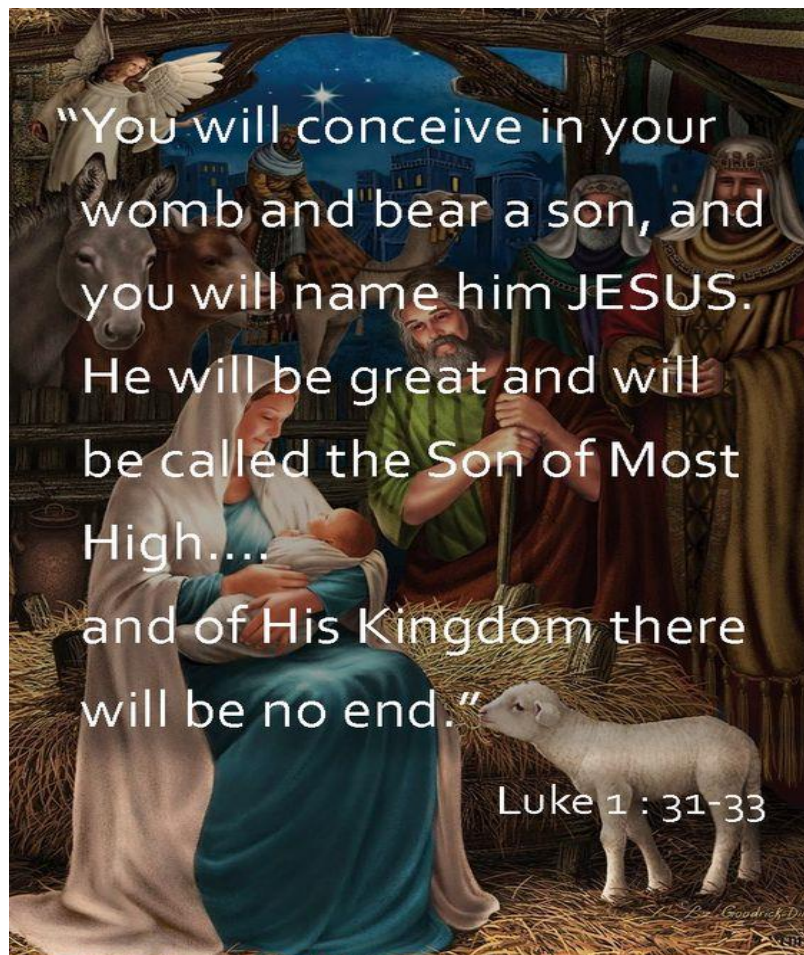




# Faith

## Lutheran Church *of Rotonda West*

Listening • Caring • Serving



# WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

## GATHERING

Prelude

*(PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE)*

P We gather today in the name of God; Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

HYMN

*Awake! Awake*

*ELW 242*



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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**P** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** 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.*

**P** Together we pray,

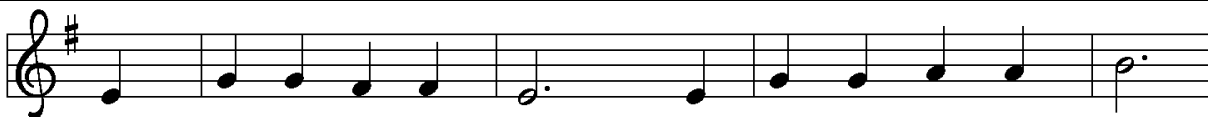
**C** **God of new beginnings, we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

**P** People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on † Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## KYRIE

s203



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!

