

# Following Faith Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church, Reno NV

December 2025

Friends in Faith,

Happiest of holidays to you, and blessed Advent season.

Things are different for me this year. Amanda and I are sharing our first married Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas together. And I can feel the difference. There is more to expect, more to share, and more to prepare!

And I think that's fitting for Advent, really. The word means arrival—it is a time of anticipation. Something new is afoot! For the church, it's also an intentional season of receiving God's gifts—the ones that run counter to our obsessive culture. That's worth paying attention to. With God there is expectation, an invitation to share, and this focused time of preparation. I hope, for you, it will be fruitful and rich and like light in the dark.

We have entered the New Year for the church, year A, and this year will draw from the gospel of Matthew. In worship this Advent we'll explore major themes as Jesus fulfills the law, calls sinners, builds a church, and gives his life.

Four themes will shape the rhythm of our Sundays:

- Desperation (the way out)
- Recognition (being found and made whole)
- Repair (healing)
- Presence (God-with-us)

**Week 1 - We walk a new way, called to awaken to reality of Jesus' life and death.** The law has brought judgment and leaves us lost, bound, needing a way through. **Our Advent longing is for a road home**

**Week 2 - We Repent, as the Kingdom is Near.** The call of Jesus is that piercing moment when someone finally sees you, names you, calls you back. **Our Advent longing is to be found.**

**Week 3 - We re-create, as life is New.** We know the reality of hurt, relationships that fracture, spirits that need mending. The church Jesus builds is community meant for the mending. **We are a restorative community and our Advent longing is for healing.**

**Week 4 - We show up, as God shows up!** Emmanuel—Love incarnate, breathing, present in the flesh. A light has shined in our need and despair, our dark and hopelessness. We see that, all along, **Our longing is for the living God.**

We are blessed by each other this Advent, so I hope we'll see you on Sundays for worship or Wednesdays for Soup Supper and Evening prayer. God's good gifts abound, and we're called to expect, experience, and share!

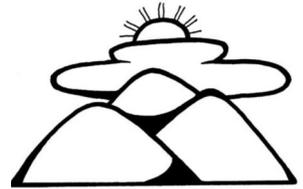
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## IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

### Sunday, Nov. 30th – First Sunday of Advent:

The apocalyptic imagery of **the end of the world**, like the flood sweeping all things away, echoes from the Old Testament into the preaching of Jesus, and continues in contemporary disaster movies and terrorist activity. For Christians, fear about the end always comes to rest in trust in the presence of God. When all is over, at our end, is God. And we know that end is also a blessed beginning, in the same way that we celebrate the cross as a “tree of life”!



### Sunday, Dec. 7th – Second Sunday of Advent:

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. For Christians, Christ is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. We are sent, in the spirit of John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

### Sunday, Dec. 14th – Third Sunday of Advent:

By tradition, the Third Sunday of Advent has been called “Gaudete Sunday,” a day to “rejoice” as we turn in hope and expectation toward the celebration of Christmas. Gaudete stems from this week’s Second Lesson, Philippians 4:4-7, *Gaudete in Domino semper*, “rejoice in the Lord always,” and the remaining readings do not neglect joyful hope either.

Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God’s reign.



### Sunday, Dec. 21st – Fourth Sunday of Advent:

The gospel is Matthew’s account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. Biblical scholar Raymond Brown suggest that this section in chapter 2 of Matthew “will show how this New Testament Joseph, who receives revelation in dreams and goes to Egypt to save the infant, is reliving the great epic of the Old Testament figure named Joseph. The name Jesus fits into this parallelism between the Matthew story of Joseph and the Old Testament story of Joseph and Moses, for Moses’ successor who completed his work by bringing Israel back to the Promised Land was also named Jesus (Joshua).” Salvation is come!

### Wednesday the 24th at 4pm. – Nativity of Lord, Christmas Eve

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. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. 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. **Choir Sings Tonight!**



### Sunday, Dec. 28th – First Sunday of Christmas

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.



## Outreach News

For Advent the Outreach team is coordinating with **Elmcrest Elementary School** for our third year of the **Angel Tree** program.

We have 25 girls and boys to buy new coats and shoes for. Sign up cards are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. When you pick a card please write your name and phone number on the clipboard and when you return your gift, sign the date it was returned. All gifts must be back to the church by December 9!. Please wrap your gift or put it in a gift bag and attach the card you chose.



Please contact Judi Hein for questions.

### Shared Harvest in December- We are need of:



**28 jars of Peanut Butter,**

**42 cans of Fruit**

**42 cans of Chicken Noodle Soup**

**42 packets of Powdered Milk**

**Disposable Razors in unlimited quantities.**

Assembly and Pick up will be here at Faith on December 21st at 1pm. Thank you for your generous donations!

## Fellowship



Join us the first  
Wednesday of the  
month,

**December 3rd,**

**12pm** for a Potluck at Faith. If you can,  
bring something yummy to share.

### December 7th Christmas Cookie

**Palooza!** Bring a dozen or a batch of your favorite homemade or store-bought Christmas cookies to share. We'll gather for coffee and cookies during Coffee Fellowship after Worship. Plus, you can take home any leftover treats! Please bring festive, holiday-themed cookies to make the day extra merry!



### Faith's Supper Club - December 18th -

**Great Basin Brewery**

5525 So. Virginia Ave.

Reno, Nv.

**Time: 11:30am to 2pm** We are a group of believers meeting together for Fellowship and a meal. Enjoying each other's company. Our group has had at least 10 people meeting for a meal. Because of the time change we will meet for lunch until spring. We will meet again for early dinners when daylight savings time springs our clocks forward. I am so happy for this small group. Sign up in the



Narthex. Ginny makes a lovely sign-up sheet each month. Thanks Ginny! Come when you can. See you in December???

Jean Carter Phone: 775-560-4193

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

# DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Advent Begins</b>	ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm		Lunch Bunch 12pm	Scouts 7pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum Cookie Palooza	ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm		Memory Care Support 1:30pm	Grief Support Group 10:30am Finance Meeting 12 pm Scouts 7:00 pm	4-H WhipStirs 6:30 pm	Worship Team Meeting 10am  Christmas Concert 2pm 
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm Council Meeting 6pm			Scouts 7pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm	NARFE 11am	Christmas Eve Service 4pm	Christmas Day! Grief Support Group 10:30am 		
28	29	30	31			
9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm		New Year's Eve! 			

# Fellowship

## Adult Forum

For this fall we are learning, in class after worship, what it means to be Lutheran -- then and now -- as "**The Lutheran People.**" Join us for conversations about history, theology, culture and what it means to be Lutheran today. Some upcoming topics include "Melancthon and Other Theologians," "Lutheran Orthodoxy," "The Thirty Years War," "Scandinavian Expansion," and "American Settlement." All are welcome, join us!

### 2025 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Saturday, December 13th 2pm**

You are invited to attend with your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy a musical celebration of the season with our musicians and singers. Refreshments will be provided following the concert.



Invitation cards for family and friends are available on the narthex table.

Advent Devotionals are available on the Narthex Table.

Tuesday Bible Readers are taking a holiday break. We will restart on January 6, 2026.

Annual Church Meeting will be January 25th

### Isaiah 9:6, 7

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"



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Please send any prayer requests to the Prayer Team at:

[prayers@faithlutheranreno.org](mailto:prayers@faithlutheranreno.org)

