



*The Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2013*

*Faith Lutheran Church
2014 Allison Lane
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
(812) 282-6993
www.flcjeff.org*

FAITHFUL LUTHERANS SENT BY CHRIST TO SERVE GOD'S CHILDREN

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The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God
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WELCOME!

All are welcome at Faith Lutheran Church today as we continue our journey of faith. Join with us as we offer our praises to God. There is a nursery available for those who need it.

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Events/Activities This Week around Faith:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Today | 9:15am | Sunday School | Thu. 12/19 | 9:15am | WCS |
| | 10:30am | Worship | | 1:00pm | Bible Study |
| | | | Sun. 12/22 | 9:15am | S.S. |
| Tue. 12/17 | 9:15am | WCS | | 10:30am | Worship |
| Wed. 12/18 | 7:00pm | Confirmation | | 6:00pm | Potluck/Prgm |

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Announcements

The State of Indiana advised the Literacy Center Steering Committee that they will not be able to provide laptops as originally expected. Additional computer laptops will be required in order for the Literacy Program to operate as we would like it to. Anyone wishing to donate a computer laptop with Windows software should contact Rick Barr ([812-246-4056](tel:812-246-4056)). Remember that your donation is tax deductible. Donate today to assist the Literacy Center and to get a tax deduction for 2013

Christmas Eve worship with candlelight will be held on Tuesday, December 24 at 10pm.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our life, our mercy, our might.
Amen.

As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Great and Holy One,
**in this time of waning daylight,
we confess the shadows of sin in our lives.
We build ourselves up at the expense of others.
We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure.
Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay.
Come to restore us in your image,
remake us into your people,
and rebuild what sin has broken,
that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen.**

Fear not, people of God:
the Almighty has done great things for us.
God casts away our sin from us
and makes of us a new creation.
In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free.
Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Hark, the Glad Sound!* (ELW 239)

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

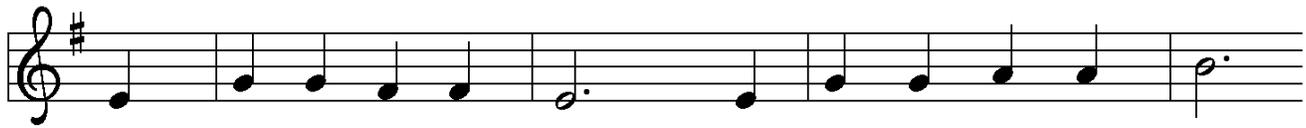
prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

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.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



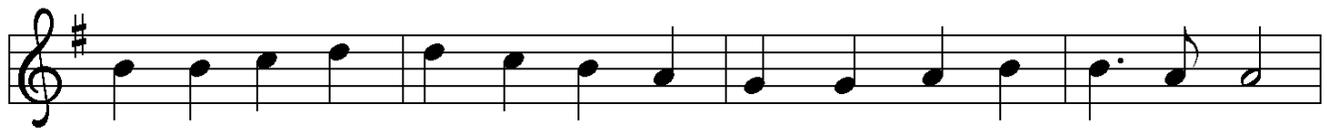
We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT

Choir sings verse 3 of Christ, Be our Light as 3 advent candles are lit. If you wish to follow along with the words, they are found at ELW #715

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray....Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5–10

The Psalm for the day is sung.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the¹ LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that¹ is in them;
who keeps promis-¹es forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to¹ those who hunger.

The LORD sets the¹ captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who¹
are bowed down;**

the LORD¹ loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way¹ of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.¹ Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7–10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2–11

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Listen as Jesus describes his ministry to some disciples of John the Baptist and then speaks to the crowd about who John was and is.

