

# FAITH

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 24, 2023 • 10am • 4th Sunday of Advent

**GATHERING SONG** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* hymnal #257, verses 1-3, stand

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *O Holy Night* Leonie, vocals; Westin, bass; Nash, drums; Jamie, guitar

**CALL TO WORSHIP/CONFESSION** *stand or kneel*

Pastor: We begin our time together in confession.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Repent! Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Congregation:** **All creation waits with great longing for the Son of God. We confess our lack of preparation. We see a glimpse of what we ought to be and we know we fall short of that goal. We desire faith that is unchanging, yet we crumble under the trials of life. We want to be strong and bright, yet we admit we are weak and in darkness. Accept us as we are, O God. We are unworthy for the coming of Christ, yet we are gifted for Your purposes. Give us your gift of faith. Amen.**

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The coming of Jesus is our new beginning. The old things die and we are made new. God has given us the gift of faith: faith for the moment, faith for every trial, faith for every temptation, faith for every difficult situation. The call of Advent is one of preparation. Are you ready?

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

### EXPLANATION OF THE DAY

Pastor Bob Stelter

### ADVENT BLESSING

Pastor: The Spirit and the church cry out:

**Congregation:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: All those who await his appearance pray:

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: The whole creation pleads:

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever

**C: Amen.**

### ADVENT SONG

#### *Welcome to Our World*

1. Tears are falling, Hearts are breaking.  
How we need to hear from God  
You've been promised, We've been waiting  
Welcome holy Child; Welcome holy Child.
2. Hope that You don't mind our manger  
How I wish we would have known  
But long-awaited holy Stranger  
Make Yourself at home,  
Please make Yourself at home.
3. Bring Your peace Into our violence.  
Bid our hungry souls be filled  
Word now breaking heaven's silence  
Welcome to our world; Welcome to our world.
4. Fragile finger sent to heal us  
Tender brow prepared for thorn  
Tiny heart whose blood will save us  
Unto us is born; Unto us is born.
5. So wrap our injured flesh around You  
Breathe our air and walk our sod  
Rob our sin and make us holy  
Perfect Son of God; Perfect Son of God,  
Welcome to our world.

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



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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / PARISH NEWS

### CHILDREN'S SERMON / 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!

#### **BIBLE READING: GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38** *Pew Bible #933.*

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little-known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.*

Greg Bohlken, Ministry Associate: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Greg Bohlken: The Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.**

#### **SERMON**

*Fragile*

Greg Bohlken, Ministry Associate

*Silence for reflection.*

#### **SERMON SONG** *from Holden Evening Prayer*

##### ***The Magnificat***

1. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.
2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart,  
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice strong your love,  
As you have promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forever more.
3. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

#### **THE PEACE**

## OFFERING FOR MINISTRY AND MISSIONS

### BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

#### THE CREED

Pastor: Let us declare what we believe. We believe these things:

**Congregation:** Jesus Christ is the Light who has come into the world. We proclaim what the angels proclaimed on that first Christmas: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth! We believe in a living God, creator of all in power and love. We believe in Jesus, God in the flesh and our Lord. And we believe that God is present with us always through the Holy Spirit. We are the church, experiencing God in prayer, worship, the Sacraments, the Bible and this holy community of believers. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *stand or kneel*

Greg Bohlken, Ministry Associate

Ministry Associate: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Ministry Associate: You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,

**Congregation: receive our prayer.**

MA: As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

MA: You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

MA: Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

MA: You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

MA: Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Silence for individual prayer petitions.*

Pastor: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION / WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and hear us as we 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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION SONG** *hymnal #283*

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

## **COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

### **SENDING**

#### ***Joy to the World (You Are My Joy)***

1. Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

You are my joy.  
You are my joy.

***Repeat***

**Repeat Verse 1 & Chorus**

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.

**Chorus** You are my joy.  
You are my joy.

# 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)

## PRAISE TEAM REHEARSALS

Thursdays, 6pm & Sundays, 10:15am

**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.

**MOPS January 9 & 23 at 6pm** in the nursery.

**TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY** resumes **1:30pm** on **January 9**.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### **CHRISTMAS EVE, TODAY, 10AM**

1 Combined Advent Service

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

- **5pm Contemporary Service**  
(4:30pm Special music begins)
- **7pm Traditional Service**

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!

## SHEPHERD OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

**Open Mondays, January 8, 3-5pm & 15, 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**

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

## **FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER & ACTIVITIES** **January 3**

RSVP for dinner, and/or set up & clean up.

January 3 RSVP link is

<https://tinyurl.com/FirstWed010324>

**Come be part of the Family of Faith**  
**as we grow together!**



**Wed, Jan 3**

**SPIRITUALITY BOOK GROUP** **Tuesday, January 9, 6:30pm** in the library. Join us as Melissa Russ presents **By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept** by Paulo Coelho.

**SALVATION ARMY SHELTER VISITS** **Tuesday, January 23.** We'll visit both the men's & women's shelters to distribute your gifts of treats and needed L-XL men's boxer briefs & women's sizes 8-11 briefs. Contact Michael Lee, 865-405-6585 or Debbie Ragucci, 865-567-1945.

