

9:30 a.m. Service

Christmas Eve Worship    December  
24<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Pre-service: Lynn & Jean Dubose (violin & flute)

Processional: O Come All Ye Faithful 379

Call To Worship: Oh Holy Night Carol Wygle

## Invocation

P: On this holy morning, when we celebrate the Savior who is born in a manger, and we reflect on all who have gathered to worship and give Him praise throughout the ages, and we acknowledge the gift from Father and Son of the Holy Spirit;

*(As ALL speak the Invocation it is right to make the sign of the cross together)*

**ALL: It is only right that we should worship this one true God in the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

P: God our Father in heaven;

**C: We praise You for Your promised plan of salvation.**

P: God our Father in heaven;

**C: We praise You for Your holy angels sent to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph.**

P: God our Father in heaven;

**C: We praise You for Your promise kept in Bethlehem.**

P: God our Father in heaven;

**C: We praise You for sending Your only begotten Son to be**

**born in a manger, taking on human flesh, to save us from our sins.**

P: God our Father in heaven;

**C: We praise You for a love that knows no limits, a faith that endures forever, and for the gift of eternal life through the blood of Jesus, Your only Son, Our Lord. Amen.**

Christmas Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem 361

Angels We Have Heard on High 368

Christmas Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

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

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Christmas Hymn:

### While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks

1. While shepherds watched  
their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
an angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he  
for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind  
"glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

3 "To you, in David's  
town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4 "The heavenly babe you there  
shall find to human view displayed,  
all simply wrapped  
in swaddling clothes  
and in a manger laid."

5 Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
to those on whom his favor rests  
goodwill shall never cease."

### Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of our Newborn King, Jesus.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Children's Message

### Christmas Creed (Children Lead)

I trust in the Triune God, who loved me and knew all my days before the world began. He is the God of the possible!

I trust in God the Father, who created all things out of nothing, and in sacrificial love let His only Son come to this sinful earth as my Savior. He is the God of the possible!

I trust in Jesus Christ, my Lord and King, who was not conceived by an earthly father but by the Holy Spirit, whose mother was a virgin named Mary, who gave up all He had to save me. He has defeated sin, death, and the power of the devil. He is the God of the possible!

I trust in the Holy Spirit, who led Mary and Joseph to believe that the Redeemer of the world would be delivered and cared for through them despite impossible situations, and by whose continuous work in my heart leads me through impossible situations to a deeper faith in Him, the God of the possible!

I believe in this true God, and seek to lay before His feet my worship, my life, and my love, both now and forever. Amen.

Sermon Song

Messiah

Gina Galligar

Sermon: The Light of the World is Coming

## Prayers

### Lord's Prayer

### Offering

Christmas Hymn: Joy to the World

387

## The Closing Prayer

P: O Blessed Lord Jesus, Savior of mankind, at whose birth the night was filled with heavenly radiance: Lighten the thick darkness of the world, we pray, and dispel the gloom of all miseries and fears. Have compassion on the peoples of the earth stumbling in confusion, and guide their feet into the way of peace. May we who have worshipped You at the celebration of Your birth, this night, shine Your light through our lives to all around us. We pray in Your most precious name, Jesus, who lives and reigns with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you, and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

935 S. Crystal Glen Drive

Lecanto, Florida 34461

Worship

Saturdays 6:00 PM

Sundays: 9:30 AM

Bible Study

Sundays: 11:00 AM

Mondays: 10:30 AM

Office phone: (352) 527-3325

Office email: [cfaithlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:cfaithlutheran@gmail.com)

Church website: [faithlecanto.com](http://faithlecanto.com)

