



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2024

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FLC Staff

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WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

WELCOME STATEMENT

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as God’s beloved child, “for in Christ Jesus... [we] are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26). No matter your age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, neurodivergent status, faith background, political leanings, or mental, intellectual or physical ability – you are welcomed here just as you are. In this church, we commit to pursue gender and racial equity in all that we do, and to support one another as chosen family, being parents and siblings for each other regardless of who we have as biological family (Mark 3:31-35). For we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide as we strive to serve our world.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. This is symbolized by the pink candle that we light today along with the blue candles. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

“Sussex Carol”

arr. Bob Burroughs and Anna Laura Page
Faith Bells

VERSE OF THE DAY (Read in Unison)

Show me your ways, O God! Teach me your paths! Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. I wait all the day long for you.

Psalm 25:4-5 The Inclusive Bible

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

We rejoice today that as we come to you in humble repentance that you offer us
forgiveness and take away our shame.
We thank you for your refining fire that prepares us to do your will.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
Now receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG – WE HAIL YOU GODS ANNOINTED

1 We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed One!
 2 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 3 The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense bring;
 4 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, you on your throne shall rest;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing;
 from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed:

You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said,
 The tide of time shall nev - er your cov - e - nant re - move;

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 to take a way trans - gres - sion, and re - sul - eq - ui - ty.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 your realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.
 your name shall stand for - ev - er, your change - less name of Love.

Written as a Christmas hymn for the Moravian settlement in Yorkshire, England, this hymn has enjoyed widespread popularity from the beginning. It is characteristic of Montgomery's deep faith and passion for social justice.


Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

“God Is Near”

Joel Raney

THIRD SUNDAY - THE ANGELS' MESSAGE: *Accept*

Responsive Litany

During Advent our eyes are opened to the wonders of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our faith is nurtured by the promise of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our hope is reawakened to the presence of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our lives are touched by the love of God.

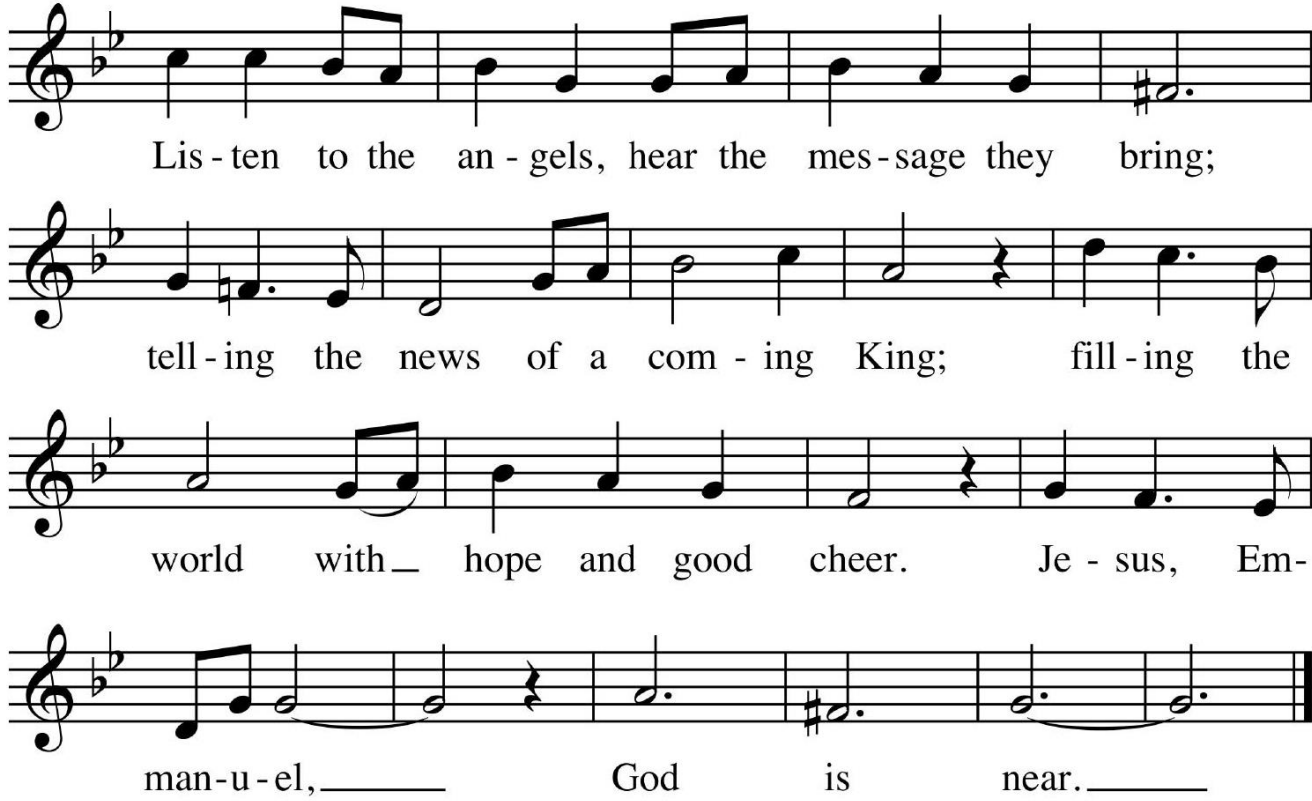
With God all things are possible.

Candle Lighting

Today we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to hear again the message of hope offered through the Savior's birth. The **second candle** calls us to believe that just as God worked mighty deeds in ages past, God is still actively at work today. The **third candle** is lit as we draw closer to God in faithful acceptance. Advent reminds us that even when God's ways exceed our understanding, God's word still demands our trust. As we continue our Advent journey, let us hear what God has spoken, believe what God has promised, and accept what God has revealed.

