

Keep awake

MARK 13:37





The First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 02, 2023 5:00pm
Sunday, December 03, 2023 9:00am

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE

"Come, Emmanuel"

Jubilation

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"The Song was with God"

Hans Peterson

$\text{♩} = 100$

At the start the song was God and the
In the dark there was the song. It be -
Lead us to the man - ger where

Use sustain pedal throughout

song it was with God. In - to har - mo -
gan for all to sing. Its mel - o - dy was
love, the song is born. And through the deep - est

ny, all life came to be;
love; it rang out clear a - bove;
night, we'll join with the light

a song was sung in - to the si - lence.
it rang through fear in - to the emp - ty.
to shine with your e - ter - nal pres - ence.

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.

FIRST SUNDAY - *The Wonder of Christmas*

Candle Lighting

Today we light the **first candle**. The first candle reminds us that the season of Advent is a time of unspeakable wonder. As we begin our Advent journey, let us stand amazed at the promise God has fulfilled, the love God has shown, and the joy God has given through the birth of Christ

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to remember the wonders of our faith.

God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Advent is a time to be amazed at God's wondrous love.

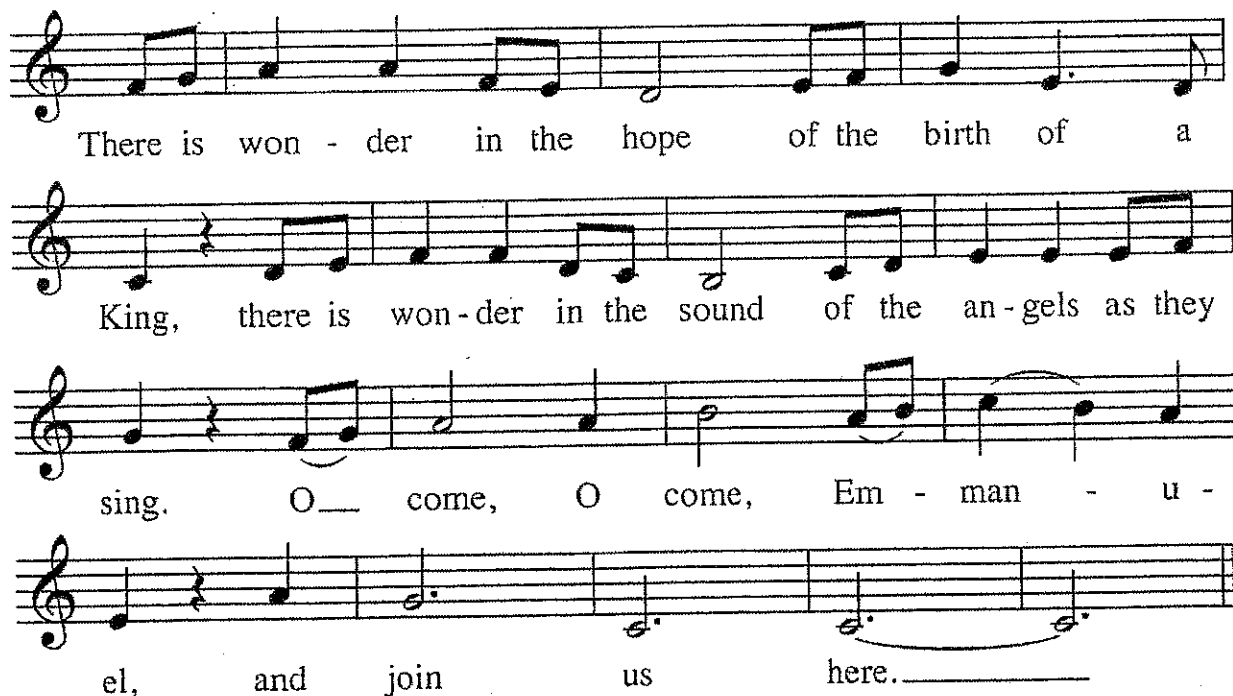
God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Advent is a time to retrace our past, and reclaim the hope of our future.

God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Advent is a time to be awed by God's unfolding plan for creation.

God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from First Corinthians.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Help Us O Lord"

♩ = 90

Help us O Lord to hear your word. O-pen our hearts to feel your word. Give us the strength to live your word each day.

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GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his

slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

ANTHEM

“Did You Feel the Mountain Tremble?”

