

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



December 21, 2025

WELCOME!

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, we joyfully invite you to join with us; please speak to me, Pastor Jami Possinger.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His Supper.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.

Faith Lutheran Church

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Website: faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312>

Minister:.....Rev. Jami Possinger
Lector..... Mike Gillis
Greeters/Ushers:..... Tom Hutton
Communion Asst./Clean up:.....Jan Frantz
Music:.....Molly Finkbiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletins: donated by Cheryl Ray.

Faith Fellowship Team: Our mission is encouraging interaction, building relationships, and creating a sense of belonging within the congregation and with the local community. If you're interested in becoming part of the Faith Fellowship Team, please contact Sara Cornell at 570-472-5560 or at saracornell10@gmail.com.

Faith Cookbook: Recipes can be for appetizers, soups and salads, main courses, side dishes, casseroles and desserts. Please submit your recipe to Sara Cornell or Barbara Laughlin. Include your name with your recipe.

Altar Service Signup: Volunteers are needed to set-up, bake bread, and clean up after communion. Please email Jan Frantz at Boris_fan@yahoo.com to help.

Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations: Sign-up sheets for 2026 are on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for \$10 and \$10 towards silk flowers, or you may bring your own fresh flowers. **Please complete the requisition form with your dedication note.**

MEETINGS/EVENTS

AA Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: January 14, 2026, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Please call 800-733-2767 to pre-register.

Bible Study: Sundays, 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Studying Thessalonians.

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to Noon with Pastor Jami. *NO class this Wednesday.*

Men's Bible Study: Thurs. via TEAMS. Contact Bob Ray at 551-265-4071 or Rayfolks@ptd.net.

Choir Rehearsals: Sundays, 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. *NO rehearsal next Sun. Dec. 28.*

Christian Christmas Concert: The Pocono Praise Band with Pastor Dennis Moore.

- Sunday, December 21, 4 p.m. at St. Mark's Community Lutheran Church, Appenzell, PA

Faith Library: Please see one of the "Little Librarians" or Sara Cornell with any donations or questions.

Faithful Community Quilters: Second Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free Community Lunch: First Tuesday of each month. (Jan. 6) 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Five Loaf House, 133 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.

Pastor Jami Possinger has weekly office hours. Confidential email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org or private cell phone: 610-216-9951



Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE "Episode on Veni Emmanuel;" "Veni, Emmanuel"

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

We confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**



GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Mary and Joseph, keep alive in us the faith that you are still at work in ordinary people, accomplishing extraordinary things. When we become anxious and cannot discern your pattern in the jigsaw of our affairs, bring us back to the basics of trust and obedience. Lead us forward, one step at a time, one day at a time. Give us the humility to leave the overall picture to your divine wisdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

Please be seated.

LITURGY:

A Candle-Lighting Liturgy

We light the fourth candle of LOVE.



We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly

ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light all four candles.

(Sing verse 1)

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Word of God, Word of Life, **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80 Hear, O Hear Us

I am the good Shepherd. – John 10:14

1. ¹ Hear, O hear us, Is - r'el's Shep - herd, Who drives
 2. ⁴ O how long, LORD God of Ar - mies Burns Your
 3. ⁸ You brought forth a vine from E - gypt, And to

forth Jo - seph like a flock. From the cher - u - bim, O
 wrath at Your peo - ple's prayer? ⁵ With the bread of tears You
 plant it drove na - tions out. ⁹ You made room to root it

shine forth; Rise in val - or that we be saved.
 feed them, And full meas - ure of tears they drink.
 deep - ly, And it flour - ished and filled the land.

² So a - rise in sight of Eph - raim, And Ma -
⁶ Strife You make us to our neigh - bors, And our
¹⁰ Then its sha - dow wrapped the moun - tains, And its

nas - seh and Ben - ja - min. ³ God, we pray,
 foes laugh at us in scorn. ⁷ God of Ar -
 boughs hid the ce - dars tall. ¹¹ To the sea

O turn us, bring us back; Shine Your face on us, we'll be saved!
 mies, turn us, bring us back; Shine Your face on us, we'll be saved!
 it thrust great branch - es forth. And young shoots to the might - y stream.

of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

**CHILDREN’S TIME
SERMON**



HYMN OF THE DAY

In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes



1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.
 2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.
 3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the
 Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each
 ra - diant star to light our way. Sum - mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,
 home-less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,
 heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.
 for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.
 to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

APOSTLES CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PRAYER LIST

Tom M; Valerie M.; Pastor Michael Ryan; Jill A.; Nancy M.; Phyllis & Jim N.; Shirely S.; Jim H.; Jenn & Rachel; Bob & Gail C.; Martha E.; Mya; Mary D.; Nicky S.; Leon P.; Homer A.; Judi C.; James K. & Family; Kathleen A.; Tom S.; Gary P.; Larissa; Barbara & David L; Joyce K.; Tammy H.; Mike & Peg; Mama Jan; Eric L; Dick M.; Don C.; David S.; St. Jacobi, Shohola.

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your in love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**



THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: “A Star Will Soon Shine,” Don Besig, accompanied by Rebecca Salage, flute; *sung by Faith Lutheran Choir.*

OFFERTORY SONG

(Verse 1)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

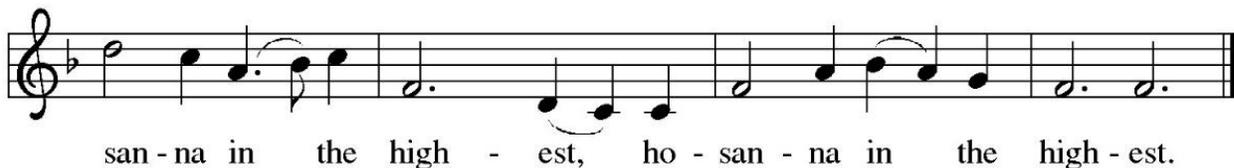
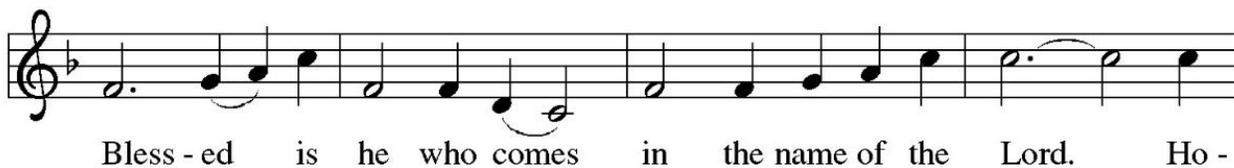
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him 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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.



LAMB OF GOD


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on


us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SERVICE OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

BLESSING



SENDING HYMN

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

DISMISSAL

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

December 21st – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude:

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Gathering Hymn:

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Psalm:

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Hymn of the Day:

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Special Music:

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Sending Hymn:

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Postlude:

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Service Music:

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