Advent texts by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, River Forest, IL

Congregation:



Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring;
tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the
world with_ hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em -
man - u - el, _____ God is near. _____

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of four lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring;'. The second line contains 'tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the'. The third line contains 'world with_ hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em -'. The fourth line contains 'man - u - el, _____ God is near. _____'. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests and a repeat sign at the end of the fourth line.

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CLOSING PRAYER



12 Symbols of Christmas

The scene is:

A dad is decorating his home with his children. As they add different items to their home, they discuss the meaning behind each item and how they all lead to Jesus.

Characters

Dad – Owen Thompson

Stevie - Oliver Thompson

Susie - Freya Cowell

Sally – Remi Sanford

Sammy – Liam Nyquist

Stanley – Max Nyquist

Reader 1 – Henry Brown

Reader 2 – Lydia Boyan

Reader 3 – Reagan Sanford

Reader 4 - Audrey Hartwick

Reader 5 - Teddy Hartwick

Tree Manager - Beauden Sanford

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

"Angels Advent Carol"

arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

Chancel Choir
Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

There are gluten free wafers available, if you would prefer inform the pastor when you are at the altar rail. As you receive communion, in the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine. If you would prefer only a blessing, please have your hands folded and the pastor will give you a blessing.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG- HE CAME DOWN (ELW 253)



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

COMMUNION INSTRUMENTAL

“Away in a Manger”

arr. Mark Hayes

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✝ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.



SENDING SONG –AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN (ELW 242)



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 15

- Worship Service @10am: **Third Sunday of Advent**
- Christmas Pageant during service
- **Meeting in Sanctuary immediately following worship**
- Youth Movie Matinee in Fellowship Hall following worship
- Private Event in Sanctuary @1pm

Monday, December 16

- Boy Scouts @ 7pm in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Council Meeting @7pm in Library

Tuesday, December 17

- Bible Study @12pm in Library – Hybrid
- Girls Scouts @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Pantry Meeting @6pm in Library

Wednesday, December 18

- Organ Tune @9am
- Quilters Meet @ 9:30am
- Lunch Bunch @11:45 in Fellowship Hall
- Faith Bells @ 6:30pm
- Chancel Choir @7:30pm

Sunday, December 22

- Worship Service @10am: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- Worship Committee Meeting in Library immediately following worship

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

December 15

Greeter(s): Ken & Ellen Milne

Reader: No reader this week

Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson

Ushers: Brenda Kopf/John Backman

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison

S/S: Christmas Pageant

Coffee Hour: Parish Ed Committee

Counters: Linda Hirt/Kay Hillberg

Acolyte: Andrew Herek

December 22

Greeter(s): Doug & Linda Hirt

Reader: Linda Hirt

Lay Assistant: Doug Hirt

Ushers: John Backman

Altar Care: Heidi Bowers

S/S: No Class

Coffee Hour: Jan & Harold Sollenberger

Counters: Jamie Royalty/Ramona Backman

Acolyte: Isaak Nyquist



Announcements and Upcoming Events

YOUTH GROUP

Lunch and Movie Matinee will be held on **Sunday, December 15**.

All youth grades 6 and up are welcome! A light lunch and snacks will be provided after worship service in the fellowship hall, followed by the movie Elf.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Any FLC youth interested in participating in the 2025 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly? Every congregation in the NWLM Synod can send a youth member to the annual Synod Assembly, in addition to the adult member(s) we send. **This year the Synod Assembly is May 18 - 20, Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon, in Mt. Pleasant.** At this year's assembly there will be a bishop election...this is a really cool process for youth to participate in. Also at the assembly, members of the Synod's youth table will go over what an assembly is and how they plug into it, and encourage the young people throughout the Synod to get connected with each other. If you are interested, contact Pastor Dan at mittensynodgathering2024@gmail.com

SHARED PREGNANCY

Please help us support Shared Pregnancy, a local non-profit assisting new mothers and families, with collecting items of need. Two options for giving:

#1. Choose a tag from the tree located in the narthex, purchase the gift, and place it under the tree (unwrapped). Please return tags.

#2. Your Monetary contribution will be pooled and used to purchase a larger gift from their "wish list". (Contribute using Vanco via Caring Committee or cash/check in envelope marked with Caring Committee).

There is more information about their needs and mission on the CARE bulletin board. **We will be collecting items and money until January 20th.**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Prelude begins @ 3:45pm

Christmas Eve Service (Children's Sermon) begins @4pm



Prelude begins @ 7:45pm

Christmas Eve Service (Brass & Chancel Choir) begins @8pm

December 29th Lessons and Carols @10am

AN EVENING OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos tradition of An Evening of Lessons and Carols continues at **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15.** The event will take place in the sanctuary at 2258 Bennett Road and online on the [PCO website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Pastor Bruce will be a reader.

This year's program will feature the PCO Chancel and Handbell Choirs joined by a brass ensemble and singers from the MSU College of Music. The service will include readings, carol arrangements, and congregational singing in the format of the traditional King's College Lessons and Carols.

Please come with family and friends to enjoy this beautiful tradition and to support Advent House's service to the greater Lansing community.

Mission through Music

For more than thirty years, Advent House Ministries has aided with mid-Michigan's most vulnerable and at-risk individuals. Advent House provides a weekend day shelter offering food and safety for countless families and individuals. Other services include a street outreach program, job readiness training, a prison re-entry program, and employment assistance for homeless veterans. The Shared Housing Intervention Program continues to offer assistance for the epidemic of school age children who lack permanent housing.