Jubilation

HOLY BAPTISM (5 pm)

Everett Charles Johnson

p. 227

CREED (9 am)

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 THE PEOPLE

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

Each prayer petition will conclude, “Lord, in your mercy,”
The congregation responds, “hear our prayer.”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

"Help Us Oh Lord"

vv. 1 & 3

$\text{♩} = 108$

Em C D Em

Help us, oh Lord, to do what is right and wise.
 Teach us to live your king - dom come here on earth.
 of - fer in joy what you first to us gave:

Am C D

Help us to see our bro - thers' needs that are in dis - guise.
 O - pen our lives to treat each per - son with e - qual worth.
 Our - selves, our time, the ver - y things that our hands have made.

Em B7

Re - Help us, oh Lord, to feel the
 mind us we're fam - i - ly; we're
 Re - ceive them all now, this is our

C D Em B (last time end on Em)

pain in our sis - ters' eyes.
 bound by bap - tis - mal birth.
 prayer in Je - sus' name. We

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At the end of the ages your Son, Jesus, came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"

$\text{♩} = 100$ Eb (D) (guitar: capo 1) Bbm/G (Am/F#) Ab (G)

Lamb of God,
Bread of Life,
Prince of Peace,
Lamb of God,

Eb/G (D/F#) AbMaj7 (GMaj7) Gm7 (F#m7)

you take a - way the sin of the

1, 2, 3 C7 (B7) Eb (D) F (E) F7 (E7) Bb7 (A7)

world: have mer - cy on us.

4 C7 (B7) Eb (D) F (E) F7 (E7) Bb7 (A7) Eb (D)

world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Please follow the directions of the pastors to receive communion. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing. Those who are worshipping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

COMMUNION ANTHEMS

"Light Shines in the Darkness"
"We Will Wait"

Jubilation

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. .
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Messiah"

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 110. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody starts on a D note, moves through several eighth and quarter notes, and includes a measure with a whole note chord marked 'D'. After a few more measures, there is a measure with a whole note chord marked 'G'. The melody concludes with a whole note chord marked '8'. Below the staff, the lyrics are written in three columns, corresponding to the musical phrases.

Someone's shouting from the des - ert.
Someone's shouting from the cit - y.
Someone's shouting I am brok - en.

Someone's shouting from the sea.
I am young, — I am cold.
Someone's shouting make me whole.

Someone's shouting from the mountain.
Someone's shouting from the country.
Someone's shouting come and change me.

Someone's shouting from the val-ley. Mes-
I am lone-ly, I am old.
Someone's shouting save my soul.

si ah, come and be our King.

Mes - si ah, come and be our

King.

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DISMISSAL

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

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The Greatest Gift

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Tom Bauer & Kelly Goldsmith
Reader	Ryan Strom
Communion Assistant	Kelly Goldsmith
Counters	Kelly Goldsmith & Joan Hennigan

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Duane & Lynda Miller
Reader	Carolyn Hulsen
Communion Assistant	Jolene Newman
Counters	Chelsey Dingbaum & Carol Roe

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowski and Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker

Winds of Grace

Have you ever experienced a powerful storm in which the sky grew increasingly dark and winds swirled the clouds or broke branches off trees? Our modern technology often allows us to prepare for storms like blizzards and hurricanes that develop slowly as they move toward us. Perhaps you've taken part in hastily boarding up windows, securing pets or farm animals, and gathering groceries and supplies in anticipation of being shut in or without power for a time.

The coming of the Son of Man will apparently not include advance warnings like those of meteorologists and weather apps, for Jesus says, "About that day or hour no one knows." It may be more like a tornado or thunderstorm, where we see that the conditions are right but can't be sure precisely when or where it will materialize. Our preparations for that type of storm are different, primarily focused on where and how we'll take shelter should lightning or a funnel cloud be spotted nearby. Many of us practiced tornado drills in school as kids; such practices, as well as storm watches and warnings, keep us aware of how to respond and alert about when to do so.

It is easy to hear Jesus' words and sound an alert for the end times. We might even spend time and energy worrying about the end and what it means for us. At the same time, the urgency of this proclamation is focused on the present, on what we can do here and now to be open to God's rule in our lives. This is a different kind of preparation, focused on loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

In the sacraments of baptism and communion we are invited into regular practices of anticipating the presence of God with us. In Advent we bring a particular focus to this expectation. We are invited to think about the ways the winds of grace gather us in, and then send us out for the sake of the world.

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest
Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am
Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net



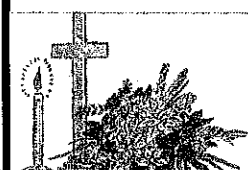
GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

First Sunday of Advent
December 2 & 3, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheranelldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



Altar Flowers

The Flowers on the altar are given by The Johnson Family in In honor of Elliott's baptismal anniversary (2018) and in celebration of Everett's baptism (2023).