## THE GREETING

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**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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**P** Together we pray,

**C** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

### FIRST READING

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

**L** The word of God.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

*Romans 16:25-27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

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P Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

C **Amen.**

*the candle is lit*

P O come O come, Emmanuel

C **let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

## ACCLAMATION

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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 you, O Israel.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.****SERMON**

Pastor Armen

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**



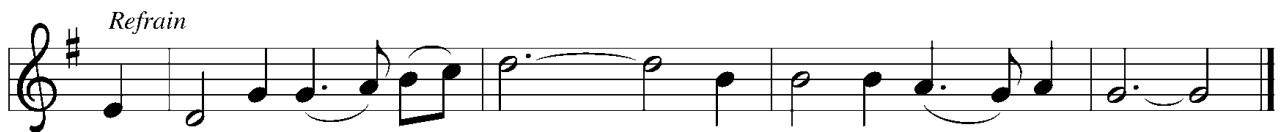
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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:



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

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

A Together we confess our faith,  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 INTERCESSION

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

*each petition concludes...*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE (SPOKEN GREETING)

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P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## OFFERING

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*In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our tithe and offering*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

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## OFFERING PRAYER

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A Together we pray,

**C God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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A Together we pray,

**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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

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As we celebrate the meal of our Lord, all are invited. If you are a guest and regularly commune at your church, you are welcome to commune here. For children who are not communing, please keep your hands folded and you will receive a blessing. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available at communion. Grape juice is in the inner section of communion tray, wine in the two outer rings. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please notify the server.

If you are unable to come to the altar rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please notify an usher.

*after all have communed*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.           C **Amen.**

A Together we pray,

C **Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Joy to the World*

*ELW 267*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## **DISMISSAL**

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**P** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

### ***Faith's Weekly Announcements***

*Welcome to all of you attending this morning!*

Please join us tonight at 5:00 and/or 7:00 for our Christmas Eve worship. Remember, we return to 2 services on January 7: 8:30 outside in the Memorial Garden and 10:30 inside.

### **No Sunday School Class**

Please note, there will be no Sunday School class this morning, but we will resume next Sunday. On January 7 and following, Sunday School will be held between the services (9:30 am).

### **End of Year Details**

Contributions for 2023 need to be in the offering plate or the church office before next Sunday. Reminder: we have a hurricane fund still receiving donations to help with the congregation's recovery expenses after Ian. Also, if you have not made your required minimum deductions from your IRAs, you can designate a charitable distribution to the church before the end of the year. If anyone has any questions, contact the church office, or Larry Bennett, our finance chair.

## It's Cold Out There

The temperatures have been pretty low lately, and our homeless population (we call them campers) are feeling the impact. If you have any blankets, warm clothing or other items for the cold weather that you can spare, please bring them to church and leave them in the blue box in the narthex. We will see that they are distributed

## Wanted: Council Members

If you are a full member of Faith, you can be a member of the congregation council, assisting in the leadership of the church. Council members meet once a month and serve a 3-year term. This year's Nominating Committee includes Jim Taylor, Gene Newlon and Linda Bennett. If you are interested in serving, or need more information about the job, see one of them or call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313).

**Attendance last Sunday: 62**

## THIS WEEK AT FAITH

<b>Every week day morning</b>	6:30 am	AA meets at church
<b>Monday</b>	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
	<b>Christmas Day</b>	Office closed
<b>Tuesday</b>	Office Closed	
	6:00 pm	Prayer with Grace
<b>Friday</b>	Office Closed	

