

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

- CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE -  
December 17, 2023 • 3rd Sunday in Advent

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## GATHERING SONG

*In the Bleak Midwinter  
Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Faith Bells

## ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Behold, I bring you glad tidings. Our Savior is coming.

**Congregation: Jesus is coming, bringing salvation to all. We rejoice. Alleluia.**

P: Let us pray,

**All: We wait for you, most gracious God, for eye has not seen and ear has not heard the wonders of your deeds. In gratitude we thank you for the gift of Jesus to our world. Give us the eyes to see beyond our limited vision and the ears to hear the joy of your coming. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

***Oh, Come All Ye Faithful***

Oh, come let us adore him, oh, come let us adore him,  
oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIBLE READING: Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;  
<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## SERMON

*Wherever the Way May Lead Us*

*A manuscript of this sermon is available on our website: [FaithLoves.org](http://FaithLoves.org).*

Pastor Bob Stelter

## SERMON SONG

*Glory Revealed*

## SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

*OUR VISION*  
To be an inspired body of Christ.



*OUR MISSION*  
Love God. Love Others. Serve.

## **OFFERINGS FOR MISSION & MINISTRY**

### **OFFERING SONG**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD'S PRAYER / HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **THE 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 SONG**

*Prepare the Way*

#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**Pastor:** May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Congregation Amen.**

#### **ADVENT BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** May God guide you in the way of peace and give light to your darkness.  
Prepare the way of the Lord! Blessings in the name of the Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

#### **SENDING SONG**

*God So Loved*

#### **SENDING**

**Praise Band:** Go shine your light in the darkness.

**Congregation: We will prepare the way!**

*Poinsettias are given in honor or in memory of loved ones.*

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

225 Jamestowne Boulevard, Farragut, TN 37934

865.966.9626

[www.faithloves.org](http://www.faithloves.org)

*Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America*

*Founding Congregation of Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Tellico Village*

*Founding Congregation of Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry ▪ Stephen Ministry Congregation*

**Traditional Worship, 9am ♦ Contemporary Worship, 11:11am**

**Dr. Bob Stelter** — *Pastor*

**Greg Bohlken** — *Ministry Associate*

**Lynn Rognsvoog** — *Organist*

**Collin Kasefang** — *Choir Director*

**Lisa Stelter** — *Worship Graphics*

**Members of Faith Lutheran Church — Ministers**

**Sandra Bohlken** — *Contemporary Worship Leader*

**Trace Taylor** — *Sound Technician*

**Tiffany Bryson** — *Nursery Caregiver*

**Kim Frasch** — *Quiet Music Ministry*

**Mary Boring** — *Office Manager*

**Phylis Garrison** — *Publications*

**Barbara Birkholz** — *Financial Secretary*

**Mildred Fenske** — *Prayer Chain Coordinator*

**Alicia & David Brondos** — *Missionaries*

**WELCOME!** *As followers of Jesus, we rejoice in God's plan for a just, loving and peaceful world. We commit ourselves to making it a reality for all people everywhere. Just as all are welcome at the Lord's table during holy communion, all are welcome to this family of faith. People of all races, ages, social status, sexual orientations and gender identity are united here in our mission to love God, love others and serve. Please sign a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate.*

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Want to know more about Lutheranism, our ministries and considering membership? Contact Greg Bohlken at [greg@faithloves.org](mailto:greg@faithloves.org).

### **Sunday Worship 9 & 11:11am**

Live in the sanctuary or online at:

[YouTube.com/@FaithLutheranKnoxville/stream](https://www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranKnoxville/stream)

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES TODAY — 10:15AM**

**Adult Sunday School, led by John Woods.**

**Confirmation Class**

**Children's Sunday School grades 5 & under**

**Teen Sunday School grades 6-12. youth room**

### **WEDNESDAY MUSIC REHEARSALS**

**HANDBELLS, 5:15pm ♦ CHANCEL CHOIR, 6:30pm**

### **PRAISE TEAM REHEARSALS**

**Thursdays, 6pm & Sundays, 10:15am**

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** adorn our sanctuary during Christmas! To remember or honor a loved one place your \$15 donation in an envelope and remember to note your loved one's name on your envelope.

**2024 FLOWER CHART** has been posted by the library.

**COLUMBARIUM NICHES** are available to our members for \$1,800 and to non-members at \$2,500. Application forms are found in our *Columbarium Booklet* located in the narthex.