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheranelldridge.com



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ron McFate	Duane Miller	Sue Vogel	Jacki Caugherty
Sally Puls	Henry Storjohann	Andrew Arp	Jim Peters
Jensen Spencer	Dan Anderson	Kim Pierce	Glen
Ann Kuehl	Pam White	Jeanette Myers	Kelly
Madison Russo	Leona Farley	Bill Lind	Vaughn
Janet Bowman	Ed Stoltz	James Deeds	Mary Lou
Kathy Stoltz	Judy Knoer	Pam Lueder	Shawn
Steve Mixdorf	Melissa Alden	Barb Conklen	Don



During the Saturday, December 2 worship service, we welcome to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Everett Charles Johnson, the son of Colton and Becky Johnson. Everett's sponsors are Ben and Cat Potter.

The rose on the altar is given in celebration of Everett's baptism in loving memory of Mary House, Maddie Mess, and Jackie Snyder.



Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...

The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of our safety plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. Quarterly training will be held on **Sunday, December 3 @ 10:15 am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend!

Contact Tom Bauer for more information.



Christmas Poinsettia

If you wish to contribute toward Christmas poinsettias that will decorate the altar area this year, please list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area or online using the link on our web page. We are asking for a contribution of \$10.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. **Please indicate 'flowers' on your**

envelope so we know how to allocate the funds. Names must be received by **December 15th** to be published in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.

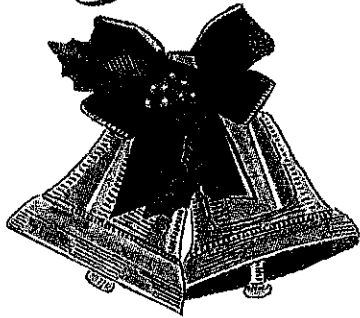


Our Christmas Special Offering this year will be split equally between Ricks R.A.Y. of Hope, and ELCA Good Gifts. Please place your Christmas offering in your designated Christmas envelope or put it in a pew envelope with "Christmas" marked on the envelope.



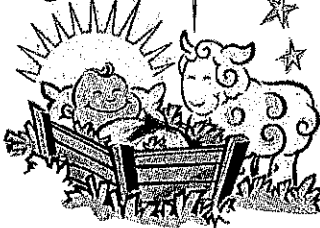
The **2024 Offering Envelopes** are now available. They are on the Welcome Center counter for you to pick up. Please contact Rhonda Webber if you have not had envelopes before, but would like some for the new year.

Christmas Cantata



After a three-year pause, the Christmas cantata is back! On Saturday, December 9, at the 5:00 p.m. worship service, People of Praise (and friends), are thrilled to be presenting this year's Christmas cantata, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus". The cantata features both standard carols that we all know and love, along with some beautiful original music. Also, during the prelude, you'll be treated to the sounds of Resounding Joy playing some beautiful well-known Advent chime pieces. Hear the music of the season and enjoy refreshments following the service as well. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate the return of this much-loved musical tradition.

Sunday School Program



The Sunday School Christmas program will be on **Sunday, December 17th**, at **9:00 am**. We will practice during Sunday School in November and December, with the exception of November 26th, as we will not have Sunday School that day due to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend.

Sunday School will be on Christmas break December 24th and 31st. We will resume on Sunday, January 7th, with our Winter Rally Day and Congregational Breakfast!



We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion Assistants to serve during December, especially during the Christmas Eve worship services. Please check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or on our website to sign up. ***Thank you for helping!***



CHRISTMAS BRASS

Faith Welcomes Christmas Brass Quartet

On Sunday December 10, our brass quartet will return to play many of your favorite Christmas carols before, during, and after the service. The quartet will feature Alan Knapper on trumpet, David Hope on trumpet, Brad Miller on trombone, and Neal Becker on euphonium. Come and enjoy the sounds of Advent and Christmas!



5pm: 29 ,9am: 41, Online: 52, Total:122

THIS WEEK AT GLANCE



Saturday, December 2	5:00 pm	Jubilation Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, December 3	9:00 am	Jubilation Worship In Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	10:15 am	Sunday School
	11:15 am	Usher Training
Monday, December 4	<i>Office Closed</i>	
	6:00 pm	Lion's Club
	7:00 pm	Drama Boosters
Tuesday, December 5	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
	6:30 pm	VFW
Wednesday, December 6	5:00 pm	Confirmation Meal
	5:30 pm	Confirmation Conversations
	6:00 pm	Cantata Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth Group
	7:10 pm	Resounding Joy
Thursday, December 7	6:30 pm	Team Night
	7:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, December 8	9:30 am	Food Pantry
Saturday, December 9	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online with Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 10	9:00 am	Worship In Sanctuary with Christmas Brass
	10:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	10:15 am	Sunday School



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office **Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.**