

November 27, 2022

Welcome!

We are glad to have you join us in the worship of Our Lord.
Please sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.

Mask wearing is optional if you are fully vaccinated.

Today's Altar Servers

Leader: Ben Mroz III
Greeters/Ushers..... Judie Tim
Lector:Phil Newlander
Music: Molly Finkbiner

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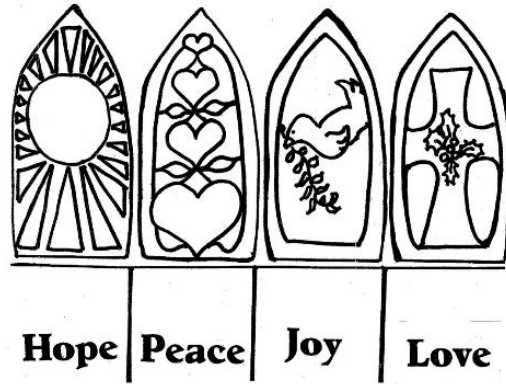
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Facebook:

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SEASON OF ADVENT



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Cookie Sale: The congregation is strongly encouraged to bake cookies!

Friday, December 16: Bring cookies and package cookies

Sunday, December 18: Sell cookies, \$5/box

MEETINGS

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

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday, December 28, 2022, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please call 1-800-733-2767 to pre-register.

Bible Study: Each Sunday, 7:30 a.m. in the Community Room.

Choir rehearsals: Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Chime Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., November 30th, December 7, 14th, & 21st.

Instrument rehearsal and Sunday School: Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

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

Soup Supper Advent Study: Begins Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room. The sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.

Sunday School Advent Program/Congregational Dinner: December 11, 2022, at 5 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church.

Pastor Kuritz has weekly office hours: hours are posted on the white boards at the back of the church or to contact him, use his private email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations: A new sign-up sheet for 2023 is located on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for \$10 and \$20 towards silk flowers or you may bring your own fresh flowers.

Usher and Lector Volunteers needed, contact Jacquie Halko. Please call (570) 646-3922 or email at jacquie5444@yahoo.com.

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

PRELUDES: "Consolation," "Wachet Auf"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

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. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" **LBW 31**

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

Lord, Have Mercy

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - le i - son.
Chris - te e - le i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised



above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

PSALM/LITURGY A Candle-Lighting Liturgy

We light one candle of HOPE.

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.



THESE ARE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
'Prepare ye the way of the Lord!' **Refrain**

Refrain. *Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of your servant David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in your world,
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the word of the lord! **Refrain.**

There's no God like Jehovah. There's no God like Jehovah.
There's no God like Jehovah. There's not God like Jehovah! **(2x) Refrain.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:11-14



Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia” (*Please stand as you are able*)

Gospel Acclamation
Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 24:36-44
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”



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

Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY: “My Lord, What a Morning” WOV 627

NICENE 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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of loving kindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PRAYER LIST

Megan; Jim; Jeanine; Tom and Valerie M.; Daniel; Marge M.; Jenn; Lorraine; Rachel; Jeffery H.; Mya; Matthew B.; Carol K.; Joe M.; Roberta and Tony R.; Eric L.; Cleo; Deb H.; Joseph F.; John K.; Rev. Rick Chavez, Larissa, Drew D., Peter S.

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please share Christ's peace in social and acceptable ways.)

(Please be seated)



SPECIAL MUSIC: “Stand by Me,” Charles Albert Tindley offered by Rick Halko

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

**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.**

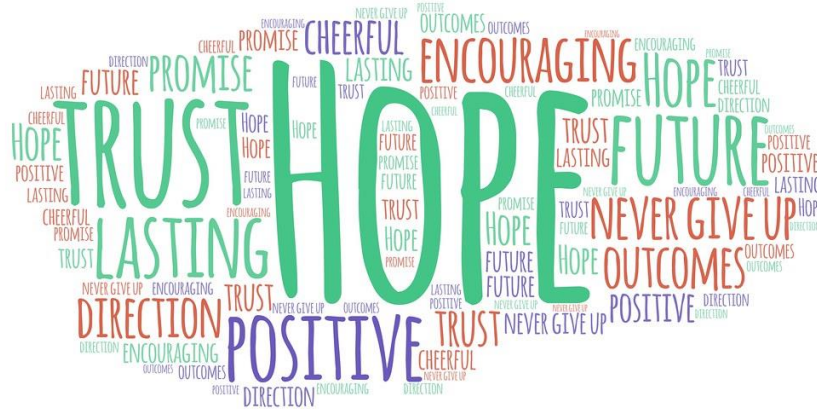


BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

LBW 33

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**
Thanks be to God.



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GOSPEL MESSAGE

First Sunday of Advent

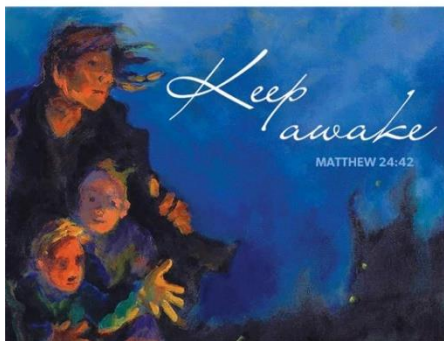
TIME TO WAKE UP

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and, ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what's comfortable and "always has been" to what's actually happening right now. It's why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as "wake-up calls."

Yet it is never God's intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us.

That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. We won't *need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can't raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells.

This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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