

Merry Christmas from



FAITH
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Love God. Love Others. Serve.



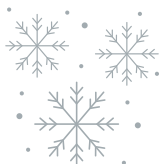
4th Sunday in *Advent*

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Contemporary Service with Praise Band

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Christmas Eve Services**
 - Wednesday, December 24
 - 5 p.m. (Contemporary)
 - 7 p.m. (Traditional)



225 JAMESTOWNE BLVD, FARRAGUT, TN, 37934
WWW.FAITHLOVES.ORG
865.966.9626



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
- CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE -
December 21, 2025 • 4th Sunday in Advent

GATHERING SONG

*Joy to the World
Lord I Need You*

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.

P: Let us pray,

All: We wait for you, most gracious God, in this season of Advent. In gratitude we thank you for the gift of Jesus to our world. Give us the eyes to see and the ears to hear the joy of your coming. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

Verse 1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Verse 2 The Light of the World is a'comin', I'm gonna let it shine.
The Light of the World is a'comin', I'm gonna let it shine.
The Light of the World is a'comin', I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Verse 3 As we prepare for Jesus, I'm gonna let it shine.
As we prepare for Jesus, I'm gonna let it shine.
As we prepare for Jesus, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Verse 4 In a world of darkness, I'm gonna let it shine.
In a world of darkness, I'm gonna let it shine.
In a world of darkness, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

PARISH NEWS

FIRST READING Romans 1:1-7 *pew Bible, page 1026*

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ. and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-12 *pew Bible, page 880*

This is the account of Jesus' birth in Matthew's gospel. Joseph bears the responsibility for carrying out God's great plan of salvation through the birth of Jesus, Messiah.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *The Dad Who Didn't Have to Be A Dad*

Pastor Bob Stelter

SERMON SONG *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

OFFERINGS FOR MISSION & MINISTRY

OFFERING SONG *Away In A Manger* arr. Mark Hayes

Lynn Rognsvoog

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 *All Is Well*

Lynn Rognsvoog

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.

SENDING SONG *For Unto Us a Child is Born*

SENDING

Praise Band: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Congregation: We will love God, love others, serve.

Praise Band: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

ALTAR GUILD Connie Rist

GREETER Shirley Hahn

USHERS Eric Johnson, Carol Nanney

COMMUNION MINISTERS Lisa Stelter, Dawn Ellis,
Jen & Brad Berry, Christian Berry

PROJECTION & LIGHTS Tara Taylor

The poinsettias are given in honor or in memory of loved ones.

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PRAYERS

Members: Terry Biesboer, Gene Bird, Dave Birkholz, Jan Bishop, Mary Blackburn, Rob Blackburn, Roger Brown, Nancy & Leon Cole, Michael Condon, Myles Cooper, Debbie Courtney, Nancy Dean, Nancy Dickinson, Irene Dorfinger, Patsy Elmore, John Elmore, Karoline Frasch, Pat Gary, Nick Gary, Mary Beth Green, Jonas Greenman, Chip Hester, Deb & Doug Houck, Tom Jayne, Paul Jurkoic, Bonnie Legako, Lin & Mike McKinley, Debbie Palatinus, Scarlett Parrott, Harold Peters, Joe Poole, Dr. Ted Primka, Sandra Prior, the Saylor family, John Shoemaker, Pamela Spaar, Bill Steele, Rich Wellner, Jean Witte, John Woods, Matt Wright.

Friends: Rogan Acuff, App family, Baker family, Bill Birkholz, Sheila Birkholz, Carl Bowers, John Burkett, Michael Carfi, Steve Case, Andy Cole, Meg Corrigan, Vanessa Coates, Linda Cosby, Michael Condon, Nancy Crain, Michael Damico, Irma DeBord, Shayna DeBord, Dennis family, Carolyn Dillhyon, Michelle Dionne, Van Dudley, Brandy & Brian Duke, Dan Edmunds, Favre family, Alanna & Arnie Fenske, Kathi Fenske-Hong, Phylis Garrison, Cindy Gioe, Angél Gobel, Gregory Goodall, Gary Gouzy, Gutelius family, Hall family, Patrick Harvey, Joy Hymer, Christine Johansen, Juniper Johnson, Duane Koran, Barb Korsmo, Dick Korsmo, Darren Lee, Tammy & Mark Leonhart, Loyacano family, Joe May, Jeff McCown, Roger McCown, Tillie Meffert, Josh Nickols, Cynthia & Jack Park, Chris Patrick, Rose & Steve Penney, Ashley Raunch, Shannon Remington, Lois Richardson, Carolyn Russell, Sarah Ryg, Salles families, Marilyn Savilisky, Scaglione family, Richard Sena, Lynn Siegfried & family, Audra Tyler Moore, Frank Tyler, Barb Weldon, Mya, Ro & Haven Wolfe, Kim Yee, Gary Yonke, Mark Zalesky, Nan Zhang & family, Zenher family, Aaron & Zionah, Angel & Ben, Barb, Cheri & George, Christine, Darcy, Dave, Debbie, Eve, Hayden, Janie, Jodi, Judy, Laura, Lauren, Myra, & Sandra, Stephanie, Tonya, Vanessa, Zane, Zoe *and those we name to You.*

Baptism Blessings: Genevieve Grace Halsey, parents Breanna & William Halsey, sponsors Abby & Travis Dean and Heather & Emil Dumitrescu.

