Faith Lutheran Church



2nd Sunday of Advent December 7th, 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.

Today we welcome Kieran Patrick Dixon, son of Mike & Lauren Dixon, who will receive the gift of Holy Baptism. We celebrate with them in Kieran's new life in Christ!

Introduction

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHFRING

Hymn

ELW 239 "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

Confession and Forgiveness

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

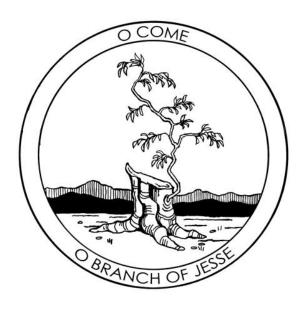
Amen.

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.

Hymn

ACS 1078 "There Is a Longing in Our Hearts"



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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Sermon & Sunday School

Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,

whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding. the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see

or decide by what his ears hear,

- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth.
- and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together,
- and a little child shall lead them.

 The cow and the bear shall graze;
- their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowled

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God. word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

- ¹ Give the king your jus- ¹ tice, O God, and your righteousness to ¹ the king's son;
- 2 that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and [|] moon endure, from one generation [|] to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon ¹ the mown field, like showers that wa- ¹ ter the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the ¹ righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

- ¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel; you alone do | wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious [|] name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- [|] men. Amen. **R**

Second Reading Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.' "

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor David Rebey- Breaking the Chains Church

Hymn of the Day

ELW 249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Holy Baptism

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: I present Kieran for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Kieran baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

As you bring Kieran to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *him* among God's faithful people, bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *his* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *him* in faith and prayer, so that *he* may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Kieran grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Kieran in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Kieran and pray for *him* in *his* new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Assembly

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.
Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

Kieran Patrick, I baptize you in the name of the Father,* and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Kieran Patrick with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Kieran Patrick, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

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



Thanksgiving at the Table

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.

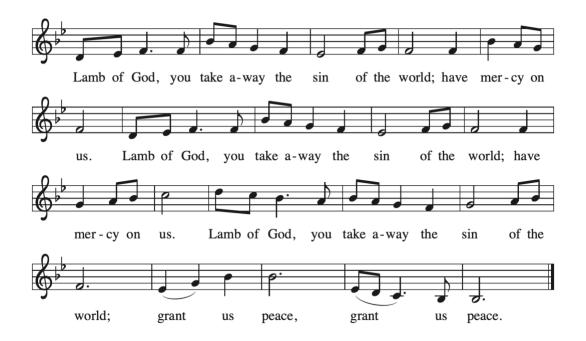
Amen, and amen.

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 264 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 256 "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People"

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.

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.

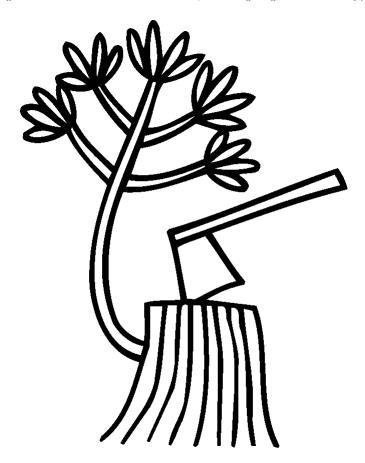
Dismissal

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

Guest Preacher

Organist/Pianist

Rev. John C. Norquist

Rev. David Rebey

Stephen V. Hibbard

Reader

Communion Assistant

Sunday School Instructor(s)

Greeter

Cindy Dellegrazio

Donna Fowler

Ushers

Communion Set-up Dottie Dorr, Linda O'Leary & Cory Schoofs
Live Stream Schoofs Family

Please pray for

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

Week Ahead

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

Monday the 8th~ 6p Friendship Ministries, 6p Cub Scouts in basement

Tuesday 9th ~ 10a Tai Chi Class, 4p Music and Worship Committee

Wednesday 10th~ 7a Bible Study Breakfast @ PJ Pipers, 9a Sunrise Circle, 9:15a Staff Meeting, 12p ELCA Pastor's Lunch, 5:15p Confirmation Class

Thursday 11th~ 9:30a St. Ben's Meal Packing, 5p Tiger Cub Scouts

Friday 12th~ 9a Sanctuary Tree Decorating

Saturday the 13th~

Sunday the 14th~ 9:30a Sunday Worship with mid-service Sunday School, 10:30a Fellowship Time

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Mission of the Month Breaking the Chains Church

Breaking the Chains Church (BtCC) is a "Synodically-Authorized Worshiping Community" of the Greater Milwaukee Synod–ELCA. The ministry of BtCC aims to provide consistent and life-giving spiritual care for incarcerated men at the Felmers Chaney Correctional Center and the Kenosha Correctional Center. Both of these are minimum security, pre-release facilities, operated by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Prior to BtCC there was no consistent spiritual care provided at either of these prisons. Now, BtCC connects the residents with a faith-based community prior to their release and seeks to maintain supportive post-release pastoral relationships with these returning citizens in an effort to help them successfully re-enter the community.

Our relationships aim to model God's unconditional love, grace, and mercy as we accompany the men in their journey to become productive and contributing members of the communities to which they return, and to avoid reincarceration.

BtCC is served by David Rebey, an ordained ELCA pastor, and a group of volunteers from various congregations in the synod. Volunteers, after completing Department of Corrections (DOC) volunteer training, are authorized to attend weekly Bible studies and/or worship services. BtCC has been a special mission for Faith since 2016.

To help keep us connected, Pastor Rebey will preach on December 7. During our forum time, Pastor Rebey and one of the former resident members of Breaking the Chains Church will share with us the impact of having a church connection during and after incarceration. They will also give us an update on BtCC and related aspects of our Wisconsin Correctional system.

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 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

Community Book Club

All are welcome to join our community book club! The next book our community book club will be reading is *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston. The book club will meet, **Monday**, **January 26**th **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,	YTD	YTD	Over/Under
2025	Actual	Budget	Budget
Total Giving:	\$171,499	\$192,500	-\$21,001



More Perfect Union

Faith friend, Naiomi 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 <u>until</u> **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

Turning and Mending (Again)

Being on the receiving end of sharp language can be heartbreaking. Indeed, words can wound—or worse. John the Baptizer, a key figure in our Advent narratives, finds himself at odds with other religious leaders of the time, and uses the tool he has (language) to call attention to their broken relationship. It's unclear what exactly led to this prickly, pointed exchange between John and the Pharisees and Sadducees, but there is a growing chasm between them.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," John cries out in the wilderness, echoing the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah cried out in his own day centuries prior, testifying to God's desire to mend the world (though the world seemed to be at an end). Perhaps John repeats Isaiah's plea in order to remind the people of his day of God's intent for all things: for the world to be mended, healed, made right; for the reign of heaven to be revealed on earth, here and now. Often, however, mending brokenness requires honesty first about the wounds that have been inflicted and the death that has been wrought. With John's painful honesty, his strained relationship with other leaders of his time takes a step toward healing, toward justice, so that a new beginning might take hold. This is a starting point, as difficult as it may be.

Every Advent, as the church year begins again, we hear the familiar call: *Repent. Turn back to God.* Repentance is no easy thing, but thankfully, God draws us back to this imperative, year after year, day after day, hour after hour. With infinite mercy, once again God invites us to turn toward healing, toward justice, toward the righting of the world, one relationship at a time.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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