**ANNA ESTHER CIRCLE** Wednesday, December 20, 10am.

**HANDY FAITHFULS** Thursday, December 21, 9:30am.

**VIA DE CRISTO REUNION GROUP** Monday, noon, library

### **SHEPHERD OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY**

**Open tomorrow, December 18, 3-6pm.**

#### **CURRENT NEEDS**

**Brownie Mix, Vegetable Oil, (32oz), Coffee (1lb ground)**

**Tea bags (20—48 count), Canned Green Beans,**

**Canned Corn, Cranberry Sauce, Yams,**

**Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Stuffing Mix**

**Monetary donations for a ham or turkey.**

Shepherd of Hope donation envelopes are in the narthex.

**Contact: Reneé Stone, 865-599-7424.**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER** Wednesday during Advent  
December 20 at 6:30pm.

**SALVATION ARMY SHELTER VISITS** Tuesday, December 19.

We'll make an early Christmas visit to the men's & women's shelters to bring cheer, sing carols and distribute your gifts of treats and needed L-XL men's boxer briefs & women's sizes 8-11 briefs. Contact Michael Lee at 865-405-6585 or Debbie Ragucci, 865-567-1945.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP, 10AM**

1 Combined Advent Service

### **CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP**

• 5pm Contemporary Service

• 7pm Traditional Service

Both worship services include holy communion, carols, children's talk and singing *Silent Night* in candlelight.

Sermon: *"Have Yourself a Messy Little Christmas!"*

Share our Christmas invitation video!

[tinyurl.com/faithchristmas2023](https://tinyurl.com/faithchristmas2023)

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31 WORSHIP, 10AM**

1 Combined Service with Baptism followed by Brunch

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

- **YOUTH 3RD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH** We'll meet with youth groups today **December 17 at 6pm** at St. John Lutheran Church for a Christmas Program.

### **WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

11:11am Contemporary

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Connie Rist
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Katie Lehner, Richard Lehner, Amy Monteagudo Teensy Weldon, Frank Weldon
<b>Greeter</b>	Yvette Edwards
<b>Ushers</b>	Melissa Horning, Sam Howard
<b>Offering Stewards</b>	Gary Dakolios, George Herbold

### **Giving: 12.10.2023**

**Offerings last Sunday:** 20,198

**Offerings Year to Date** 605,140

**Walk by Faith as of November 30** 755,749



Scan this QR code with your phone camera to donate now on our secure webpage.



## PRAYER CONCERNS

**MEMBERS:** Shannon Allred, Shaun Allred, Arlene Aring, Doug Bales, Mary Blackburn, Rebecca Calderone, Amy Canapa, Leon Cole, Myles Cooper, Chuck Crosby, Mac Curtis, Patsy Elmore, Kim Frasc, Pat & Nick Gary, Green family, Leo Hebert, Eric Johnson, Carmen Larsen, Bonnie Legako, Kris Lehman, Anne Loyacano, Patricia Mabry, Heather McDonald, Lin & Mike McKinley, Bob Moore, Joe Morelli, Joe Poole, Lynda Primka, Toby Rosenbaum, Ken Savitz, Donnie & Lisa Smith & family, Pamela Spaar, Bobbie Steele, Paul Turner, Jim Van Deusen, Susan Vanacore, Nick Vanacore, Danny Willis, Maurice and Rebecca.

*This column will start anew on the first Sunday of each month.*

**FRIENDS:** Caroline Beavers, David Berdal, Valborg Berdal, Marsha Bode, Dee Bohn, Sharon Brokenshire, Noah Bryant, Frank Caprio, Michael Carfi, Harold Chapel, Jan Colangelo, Jenna Cormany, Pam Covington, Sarah Covington, Bill Crain, Nancy Crain, Damico family, the Darling family, Brandy & Brian Duke, Edington family, Vader Ernst, Alanna & Arnie Fenske, Jim Ford family, Jordan & Tyler Fordiani, Garber family, Gregory Goodall, Gutelius family, Rita Heavner, Allyn Hildebrand, Linda Holtz, Joy Hymer, Matt Kilgore, Sandra Kilgore, Donna Knick, Junior Koontz, Anthony Koran, Barb Korsmo, Alexis & Taylor Lee, Nicole & Dalton Light, Loyacano family, David Matthews, Paul Miller, Audra Tyler Moore, Becky Moore Larsen, Bob Moore, Julie Moore, Salles families, Marilyn Savilisky, Jessica Savitz, Scaglione family, Nathan Schattuck, Terry Serrano, Victor Serrano, Jim Shea, Donna Smith, Austin Stephens, Mark Syler, Paul Travis, Frank Tyler, Brigette Williams, Virginia Williams, Mya, Ro & Haven Wolfe, Carley, Darcy, Jodi, Sue *and those we name to You.*

