the house. In older homes, that room often was a parlor or dining room. The Christmas room was closed off to the family by the parents for days or even weeks before Christmas Eve and was beautified by a parent, grandparent, or other designated adult with decorations and greens and, most centrally, a Christmas tree, which frequently had heirloom ornaments on it. The room was set aside to remind all in the house to make room in their lives for the coming of Jesus, the Christ Child. In his well-loved paraphrase of Psalm 98, Isaac Watts writes: “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room” (*LSB* 387:1). Tonight, the room in our hearts is filled with the joyful assurance that Christ has come to fill the world and our lives with His love.

## PRELUDES:

“Once he Came in Blessing”	<i>Henkelmann</i>
“Still, Still, Still”	<i>Marlatt</i>
“O Come, Little Children”	<i>Line</i>
“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”	<i>Floeter</i>
“Joy to the World”	<i>Henkelmann</i>

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### SONG OF PRAISE: **Once in Royal David’s City**

**LSB 376**

*Stz 1 – 2 soloists*

*Stzs 3 – 5 ALL*

- 1 Once in royal David’s city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

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## † PREPARATION †

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES *John 1:14; Psalm 96:3; Psalm 98:1*

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
People: **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations,  
People: **His marvelous works among all the peoples!**

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!  
People: **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Joined in worship on this sacred night, let us make confession to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

Pastor: Almighty Father,

People: **we confess that we are sinners by nature and by thought, word, and deed. We have not always given You the best of what we have and are, and have not fully made room for You in our lives. With repentant hearts, we turn to You for mercy, seeking Your grace. In Your loving kindness forgive, restore, and lead us so that we may be renewed and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: With joy I announce God's Good News to You. Our gracious God in His mercy has given His Son to be born, to live, and then to die for you and to rise again in glory. For His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be at peace and rejoice in the Lord.

People: **Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People:** Gracious heavenly Father, with joy we celebrate our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. Grant that as Your Holy Spirit works in our lives, there always be room for Jesus as Lord of our hearts, who now lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

**HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful**

LSB 379

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 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)

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## † SERVICE OF THE WORD †

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE:

1 John 4:7–16

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM:** *“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”*

*Courtney*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 1:18–25

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter one.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH – Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN: Joy to the World**

LSB 387

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 men 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 sins and sorrows 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.

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**SERMON:** *“The Babe of Bethlehem”*

**VOLUNTARY:** *“Still, Still, Still”*

Davis

**OFFERING** (*When we worship God with our offerings, we recall the words of Jesus: “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:21*)

**OFFERTORY:** *“Star Carol”*

Rutter

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Assistant: Let us pray for God’s great mercy, asking that He would hear our petitions and grant them according to His gracious will.

Almighty and everlasting God, as we recall the first Christmas, we thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ, who came to earth in deep humility. We bless You that there was room in Your heart for the people of earth and for the sacrifice of Jesus as He left the glory of Your eternal kingdom in coming to earth to be our Savior, our Brother and our Friend. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assistant: As we think of Your chosen servants Mary and Joseph, we thank You for the gift of family. Grant that we always treasure the gifts we receive through them and seek to be those who cherish our family, our church family, our friends, and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assistant: As we fill this sacred space with song, we thank You for the gifts of poetry and music and for writers and composers who have enriched our celebration with their devotion and creativity. Grant that we ever seek to bring You all that is the best and most beautiful in our worship. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assistant: As we hear again of the shepherds to whom the angel brought the greatest of news, we thank You for those who serve in the various vocations of life, including those whose daily work goes unnoticed or underappreciated. We commend to Your special care, Lord, those in the military, our first responders and medical personnel, and all whose service keeps them distanced from their family homes in these days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assistant: We pray for all situations and conditions of people, especially those on our hearts at this time. Be with all who need our petitions and our concern. Bless them according to their needs, Lord, and give us opportunities to be of comfort and assistance in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assistant: As we pray, gracious God, we remember our dear ones who have completed their earthly lives and now are in Your eternal keeping. Grant that we follow their footsteps in ways of peace and love throughout our lives as we live to Your glory as those on whom Your favor rests. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assistant: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

**CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY** (*Assistants will light candles from the Christ Candle and come down the aisle lighting the candle of the person nearest the aisle. Each worshiper lights their candle from their neighbor's, taking care to tip only the unlighted candle so as to avoid dripping the hot wax. When all are lit and sanctuary lights are dimmed, the service continues.*)

**HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night**

LSB 363

- 1 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 Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

*Candles are extinguished.*

## **CLOSING HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

LSB 380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the\_angelic host 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 the\_incarinate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! (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 man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. (Refrain)

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**† THE WORSHIP IS ENDED.  
LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.†**

**† We Go in Peace to Serve the Lord †**

**† Trust † Grow † Show †**

**THOSE ASSISTING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE**

Preacher	Rev. Marc A. Kappel, M.Div.
Assistant	Mr. Timm Leikip
Children's Message	Mr. Michael Yurk, D.C.E.
Music Director	Mr. Michael Neas, M.M.
Acolyte	Camden Fritz
Lector	Adrienne Davis
Vocal Soloists	Maddie Barnes, Hazel Prince, Kimberly Neas
Flute	Megan Hunt, Lois Ford, Lindsey Crouch
Instrumental Ensemble	
Flute:	Lindsey Crouch, Lois Ford, Megan Hunt, Addison Schwartz
Clarinet:	Courtney Campbell, Beth Leech
Violin:	Laurie Stevens, Christian Menard
Oboe:	Martin Schubert
Faith Ringers	
Parish Adult Choir	

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**WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Celebration (Contemporary) Worship – Saturdays, 5 p.m.  
Traditional Worship – Sundays, 10 a.m.



*The poinsettias for Christmas have been placed by the following members & friends of Faith Lutheran Church. Thank you!*

- ❖ Ruth and Joe Armstrong in memory of Evelyn Chapman, Evelyn Armstrong, Kelly Huber, and Cindy Huber.*
- ❖ Susan Ashcraft in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ❖ Steve and Kelly Bahr in memory of Victor and Charlotte Bahr, Andy Diaz, Julia Williams.*
- ❖ Kim Bierlein in memory of her father, Art Bierlein.*
- ❖ Sandy Conti in memory of Donnie Devine.*
- ❖ Ellen Garvin in memory of Mom, Dad, brother John, and Chi Chi.*
- ❖ Ruth Heichelbeck in memory of Gerald Heichelbeck.*
- ❖ Deb Heilman in memory of her parents, Richard and Betty Heilman.*
- ❖ Kevin and Marietta Hinton in memory of their son Peter.*
- ❖ Larry and Jerre Kappel.*
- ❖ Pastor Marc, Marcy, Micah, and Matthew in honor of our Savior's birth.*
- ❖ Jeff and Megan Knittel in honor of their children, Gabriel, Samuel, Jude, and Luke.*
- ❖ Jeff and Megan Knittel in memory of their grandparents.*
- ❖ Carol Shaw and the Rogers family in memory of loved ones.*
- ❖ Cassie and Addison Schwartz in memory of Jean Spees.*
- ❖ Bradley and Laurie Stevens in honor of James and Katelyn Nelson.*
- ❖ Rich and Angela Teschendorf in honor of our military and police.*
- ❖ Rich and Angela Teschendorf in memory of our beloved son-in-law, Jay Gillespie.*
- ❖ Cal and Lesley Shuster in memory of Richard and Rhoda Rankin and Carroll and Grace Shuster.*

**Helpful Links**

**On-line Giving:** [bit.ly/FaithEustisGiving](http://bit.ly/FaithEustisGiving)

**Church Facebook** [www.facebook.com/FaithEustis](http://www.facebook.com/FaithEustis)

**Pastor Kappel's Sermons** <https://anchor.fm/marc86>

Have you checked in for worship today?  
Scan this code with your cellphone camera,  
tap the link and fill in the form. It's that easy!  
Thank you for joining us today!





CHURCH & SCHOOL

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