

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the ELCA

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Sun City, CA 92586 * (951) 679-1518

Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

Guest Pastor: Pr. Ken Puccio

OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs 8:30 - 5:00; Fri 8:30 - 12:30

Worship Plan for Wednesday, December 24, 2025

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, where grace and love abound. While we wait and prepare for a new pastor, we invite you to participate fully in the vibrant life of the congregation, and to join us in prayer as we continue to serve God and God's people during this time of transition.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Enriching lives through faith and God's grace.

MEMBERS & GUESTS: Please fill out a worship attendance card found in the pew racks. Prayer requests may be included on the reverse side for one Sunday or bulletin publication.

INVITATION TO BAPTISM: We would like to extend to you the blessing of Baptism and encourage you to contact the church office to be baptized.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Christ is truly present through the power of God's Holy Spirit. We invite everyone to come forward and be renewed in the covenant God made with us in our baptism. All are gladly invited and welcome. If, in coming forward, you choose not to receive the Sacrament, we ask you to fold your hands over your chest so you may receive a pastoral blessing. The Sacrament will be brought to those unable to come forward to the altar (notify an usher). Available upon request: gluten-, wheat-, corn-, dairy- and soy-free wafers.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNION: Families are encouraged to come to the rail together during the distribution. Children may receive Communion or a special blessing from the Pastor.

CELL PHONES: Please silence your cell phones before Worship.

Prayer Upon Entering the Church

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Call to Worship *O Come, All Ye Faithful, featuring Charlotte Church*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels

O come let us adore Him, (x3)
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created

O come let us adore Him, (x3)
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above. Glory to God in the highest

O come let us adore Him, (x3)
Christ the Lord.

(pause)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee all be glory given
Word of the father now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore Him, (x3)
Christ the Lord.

Public Domain: Sources: Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2; Music: attr. John Francis Wade

Christmas Dialog and the Lighting of the Advent Wreath

AM: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C: He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

AM: At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C: With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

AM: In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C: With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O Come O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel.

That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Music: French processional, 15th cent

Introduction to the Day

AM: In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Carol

Go Tell It On The Mountain
with Pr. Ken on guitar

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled, when, lo! Above the Earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent
us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

Public Domain; Sources: Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.; Music:
African American spiritual

Reading: Marlene Rosselli

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who
lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³ You have
multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as
with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke
of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their
oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of
the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned
as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Great will be his
authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his
kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will
do this.

Carol

*O Little Town of Bethlehem
with Pr. Ken on guitar*

O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see they lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondr'ing love.
O morning stars together proclaim the Holy Birth,
And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the Wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin.
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the Dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

The Christmas Story, Part 1 – The Birth of the Savior

Luke 2:1-7

Danielle Maddox

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the inn.

Carol

*Away in a Manger
with Pr. Ken on guitar*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where he lay.
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the poor baby wakes.
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side till morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Public Domain; Sources: Text: North American, 19th cent.; Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

The Christmas Story, Part 2 – The Angels and the Shepherds Luke 2: 8-20

Joanne McGavran

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, featuring Charlotte Church*

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ by highest heaven adored. Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.”

Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise each child of earth. Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

Come, Desire of nations, come, fix in us Thy humble home
Oh, to all Thyself impart formed in each believing heart!
Hark! The herald angels sing 'Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled
Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn king."

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

Announcements

If you would like to donate towards the poinsettias, they are \$16.00 each. You may take one home after tonight's service. Please either place a check in the offering plate, or pay through Zelle, Venmo, PayPal or Vanco and note "poinsettia."

The Giving Tree will be set up in the Narthex through December 28th. Pick up a flyer for all of the information you'll need.

This quarter (October - December) Outreach is collecting the following items for MilVet: Chewing gum (individually wrapped packs) and beef sticks (individually wrapped). The items will be used in monthly boxes sent to deployed military. The donation box is in the Narthex.

For December, we are collecting canned tuna and meat, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office.

The Prayer of the Church / The Lord's Prayer

AM: Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

AM: Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through

the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace,

C: hear our prayer.

AM: Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy, especially those we name on our lips or in our hearts, especially Briana; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Arnette Calkins; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Debbie Ehrig; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Eileen Johnson; the Kadow and Forbes families; Mike Latchford; Don Little; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Dee Mills; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Nancy Randolph and family; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Shalonne Stone; Joyce Stromberg; Kiki Thomas; Nicholas Thomas; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; Harold Whitford; the homebound; the emergency responders; the San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love,

C: hear our prayer.

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

C: 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.

Guest Speaker: David ben Shemuel, a Retired Shepherd from Bethlehem

Offering

AM: At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship. Thank you so much for all the ways you give and help to make the ministries of this church possible!

This evening's offering, including our prayers and pledges, will now be brought forward and lifted up to God during the Musical Offering.

Musical Offering

O Holy Night, featuring Anne Murray

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks, a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, oh hear the angel voices

O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night, divine, O night, O night, divine.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks, a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, oh hear the angel voices

O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night, divine, O night divine

One License song #211091; Sources: Music: Adolphe Adam; Text: Original lyrics Placide Cappeau trans. John Sullivan Dwight; OneLicense #402221

Offering Prayer

AM: Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Candle Lighting

Instructions: Soon we will be dimming the lights and lighting our candles. Please hold your lit candle upright and let your neighbor light their candle from yours. Parents, please supervise children for safety.

Dim lights.

Candlelight Prayer

P. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light of Jesus Christ. Continue to shine your light on us so that we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence forever. We need you to shine in the dark corners of our world. Come to us and shine in our lives that we may reflect your love on earth. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen

Candlelight Carol

*Silent Night
with Pr. Ken on guitar*

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

Benediction

P: May God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, the Father, the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

Sending Carol

Joy to the World, featuring Charlotte Church

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing.
And heav'n and nature sing.
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, 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.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow.
Far as the curse is found.
Far as the curse is found.
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love.
And wonders of his love.
And wonders, wonders of his love.
And wonders of his love.

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Dismissal

P: Unto us a Savior is born! Go share the Good News!
C: Thanks be to God!! We will!

Choral Benediction

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

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THIS WEEK AT FAITH:

Thursday, the 25th: Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Friday, the 26th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 28th: Worship begins at 9:30 with David Moe

THOSE WHO SERVED TONIGHT:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Roderick

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Annie

ATTENDANCE: Judy Ad.

GREETER: Joanne

ALTAR GUILD: Mars and Kandie

SOUND: Mars

LIVE STREAM: Madeline

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NO FEES
to Faith Lutheran
➔



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