

*find a gift*  
WORTH GIVING



*a savior has been born* TO YOU

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm

December 24, 2011 AD

# FAITH LUTHERAN



## WELCOME!

We are glad that you have joined us to celebrate the birth of the Christchild. Our service is printed for you in its entirety in this program. If you need anything, please speak to an usher at the rear of the sanctuary.

## FOR THE CHILDREN

- **Battery operated candles** are available for the small children. Please return them after the service in the basket near the door of the church.
- **A Staffed Nursery** is available for your use at any time during the service. It is located in Rooms 1 and 2.
- **A Cry-Room** is available if your little ones need a moment. It is located near the balcony stairs at the back of the sanctuary. A speaker and window let you see and hear the service.
- **Children's Activity Sheets** give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for the day. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

## CONVENIENCES

- **Restrooms:** Exit the sanctuary and enter the hallway directly in front of you. The bathrooms are on the right and left.
- **Hearing assistance devices** are available. Speak to an usher.
- **Large print service folders** are available. Speak to an usher.

## CANDLES

Remember when lighting the candles, *tip the unlit candle* and leave the lit candle vertical. Parents carefully watch children and help them to keep their candles vertical. *The candles will not drip wax on you or the pews if they are held vertically.*

*For more information visit us on the web at [georgiafaith.com](http://georgiafaith.com)*



## FIND A GIFT WORTH GIVING: A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU!

### THE RINGING OF THE BELL

*At the pastor's instruction, please stand and face the processional group at the back of the sanctuary.*

L(eader):            In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C(ongregation):    **Amen.**

L:            The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C:            **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

L:            Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C:            **We have seen the glory of the Christ, the glory of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

L:            For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C:            **In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

L:            O loving God, You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and the Christ-child. May the words of Scripture we hear tonight remind us again that the old story is ever so new. May the carols we sing tonight reveal to us again the mystery of his birth. May the candles we see tonight symbolize for us your Son as the Light of the world. May all who have known that Light on earth come to the full measure of its joys in heaven.

C:            **Help us, O Lord, in our worship this night. Amen.**

## THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,  
 2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,  
 Sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove.  
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.  
 On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.  
 Glo - ry to God, All glo - ry in the high - est.  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



*Refrain*  
 Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Let us confess our sins to God.

O Lord, by right, we should have nothing to sing about. We do not deserve your love. Our hearts are filled with love for you, but we confess we have often loved others more than you. Our eyes behold your glory, but we confess we have lusted for what you forbid. Our lips praise you, but we confess we have spoken evil again and again. Our sins have only gained us trouble. They have not given us the happiness they promised.

*A moment of silence to reflect on our sins.*

L: O Lord, remind us that Christ came into the world to free us from the guilt of sin. Proclaim to us that his life and death cover our sins. Hear our prayer as we cry to you:

**C: Forgive us, dear Father!**

L: Glory to God in the highest! In love that astounds us, the eternal God sent his one and only Son to live among us, to obey as we could not, and to suffer what we deserved. In Christ there is indeed peace on earth. In him God extends his good will to all people. Because of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says: In Christ your sins are forgiven!

**C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

## HYMN: ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry,  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing,  
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions;  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing,



Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far.  
Watch - ing long in hope and fear,



Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;  
God with us is now re - sid - ing -  
Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
Yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.  
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## ISAIAH 9:2-7

*The light of God's grace appeared when Christ the Lord was born.*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

## LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

*Sung by the Choir, this beautiful song praises the miracle of the virgin birth of Jesus, who was the Branch sprung from the stem of Jesse, the Flower who was True God and True Man (see Isaiah 11:1). Written near Trier, Germany, in the 1500s by a man of God who had found a rose while walking in the woods on Christmas Eve. The harmony was written by Michael Praetorius, the great Lutheran court composer from Wolfenbüttel.*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming,  
From tender stem hath sprung.  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung;  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel with glorious splendour  
The darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God,  
From Sin and death now save us,  
And share our every load.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind;  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to men a Savior,  
When halfspent was the night.



**TITUS 2:11-14***We now live in the light of God's love as we wait for Christ to come again.*

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

**HYMN: AWAY IN A MANGER**

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with you there.

**LUKE 2:1-20**

*When the time was right, God sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



## HYMN: HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and  
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring  
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with



sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you na - tions rise,  
of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see,  
heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry by,



Join the tri - umph of the skies; With th' an - gel - ic host pro -  
Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as man with us to  
Born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from the



claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!" Hark! The her - ald  
dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald  
earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth. Hark! The her - ald



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"  
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"  
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

# THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

## FIND A GIFT WORTH GIVING

*A sermon by Pastor Jonathan Schroeder*

*View tonight's sermon or our archive of past sermons  
by going to [georgiafaith.com/webcast](http://georgiafaith.com/webcast)*

# THANKSGIVING

## THE OFFERING

*The members of Faith Lutheran Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.*

## THE OFFERTORY

*"Angels we Have Heard on High" by Tiffany Harris*

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*During the offering, an usher will come to your pew and light the candle nearest the center aisle. Please then light the candle next to you until all the candles are lit in the pew. When all the candles are lit, the lights will be dimmed. Remember to tip the unlit candle and leave the lit candle vertical.*

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Throughout the prayer, when the Leader says, "Lord, in your mercy..." the congregation responds by saying, "Hear our prayer!"*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## THE LORD'S BLESSING

**L: The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.**

**C: Glory to God in the highest. Amen!**

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMN



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright,  
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight.  
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light



Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far;  
Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia;  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Silent prayer as the candles are extinguished.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Light Refreshments** will be served in the gathering area immediately after the service. Please stay and enjoy!

**A New FaithBuilders Class begins January 22nd:** Our FaithBuilders class is for people interested in becoming members of Faith, or for people just looking to build their faith through the study of the basic teachings of the Bible. Classes are held on Sunday at 10:45am and the same topic is repeated on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. If you would like to attend, contact Pastor Schroeder. Childcare is available. Everyone is welcome!

**Christmas Day Festival Service:** December 25th at 10:30am.

**No Bible Study and Sunday School on Dec 25<sup>th</sup> or Jan 1<sup>st</sup>** – All Sunday School classes will resume on the second Sunday in January.