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

Stir up in our hearts an eagerness for your coming. Grant us patience in our waiting, and while we wait, strengthen us to persevere in ways of justice and righteousness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In this season, nurture dry and dormant lands so that they will blossom in the coming months. Spread your abundance throughout all lands, that every living thing may be filled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to all who are oppressed or neglected. Lift up all who are cast down. Deliver those in the captivity of loneliness and poverty into your freedom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen those who are made weak by the heavy burdens that they carry *especially* Patti Smith, Anne Steaban, Fred Steaban, John Taylor, Beth Wright, Dennis Yellina, Ron Barr, Megan Bartram, Liz Booker, Jane Bottorft, Betty Decker, Gwen Doering, J.J. Edrington, Sally Gettelfinger, Bruce Harding, Martha Harding, Linda Henry, Fran Heuton, Ronnie Heuton, Phil Lakes, Richard Lewman, Shelly Marshall, Jennifer Mitchell, Alyssa Paro, Richard Peter, J C Richardson, Angela Rutledge, Douglas Sagstetter, Karen Sackstader, Theresa Sizen, Ken Walker, Jim Wheat... Surround them with messengers who announce your presence with them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise the expectations of all who seek you in this season. Turn us from material things, and open us to a life full of healing and renewal, where all people receive good news. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear, O God, the prayers of your faithful people, either silent or spoken aloud.

Be present at celebration tables, increasing the joy of those who gather for birthdays, weddings, and parties especially Amy Jo Holaday, Dana Glaab, Sylvia Scott and Don Smith with birthdays and Mike and Donna Baugh with an anniversary this week. Be present at empty tables, filling the hungry and the lonely with hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Remembering the saints who have entered into your eternal reign, sustain us through their witness to your everlasting faithfulness until we are united in the fullness of your kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assisting minister offers the following prayer:

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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.

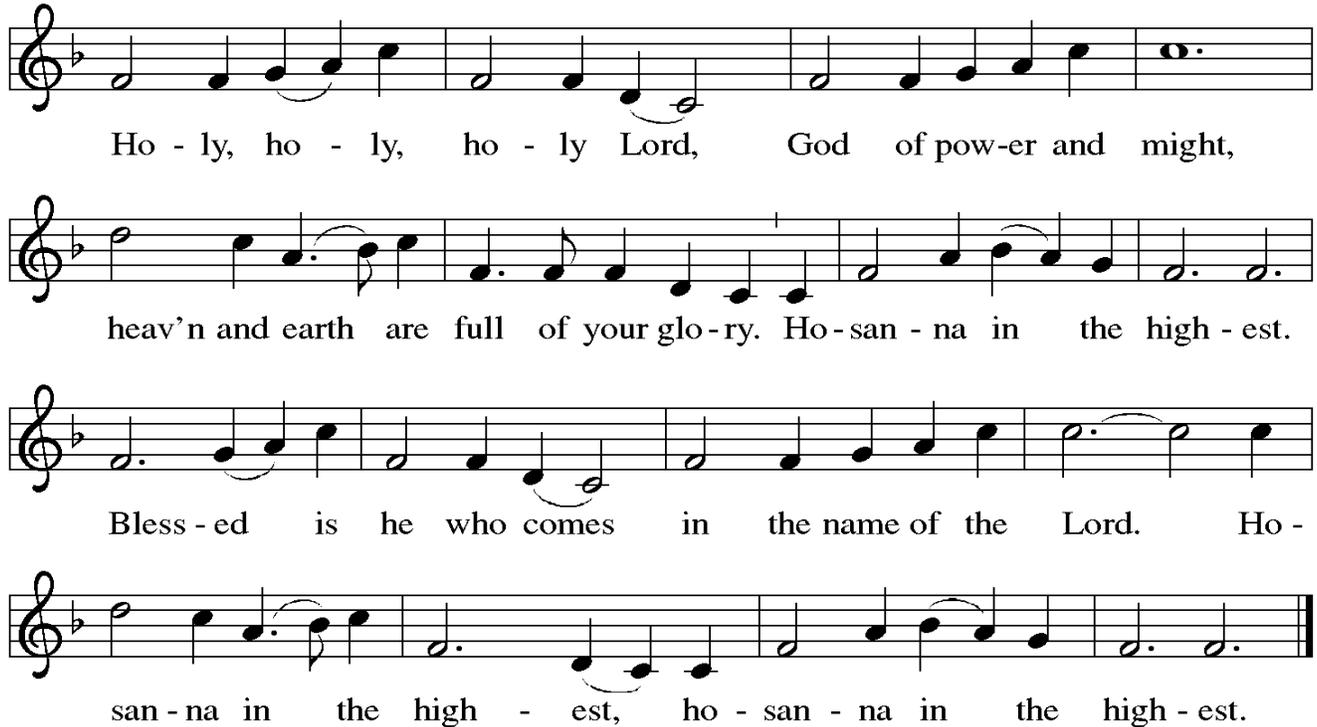
PREFACE

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 name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to
proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all
things, and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table where Christ comes to make a home in you.