**JOY:** First Wednesday gatherings each month!

**BLESSINGS:** Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesday, 12/20.

**BLESSINGS & CONGRATULATIONS:** Retirement of Dr. Rick Parsons.

### **COMFORT IN THE MIDST OF DEATH FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS:**

Judy Wellner, Jack Cleave, Mr. Furman, Jo Watson, Stephen O'Connor, Milton Creighton, Paul Hearnberger, Jim Kilgore, Audrey Meland, Teresa Rozanski.

**SALVATION ARMY FRIENDS:** Denisha, Tara, Leila, Larissa, Katricia, Sierra, Stephanie, Brittany, Genesis, Robert, C.J., Shane, John, Gibby, Josh, Roy, J.R., Scott, Ty, Reggie, John.

**PRAYERS, CONCERN & ASSISTANCE:** The people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia. Mentally & physically challenged. Veterans.

**LEARNING & PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT:** William Bales at Concordia Seminary.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Bishop Pro-Tem Michael Burk the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Bishop Strickland & the Southeastern Synod; Alicia & David Brondos, Missionaries in Mexico; Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry; Quiet Music Ministry; Tyson House; Deacon Ministry; Knox Area Rescue Ministry; Via de Cristo Ministry; Salvation Army Women's & Men's Homeless Shelters; Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Cole Center Caregivers and Parkinson Band, Mercy Ships, Iglesia Luterano Augustana de Guatemala & Milagro Women's Education Center, AL-ANON, Narcotics Anonymous.

**PEACE:** Protection for all armed forces, especially: Jacob Cole, Andrew Chovancek, Nathan Goodall, Tyler Hitter, H.M., Anthony Hu, Julianne LeFevre-Kerr, Chase Linell, Olivia Parrott, Alex Primka, Christine Russ, Alex Serrano, Sam Thompson, Mitchell Yount, Greg Zager.



## COUNCIL

**Ted Primka**  
President

**Doug Goins**  
Vice President

**Alan Berdal**  
Treasurer

**Laura Beardsley**

**Ritchie Case**

**Adam Edwards**

**Alice Pigott**

**Rick Smenner**

### **WEEK OF DECEMBER 17-24, 2023**

#### **Sunday, December 17 3rd Sunday in Advent**

**9:00am** Traditional Worship *Sanctuary*  
**10:00am** Fellowship *The Cup*  
**10:15am** Children's Sunday School *5th Grades & under*  
Teen Sunday School *Grades 6-12*  
Confirmation  
Adult Sunday School  
Praise Team Rehearsal  
**11:11am** Contemporary Worship *Sanctuary*  
**6:00pm** Youth Event at St. John Lutheran Church  
**5:00pm** AL-ANON meeting *Zoom*

#### **Monday, December 18**

**Noon** Via de Cristo Reunion Group *library*  
**3-6pm** Food Pantry open

#### **Tuesday, December 19**

**1:30pm** Bible Study Small Group *The Cup*  
**5:00pm** Salvation Army Shelter Visits  
**6:00pm** MOPS *Nursery*  
**6:00pm** AL-ANON meeting *zoom*  
**7:30pm** Narcotics Anonymous *The Cup*

#### **Wednesday, December 20**

**10:00am** WELCA Anna Esther Circle  
**11:00am** AL-ANON meeting *Community Room*  
**4:00pm** Staff meeting  
**5:30pm** Bell Choir Rehearsal  
**6:30pm** Holden Evening Prayer  
**6:30pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### **Thursday, December 21**

**9:30am** Handy Faithfuls  
**6:00pm** Praise Team Rehearsal  
**7:30pm** Narcotics Anonymous *The Cup*

#### **Friday, December 22**

**7:00pm** Narcotics Anonymous Group *The Cup*

#### **Saturday, December 23**

**11:00am** AL-ANON meeting *Zoom*

#### **Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve/ 4th Sunday in Advent**

**10:00am** Combined Advent Worship *Sanctuary*  
**5:00pm** Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship  
**7:00pm** Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

### **PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Monday:** Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17. • **Tuesday:** Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4.

**Wednesday:** Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13. • **Thursday:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4.

**Friday:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19; Hebrews 1:5-14. • **Saturday:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-52

**4th Sunday in Advent:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.