**FAITH SERVES KARM** on **January 27, noon meal.**

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**1st Wednesday of each month 6:30-7:30pm** in the Youth Room, with church dinner served **5:15-6:15pm.**

**3rd Sunday of each month** we join with the Knox-area ELCA Lutheran youth for fun events.

3rd Sunday spring semester dates will be **Jan 21,**

**Feb 18, Mar 17, Apr 21 & May 19.**

NOTE this shift in times from our fall events, now:

**12:30-2pm, 3rd-5th grade**

**2:30-4pm, 6th-12th grade.**

## **WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

**10 am Combined Worship Service**

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Connie Rist
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Greg Bohlken
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Pastor Bob Stelter, Greg Bohlken, Shirley Hahn Leonie Manthey, Connie Rist, Vicki Adams
<b>Greeter</b>	Gloria Fife
<b>Ushers</b>	John Woods, Ritchie Case

## **Giving: 12.17.2023**

**Offerings last Sunday:** 8,573

**Offerings Year to Date** 613,714

**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 Frasch, Pat & Nick Gary, Green family, Jonas Greenman, 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, Sharon Brokenshire, Noah Bryant, Michael Carfi, Harold Chapel, Jack Cleve, 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, Joel Garber, 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, Lee, Robin North & family, Salles families, Marilyn Savilisky, Jessica Savitz, Scaglione family, Terry Serrano, Victor Serrano, Jim Shea, Donna Smith, Austin Stephens, Mark Syler, Paul Travis, Frank Tyler, Brigitte Williams, Virginia Williams, Mya, Ro & Haven Wolfe, Carley, Darcy, Jodi, Sue and those we name to You.

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

**BLESSINGS:** Tonight's Christmas Eve services.

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

**JOY AT THE BIRTH:** Carter, son of Kristen & Chris Joy and big sister, Cora.

**COMFORT IN THE MIDST OF DEATH FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Jordan App, Brett Liebert, Bobby Queen, Jo Watson, Stephen O'Connor, Milton Creighton, Paul Hearnberger, Jim Kilgore, Audrey Meland, Teresa Rozanski.

**SALVATION ARMY FRIENDS:** Denisha, Tara, Leila, Theresa, Jayda, Larissa, Stephanie, Brittany, Genesis, Gibby, James, Ralph, Jimmy, Teddy, Fey, Eddie, Roy, Bill.

**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

**Laura Beardsley**

**Doug Goins**  
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**Ritchie Case**

**Alan Berdal**  
Treasurer

**Adam Edwards**

**Alice Pigott**

**Rick Smenner**

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 24-31, 2023

**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

**Monday, December 25** Christmas Day

**Tuesday, December 26**

6:00pm AL-ANON meeting *zoom*  
7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous *The Cup*

**Wednesday, December 27**

11:00am AL-ANON meeting *Community Room*  
5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 28**

6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal  
7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous *The Cup*

**Friday, December 29**

7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous Group *The Cup*

**Saturday, December 30**

11:00am AL-ANON meeting *Zoom*

**Sunday, December 31** New Year's Eve

1st Sunday after Christmas

Baptism of Bridget Thompson

10:00am Combined Worship Service *Sanctuary*  
11:00am New Year's Eve Brunch



### PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

**Monday: Nativity of our Lord.** • **Tuesday:** Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:19-28; Hebrews 8:1-13.

**Wednesday:** Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11. • **Thursday:** Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18.

**Friday:** Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50. • **Saturday:** Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13.

**1st Sunday after Christmas:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148. Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

# CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



## ALTAR ARRANGEMENTS

In honor of the Birth of Our Savior

**Faith Lutheran Church**

In memory of our son, Joe

**Alice & Joe Pigott**



## POINSETTIAS

In loving memory of my late husband, Jim  
**Marj West**

In memory of Lisa a& Carol  
**Vicki Adams**

In memory of Adam Dean, our son  
**Nancy & Steve Dean**

In memory of Myrtle & Wilbur Dean  
**Nancy & Steve Dean**

In memory of Adelaide & Sterling Wigren  
**Nancy & Steve Dean**

In memory of Robert Blackburn  
**Rhonda & Rob Blackburn**

In memory of Wayne Smith  
**Rhonda & Rob Blackburn**

In memory of Catherine Blackburn  
**Rhonda & Rob Blackburn**

In honor of Donna Smith  
**Rhonda & Rob Blackburn**

In honor of Mary Blackburn  
**Rhonda & Rob Blackburn**

In honor of Ian, Nicole, Myles & Nathan  
**Rhonda & Rob Blackburn**

In memory of our parents & Susie Campbell  
**Shirley & Ben Campbell**

In memory of my husband, Ron  
**Gloria Fife**

In memory of Debbie Moore  
**Barbara & Gene Bird**



In memory of Edna & Dick Pigott  
**Alice & Joe Pigott**

In memory of Cheryl Kripas  
**Earl Kripas & family**

In memory of Milton Creighton  
**Teensy & Frank Weldon**

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Weldon  
**Teensy & Frank Weldon**

In memory of AP Beardsley, my father  
**Laura Beardsley**

In memory of Austin Montgomery Herbold  
**Mary & George Herbold**

In memory of Louise & CB Wright  
**Mary & George Herbold**

In memory of Arlene & George Herbold  
**Mary & George Herbold**

In memory of Leonard, Jeff & Jill Johnson  
**Debbie & Anthony Ragucci**

In honor of our families  
**Debbie & Anthony Ragucci**

In memory of our mothers,  
Gayle Stewart & Lorene French  
**Ann & Randy Stewart**

In memory of my husband, Buddy  
**Ann Stelter**

In memory of our parents,  
Virginia & Arthur Mabry & Nita & Paul Hoover  
**Patricia & David Mabry**

# Advent



## PREPARING FOR JESUS

- Advent week 1 – **Hope**: Prophecy Candle
- Advent week 2 – **Peace**: Bethlehem Candle
- Advent week 3 – **Joy**: Shepherd's Candle
- Advent week 4 – **Love**: Angel's Candle
- Christmas Eve – **Jesus**: Christ Candle