## WE PRAY FOR...

Verna Newlon  
Tom Jackling  
Russ Kadera  
Linda Ovitz

Lou Taylor  
Jim Hardenstine  
Jeanette Porter

Shirley Rice  
Julie Petersen  
Meyer family

## **Serving Today**

**Altar Guild:** RoseAnne Woodliff

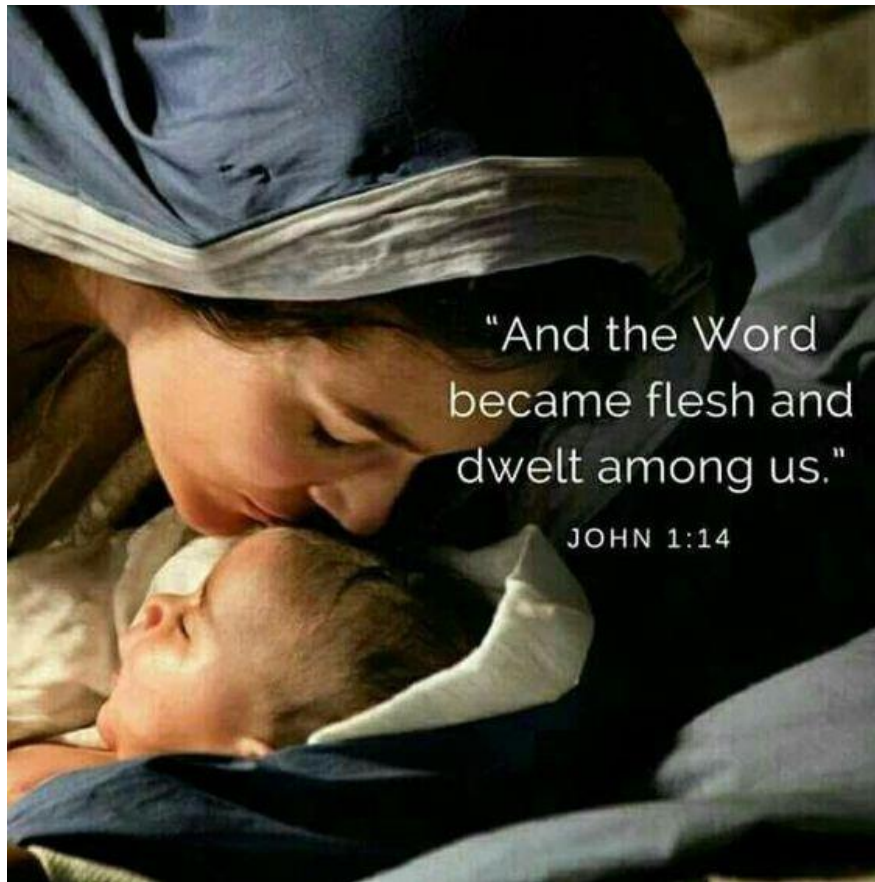
**Lector/ Worship Assistant:** Kathryn Gallagher

**Ushers:** Brian Lindhurst, Ken Stephens, Kathie Wiley

## **Your Church Council**

Steve Wolfe (President), Jeff Kamm (Vice President), Jeff Petersen (Secretary), Art Hanson (Treasurer), Ellen Lindhurst, Jim Taylor, Gene Newlon, Larry Bennett, Jay Fisher.

# Merry Christmas



**From the Church Staff**



**The Poinsettias were provided by:**

Brian & Ellen Lindhurst

In memory of parents &  
Brothers

Bobbie Neilson

Sending blessings to my  
Wonderful family & friends

John & Kay Culver

In memory of our parents

Tom & Linda Jasper

In memory of loved ones

Steve & Debby Wolfe

Dick Wolfe & Colleen Stender

Bruce & Linda Grosvenor

In memory of Scott Grosvenor

Dave & Diane Nordquist

In memory of parents

Jim & Lou Taylor

In memory of parents

Doug & Sue Schuemann

In memory of our parents

Larry & Linda Bennett

In memory of loved ones

Rob & Sharon Wills

In memory of Patricia Pelic

Jack & Mary Lou Fitzgerald

In memory of parents

Shirley Rice

In celebration of her family

## **Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda**

551 Rotonda Boulevard West – Rotonda West, FL 33947

(941) 697-3313

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor Brian Armen, Cell (814) 248-0133

Secretary: Barbra Davis

Organist: Candace Montesi     Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

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**Secretary Office Hours: 9:00 Am – Noon (M-F)**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE: 10:00 – 1:00 (M-TH) AND BY APPOINTMENT**

*Our Guiding Principle: GOD'S GRACE WINS....*

*As we WORSHIP Jesus as our Lord and Savior*

*As we LOVE one another, welcoming everyone*

*As we SERVE, inspired by the Holy Spirit*

*As a deep FAITH is taught and caught*

*As we make WITNESS and MISSION our life*