Comfort in the midst of death for the family and friends of: Michael Lee, Sarah.

Shepherd of Hope Pantry Friends: Eddie, Faye, Edna, Anne, Max, Savannah, May, Jorge, Johnny, Ease, Vivian, Susan, Brood, Robert, Chris, Alisa, Zachary, Donna, Amber, Kelly, Adrien, Ronnie, Mary, Andrew, Noorjau, Merita, Brook, Tricia & Andrew, Ryan *and those known to God.*

Salvation Army Friends: Paula, Julie, Stephanie, Daphne, Elizabeth, Ren, Lisa, Cheryl, Wendy, Al, Gabby, James, Gibby, Jay, Alfredo, Chris, Grant, Grant, Jr., Zyane, Lois, Adam, Jason, Gary, Brandon, Sean, Jason *and those known to God.*

Concern & Assistance: Those dealing with addiction while incarcerated. Mentally & physically challenged. Veterans. Refugees and those living in fear of deportation. Persecuted Christians. The people of Jamaica, Nigeria, Iran, Israel, Syria, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia.

Partnerships: Bishop Yehiel Curry & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Bishop Kevin Strickland & the Southeastern Synod; Alicia & David Brondos, Missionaries in Mexico; Seminarian Sam Sosebee; Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry; English Language Learning Classes, Quiet Music Ministry; Tyson House; Deacon Ministry; Knox Area Rescue Ministry; Via de Cristo Ministry; Salvation Army Women's & Men's Homeless Shelters; Street Hope; Cole Center Caregivers and Parkinson Band; Mercy Ships; Lutheran Church & School in Guatemala; AL-ANON; Narcotics Anonymous.

Peace & Protection for all armed forces, especially: Jacob Cole, Kyleigh Cole, Anthony Hu, HM, Andrew McDonald, Alex Primka, Christine Russ, Sam Thompson, Chris Yonke, Mitchell Yount.

Church Council Leadership Team

Stephen Dean, President

David Mabry, Vice President

Mary Bales

Laura Beardsley, Secretary

Carrie Parrott, Treasurer

Ritchie Case

Connie Rist

Dawn Titsworth

Pastor Stelter

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 identities are united here in our mission to love God, Love Others, Serve.

DECEMBER 21



Theme: Fourth Sunday In Advent

Today's sermon will focus on John the Baptist's call to repentance and readiness.

If you are new, please sign a worship card and place it in the offering plate.

DIG IN, GROW DEEP, LEARN WITH OTHERS.

*Sunday School Classes
held at 10:15 a.m.*

Adult Bible Class: The Holy Land Revealed – In the classroom side of the Cup

Teen Sunday School (6th - 12th grade): In the Youth Room

Confirmation Class (8th - 10th grade): In the Library

Children's Sunday School for 5th grade and younger:

- Ye Littles of Faith for Kindergarten and younger in East hallway classroom next to Nursery
- The Mighty Kids Kingdom for 1st – 5th grades in West hallway classroom, 2 doors past youth room

Tuesday Bible Study (Open to All): In the classroom side of the Cup

STAY CONNECTED



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Faith Guest wi-fi password: **beblessed**

Staying connected through at least one of these ways allows you to know what's happening in between Sundays so you can plan ahead and be involved. If you follow us on social media, please be **sure to share our posts!**

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 9 a.m.** Traditional Worship Service
- 10 a.m.** English Language Class
- 10:15 a.m.** Bible Study/Sunday School
- 11:11 a.m.** Contemporary Worship Service
- 2 p.m.** Choir Open House

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 12 p.m.** Via de Cristo Reunion
- 6:15 p.m.** English Language Class

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 7:30 p.m.** Narcotics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (Contemporary)**
- 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (Traditional)**

CHRISTMAS

- 7:30 p.m.** Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 7 p.m.** Narcotics Anonymous

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 11 a.m.** Al-Anon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 9 a.m.** Traditional Worship Service
- 10 a.m.** English Language Class
- 10:15 a.m.** Bible Study/Sunday School
- 11:11 a.m.** Contemporary Worship Service
- 2 p.m.** Choir Open House

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Ongoing Christmas Joy**
 - Ongoing Christmas joy is celebrated during the church services on the Sunday following Christmas, **December 28**, with lots of carol-singing and a special sermon about living with joy all through the year.
- We are receiving a new altar on the week of Christmas. Subscribe to our newsletter to receive updates.

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday: Isaiah 33:17-22, Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20, Luke 1:46b-55

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29, Galatians 3:6-14, Luke 1:46b-55

Wednesday: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14, 15-20

Thursday: Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14

Friday: 2 Chronicles 24:17-22, Psalm 17:1-9, 15, Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60, Matthew 23:34-39

Saturday: Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31, Psalm 116:12-19, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 21:20-25

Sunday: Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

Faithful Response

Offerings last week: **\$ 9,196**
Offerings year to date: **\$ 802,453**



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