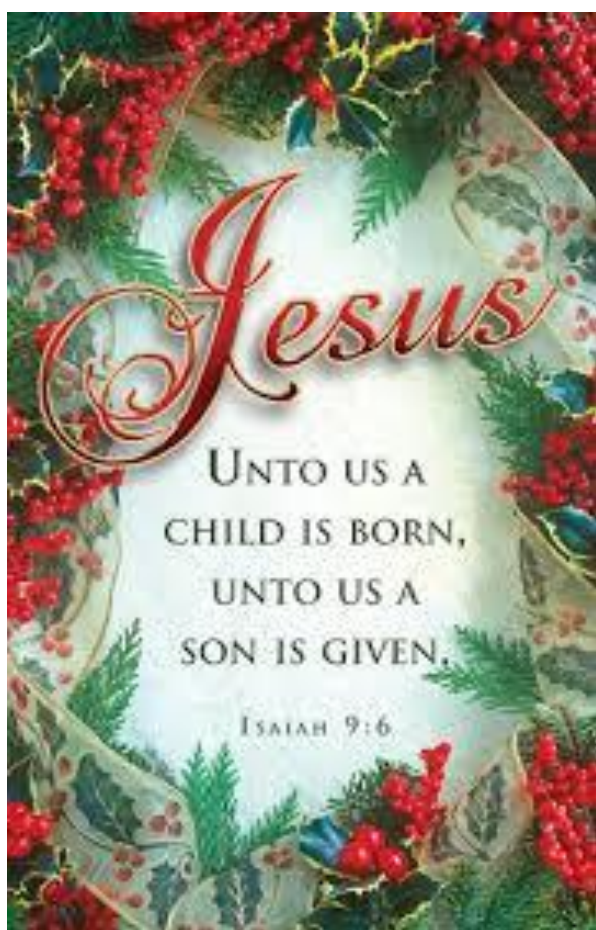
Pastor Patrick Galligar (812) 350-7820 (cell)

[Pastor.galligar@faithlecanto.com](mailto:Pastor.galligar@faithlecanto.com)

Organist: Sharron Royalty







Jesus

UNTO US A  
CHILD IS BORN,  
UNTO US A  
SON IS GIVEN.

ISAIAH 9:6

**2023 - MAKING LIFE COUNT: Learning to Share!**  
**Worship & Bible Study Series**  
**December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Overview:** Beginning in this New Year, we will start with a focus on that which is most important. Making Life Count: Learning to Share! This is a series that will help each of us learn and grow in our abilities to share our faith with the people God places around us. We leave the sanctuary Christmas weekend oftentimes to the strains of “Go Tell It on the Mountain”. And yet, the actual telling part is harder than many of us are able to accomplish.

How many times have we walked away from a situation where we thought, “Man, if only I had said, ‘...’” or something to that effect? In worship we will be going through scriptures that will help guide us in this direction. And we will pair those lessons in our time together in Bible Study on Monday mornings.

Below are the gospel lessons that will be our launching point as we work our way through the gospel of John. And the main point for each week is included as well. Each week we will have more detailed handouts, which will include some interactive questions and discussion points also.

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>            Sharing With Skeptics            John 1:45-46  
Main Point: Stop arguing about the reasonable nature of faith; the most important aspects of faith are not reasonable.

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>            Sharing With Educated Seekers            John 3:1-12  
Main Point: Jesus allowed Nicodemus and also allows us time to consider the truth.

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>            Sharing With Social Outcasts            John 4:3-26  
Main Point: Jesus embraced social outcasts and through them reached even more people.

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>            Sharing With Those Trapped In Sin            John 8:1-11

Main Point: Jesus reminds us that we are all in need of a Savior and are unfit to “cast the first stone.”

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>            Sharing With Those Overcome By Affliction            John 9:1-7

Main Point: Jesus reminds us that every situation is an opportunity for the gospel.

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>            Sharing With Those Overwhelmed By Grief            John 11:11-27

Main Point: Death is not the end of life, but it does require compassion and understanding if we want to bring comfort.

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>            The Basics of Sharing            John 20:30, 31

Main Point: When it is all said and done, the only thing that matters for all eternity is where you and those you impact stand with Jesus.

## **A Gift for Your Pastor**

People wonder sometimes what to get for their pastor as a gift, or what is it that he might most appreciate. So, in order to alleviate this challenge and make this easier for all of us. Let me help you out with a few ideas about what most pastors appreciate from their members, worshippers, and brothers and sisters in Christ ✝ evidence that his work is making a difference in your life ✝ hearing the stories of how God is at work in you or through you in the lives of others ✝ the kindness of a simple hug or a sweet smile ✝ inviting him to spend some time sharing your joys, losses, triumphs or trials ✝ sharing how your devotions are leading you ✝ trusting him with the deep things of life and believing God may use him to help ✝ reaching out to him for help when you need prayer and spiritual guidance ✝ letting him know you are praying for him ✝ caring for his wife. All of these are great gifts for your pastor. And greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Patrick Galligan*