COMMUNION



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *What Feast of Love* (ELW 487)



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Communion will be by intinction. When instructed by the ushers, please come forward and receive the wafer from the pastor. DO NOT EAT IT. Take it to the assistant who is holding either wine (dark liquid) or grape juice (light liquid). Dip the wafer in the wine or juice and eat them together. Return to your pew for reflection. When all have communed, the pastor continues:

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, bless you and keep you in his grace. **AMEN**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister offers the following prayer:

Let us pray...God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbor with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *People, Look East* (ELW 248)

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Bring good news to the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

Anne Steaban, recovering from colon cancer surgery

Fred Steaban, rehabbing from back surgery

John Taylor, health concerns

Beth Wright, recovering from thyroid treatments

Dennis Yellina, brain cancer

Family & Friends

Megan Bartram, health issues

Liz Booker, breast cancer treatments

Brad Boston, closed head injury

Jane Bottorft, health issues

Gwen Doering, stage 4 cancer chemo treatment

J.J. Edrington, health issues

Sally Gettelfinger, health issues

Tammy Goatley, lung cancer

Norma Hamilton, cancer treatment

Bruce Harding, health issues

Martha Harding, health issues

Phil Lakes, recovering from stroke and heart condition

Richard Lewman, bone cancer

Shelly Marshall, breast cancer surgery

Jennifer Mitchell, breast cancer

Alyssa Paro, treatment for breast cancer

Richard Peter, health issues

J C Richardson, health concerns

Angela Rutledge, heart attack

Douglas Sagstetter, Hodgkins lymphoma

Karen Sackstader, health concerns

Theresa Sizen, health issues, asthma

Ken Walker, cancer of the tongue

Jim Wheat, cancer of the kidney

*Please note, we reset the Family & Friends portion of prayer concerns each month, please let us know of anyone you would like to remain on or be placed on the list.

Shut-in

Edwina Andregg, Autumn Woods

Don Smith, Windsor Ridge

Norma Boehme, Westminster Village

Walter Clive, at home

Dorothy Clerici, Lincoln Hills Health Center

Service agencies/programs/special needs

CLM

Eric Hall Foundation

Members of our Armed Forces

This Week at Faith

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---|
| Current Offering | \$no service | Worship attendance | 0 |
| Other Offering | | Nursery attendance | 0 |
| Total Offering | \$no service | Total attendance | 0 |

We need \$3,596 in current each week to continue the missions of our church. How did we do last week? Thanks to all who worship, work, give, and pray at Faith in thanks to God for God's blessings.

SERVING THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pastor | Scott Meier |
| Assistant | Kate Blough |
| Organist | Barb Brewster |
| Children's Church | Kathy Hayes |
| Acolyte | |
| Altar Guild | Barb Brewster |
| Greeters | Sue Neathamer |
| Ushers | Brent/Bev Haire |
| Audio | Lyle Gernand |
| Nursery | Lisa Peter |
| Social | Dick/Virginia Klemens |
| Financial Assistant | Rick Barr |
| Ambassador | Virginia Klemens |

SERVING NEXT WEEK IN WORSHIP

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Pastor | Scott Meier |
| Assistant | Sylvia Scott |
| Organist | Barb Brewster |
| Children's Church | Kate Blough |
| Acolyte | |
| Altar Guild | Barb Brewster |
| Greeters | |
| Ushers | Brent/Bev Haire |
| Audio | Lyle Gernand |
| Nursery | Lisa Peter |
| Social | Kate Blough |
| Financial Assistant | Rick Barr |
| Ambassador | |

Scripture Readings for next week: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25