

Faith Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Advent
November 30th, 2025

Faith Lutheran Church is a community living in God's love which embraces and welcomes every person as part of God's Beloved Community. We celebrate each person created in God's image as we strive for justice, peace, and racial equity in our community and the wider world. We openly welcome and affirm all persons of every race, age, socioeconomic class, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, marital and family status, background, and experience. We seek to live as a community of God's people that values each person's voice, gifts, and full participation in all areas of the congregation's life and worship. We embrace the work of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us as we care for the earth and all of God's people.

Introduction

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

GATHERING

Hymn

ELW 244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Confession and Forgiveness

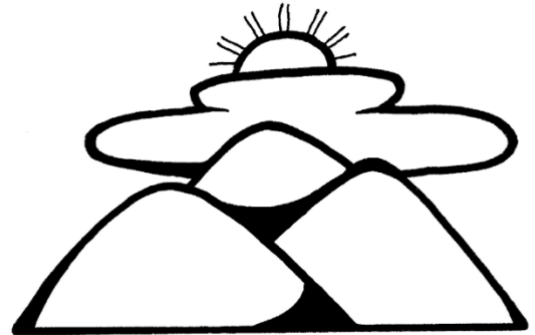
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,**



that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

Hymn

ACS 1078 "There Is a Longing in Our Hearts"

Refrain — All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing, for whole - ness, for new life:
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
deep-est night. We call you; we wait:



Refrain

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading *Isaiah 2:1-5*

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,

that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” (Ps. 122:1)

¹ I was glad when they | said to me,
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD.”

² **Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD. R**

⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
“May they pros- | per who love you.**

⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good.” **R**

Second Reading Roman 13:11-14

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today
in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to
wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became
believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works

of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon & Silent Reflection

Hymn of the Day

ELW 436 “Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying”

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your
mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

MFAI

Peace

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

Offering

"For Jesus, the quality of the gift is not how large it is, but the proportion you give and the heart with which you give it." There are many options for giving including plate giving, text to give (833-686-4752) or through our website.



Offertory Hymn

ELW 711 "O Day of Peace" in the tune of ELW 336

- 1 O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes. May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release, till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.
- 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small; as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all. Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord; the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Offering Prayer

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

Amen

Holy Communion

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.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

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.

Holy Communion is offered at the front of the church in either one or two lines. The ushers will let you know when to go forward and will start in the back of church. If you prefer to remain in your pew, indicate to the usher that you would like communion brought to you, or use one of the available individual sealed cups.

Lamb of God



Distribution Hymn

ELW 253 "He Came Down"

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood
strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

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FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE

Gathered as a community living in God's love we serve all people, care for the earth and embrace the work of the Holy Spirit.

Faith Lutheran Church will be recognized as a community of spiritual growth, a place of acceptance and inclusion, a gateway for environmental stewardship, a creator of partnerships and an advocate for social justice and peace.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP this Sunday includes:

Presiding
Organist/Pianist
Reader
Communion Assistant
Greeter
Ushers
Communion Set-up
Live Stream

*Rev. John C. Norquist
Stephen V. Hibbard
Dottie Dorr
Dottie Dorr*

*The Borkenhagen Family
Esther Rusch, Carol Bury & Sandy Stelter
Tom & Kelly Dennison*



Please pray for

*Lynn Wagner ~ James Kincaide ~ Nancy Hammen ~
Joyce ~ Chuck Thiele ~ Cathy Berntson ~ Craig Hoff ~ Pat
Jelinek ~ Edward Golding ~ Maritza ~ Heather ~ Don
Gauger ~ Stacey (Lohman) Barta ~ Gail ~ Janet Polum ~
Robb H ~ Donna Stroder ~ Bob Duff ~ Brian Schaff ~ Julia
Gergens ~ Leanne ~ Bob Kettlewell ~ Tony ~ Jodie ~ Ron
S. ~ Eli*

Week Ahead

Sunday the 30th ~ 9:30a Sunday Worship, 10:30a Fellowship Time

Monday December 1st ~

Tuesday 2nd ~ 10a Tai Chi Class

*Wednesday 3rd ~ 7a Bible Study Breakfast @ PJ Pipers, 9:15a Staff Meeting, 12p
ELCA Pastor's Lunch, 5:15p Confirmation Class*

Thursday 4th ~

Friday 5th ~

Saturday the 6th~

Sunday the 7th ~ 9:30a Sunday Worship with mid-service Sunday School, 10:30a Fellowship Time, 11a Adult Forum time with Pastor David Rebey from Breaking the Chains Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Mission of the Month **ELCA World Hunger**

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are called to share in God's work in the world. Fifty years ago, Lutherans in the United States launched the World Hunger appeals to stand with their neighbors experiencing hunger. Now a core ministry of the church, ELCA World Hunger embodies our hope in God's promise and our faith that God is revealed in the neighbors we accompany together.

This year, Faith is supporting ELCA World Hunger in a few ways...

- Noisy Offering: Each Sunday in November, the children of the congregation will be collecting change from us during the offering time.
- Forums: For three Sundays in November, we will be showing a video and discussing the study "ELCA World Hunger and Justice Ministry/Intersections"
 - November 9, Session 1: How Do ELCA World Hunger Partnerships Work?
 - November 16, Session 2: What is Intersectional Justice?
 - November 23, Session 3: Root Causes of Poverty
- Other monetary gifts: As with other Missions of the Month, checks can be written out to Faith indicating your gift is for ELCA World Hunger. You can also give online by going to www.faithlutherancedarburg.com/give and picking the category "Mission of the Month".

As we reflect on the ELCA World Hunger's last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever. Thank you!

2025 Children's Christmas Program

Our EPIC Children's Christmas Program this year will be: 'A Christmas Alphabet' on December 21st at 11:15am at Trinity Lutheran Church! If your child wants to participate in this fun program, please contact Tom or Lisa Wegner (lisa@adventchurch.org). All children from preschool to middle school are welcome to participate. Scan the QR code to sign up:



Rehearsal dates are:

November 30th: 10:45am-11:15am

December 7th: 10:45am-11:15am

December 14th: 10:45am-11:15am

December 20th: 10am-12:00pm Full Dress Rehearsal

December 21st: 10:45am all children should be by this time, 11:15am performance

Tree Trimming and Decorating

Please join us on Friday, December 12th at 9:00am to help tree trimming and decorating for Christmas here at church. Food will be provided after by Dottie. Please RSVP to Jacquie to let her know you will be able to come and help! Jacquie's phone number is 414-416-8303.

Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas is coming and it's time to think about decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias. If you'd like to buy one, please fill out the envelope and put it in the **gold box in the narthex**. Remember to circle if you would like a red or white poinsettia. If you would like to give a poinsettia in someone's memory, please note that on the envelope. After Christmas Day, you may take the poinsettia home or leave it at church for the rest of the Christmas season. The cost is **\$15** and checks should be made out to, Faith Lutheran Church.



Deadline for orders is Sunday, Dec. 14th

Go Tell It On The Mountain!

A Night of Carols and Hymns will happen again this year at Water Street Brewery, December 2nd from 6pm-8pm! Come for fun and a festive time. Prizes for the best youth and adult festive attire! Make sure to RSVP at www.bit.ly/GoTell2025 or scan a QR code on a poster around church.

Community Book Club

All are welcome to join our community book club! The next book our community book club will be reading is *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* by Patrick Raden Keefe. The book club will meet tomorrow, **Monday, November 24th at 6:30pm** to discuss, hope to see you there!

Financial Update

Thank you for Growing In Faith as we carry out our congregation's mission together. You are making a difference in our community and world! Here is a summary of progress toward our financial goals for this year. If you have questions about our finances please contact our Treasurer Tim Gergens or any of our Church Council members. Your gifts make this ministry possible- thank you.

Year To Date Budget vs. Actuals

January – October 31, 2025	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/Under Budget
<i>Total Giving:</i>	<i>\$171,499</i>	<i>\$192,500</i>	<i>-\$21,001</i>

More Perfect Union

Faith friend, Naomi Lundman, is a Brickyard Captain of the Dairyland Brickyard More Perfect Union group in Cedarburg. Please consider joining +MPU!

+MPU unites the country and strengthens communities through social connection, service, and civic engagement.

+More Perfect Union monthly coffee club

2nd Thursday of the month, 12:30pm

Starbucks Cedarburg

Please visit: <https://www.mpu.us/chapters/dairyland-brickyard-wi/> for more information

Save Your Rummage

Faith's next annual rummage sale will be on February 14, 2026. We need you to save your rummage at your home **until January 1**. Please find the perfect corner of your home to store your donations until we are ready to collect them. We take all items except adult clothing, electronics, and large furniture. All donations must be saleable and in excellent condition (no scratches, stains, dings, or parts missing). Thank you for thinking about Faith when sorting and cleaning out.

-Jacquie Becher and Laverne Gresch

Advent Signs

Few things in life are as jarring as awakening to the shriek of a fire alarm. Of course, that is by design. The safety of those gathered indoors calls for a blaring warning of impending danger so that all might be delivered from harm. Jesus offers a similar signal to his beloveds today, begging us to pay attention to the seriousness of the message he bears: *Be ready! Keep awake! Pay attention to your surroundings! Deliverance is coming soon!*

Advent is a season of preparation, directing our focus toward the incarnation, toward Christmas, when God becomes human and the weary world rejoices. Sometimes preparations take the form of monthslong laborious planning, as we might do for an international trip or the renovation of a home. Other times, preparations must happen immediately, within hours, minutes, or seconds. When a fire alarm sounds, there's no time to plan: We must act quickly, gathering what is most important to get to safety together.

This first Sunday of Advent is a chance to take stock of what is most important in life, to attune our spirits to the reign of heaven that God is birthing in our world. We may be unsettled by these gospel images of the great flood and of field workers being disappeared. Such stories indeed may spark fear, anxiety, and distrust. Yet God comes to be with us amid all the great uncertainties of life, amid the atrocities of human violence, amid the worst of our losses and fears. Jesus reminds us that God is always drawing near to the world, always extending mercy, always acting with love. Mercy and love are Advent signs worth paying attention to, worth staying awake for. Be ready, beloveds, and fear not! God's deliverance is coming soon.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

N35 W6621 Wilson Street

Cedarburg, WI 53012

262-377-0960

www.faithlutherancedarburg.com

