



FOCUS ON FAITH WEEKLY

✦ FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ✦ GREENFIELD INDIANA ✦

This Week at Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday Dec. 17	Monday Dec. 18	Tuesday Dec. 19	Wednesday Dec. 20	Thursday Dec. 21	Friday Dec. 22	Saturday Dec. 23
Third Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Divine Service 11:00 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study	Preschool Pastor's Family Day Bell Choir 6:30 pm	Preschool Bible Study 9:30 am	Preschool 6th Gr. 4:30pm 7th Gr. 5:15 pm 8th Gr. 6:00 pm Choir 6 pm Children's Christmas Service @ 7:00 PM	Preschool No Council Meeting this month.	Preschool	Men's Bible Study 8—9:15 am

Weekly Divine Service: Sunday 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study: Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Private Confession and Holy Absolution with Pastor is available by appointment

Pastor Wm. Daniel O'Connor email: pastorwdo@faithgreenfield.org

Administrative Assistant e-mail: secretary@faithgreenfield.org Focus on Faith Deadline: 9 am Thursday

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Mark this joyful event on your calendar so you don't forget: *From Heaven Above* children's Christmas service, Wednesday, December 20th, at 7:00 pm. Let the joy about Jesus' birth fill your heart!

FROM LUTHER

"...The law humbles, grace exalts. The law effects fear and wrath, grace effects hope and mercy. 'Through the law comes knowledge of sin' (Romans 3:20); through knowledge of sin, however, comes humility; and through humility grace is acquired. Thus an action that is alien to God's nature results in a deed belonging to His very nature: He makes a person a sinner so that He may make him righteous." (Luther's Works – volume 31, p.51; from Luther's explanation of Thesis #16 of the *Heidelberg Disputation*, from the Spring of 1518)

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Daniel and the Three Young Men (December 17) – Daniel the prophet and the Three Young Men – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – were among the leaders of the people of Judah who were taken into captivity in Babylon. Even in that foreign land they remained faithful to the one true God in their piety, prayer, and life. On account of such steadfast faithfulness in the face of pagan idolatry, the Three Young Men were thrown into a fiery furnace, from which they were saved by the Lord and emerged unharmed (Daniel 3). Similarly, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, from which he also was saved by the Lord (Daniel 6). Blessed by the Lord in all their endeavors – and in spite of the hostility of some – Daniel and the Three Young Men were promoted to positions of leadership among the Babylonians (see Daniel 2:48–49; 3:30; 6:28). To Daniel in particular the Lord revealed the interpretation of dreams and signs that were given to King Nebuchadnezzar and King Belshazzar (Daniel 2, 4, 5). To Daniel himself the Lord gave visions of the End Times.

Collect: Lord God, Heavenly Father, through the miraculous intervention of an angel You rescued Daniel from a den of lions and the Three Young Men from a fiery furnace. Save us now through the presence of Jesus – the Lion of Judah, Who has conquered all our enemies through His blood and taken away all our sins as the Lamb of God.

Adam and Eve (December 19) – Adam was the first man – made in the image of God and given dominion over all the earth (Genesis 1:26), and Eve was the first woman – formed from one of Adam’s ribs to be his companion and helper (Genesis 2:18–24). God placed them in the Garden of Eden to take care of the creation as His representatives, but they forsook God’s Word and plunged the world into sin (Genesis 3:1–7). For this disobedience God drove them from the Garden; Eve had to suffer the pain of childbirth and be subject to Adam, and Adam had to toil amid thorns and thistles and return to the dust of the ground. Yet God promised that the woman’s Seed would crush the serpent’s head (Genesis 3:8–24), which meant that, though sin had entered God’s perfect creation and changed it, God would restore it again through Christ.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Eve is the mother of the human race, while Adam is representative of all humanity and the Fall, as St. Paul writes: “For in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”(1Corinthians 15:22)

Collect: Lord God, Heavenly Father, You created Adam in Your image and gave him Eve as his helpmate, and after their fall into sin You promised them a Savior Who would crush the devil’s might. By Your mercy, number us among those who have come out of the great tribulation with the seal of the living God on our foreheads, whose robes have been made white in the blood of the Lamb.

Katharina von Bora Luther (December 20) – Katharina von Bora (1499–1552) was placed in a convent when still a child, and she became a nun in 1515. In April 1523 she and eight other nuns were rescued from the convent and brought to Wittenberg. Martin Luther helped return some of them to their former homes, and he placed the rest in good families. Katharina and Martin were married on June 13th, 1525, and their marriage was a happy one blessed with six children. Katharina skillfully managed the Luther household, which always seemed to grow because of Martin’s generous hospitality. After his death in 1546, Katharina remained in Wittenberg but lived much of the time in poverty. She died in an accident while traveling with her children to Torgau in order to escape the plague.

Collect: O God, our refuge and our strength, You raised up Your servant Katharina to support her husband in the task to reform and renew Your Church in the light of Your Word. Defend and purify the Church today, and grant that, through faith, we may boldly support and encourage pastors and teachers of the faith as they proclaim and administer the riches of Your grace, made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS, CONT.

St. Thomas, Apostle (December 21) – Thomas, called Didymus (“the Twin”), is mentioned in all four Gospels as one of the twelve apostles. John’s Gospel, though portraying Thomas as being slow to understand, uses his questions to reveal truths about Jesus (e.g., to Thomas’s question: “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus responds with: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”) Although Thomas expresses doubt at first about Jesus’ resurrection, he later makes the confession that is the climax of John’s Gospel when he says to the risen Jesus: “my Lord and my God.” (John 20:24-29) According to tradition, Thomas engaged in missionary work in Persia and in India, where still today a group of people call themselves “Christians of St. Thomas.” Thomas was martyred for the faith by being speared to death.

Collect: Almighty and ever-living God, You strengthened Your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in the resurrection of Your Son. Grant us such faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that we may never be found wanting in Your sight.

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

LuFest 2018 – Discounted Hotel Rooms Available

A block of rooms has been reserved for the evening of LuFest, April 13, at the Holiday Inn Express just across Missouri St from Lucas Oil Stadium. To book at the discounted rate of \$109 (plus tax & fees), call 317-822-6400 and ask for LuFest. Or, book online at lhsi.org where you also may purchase LuFest tickets (\$125 each).

KFUO LUTHERAN RADIO

For churches outside the St. Louis area for the week of December 17.

Listen to Worldwide KFUO.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

This week on KFUO.org, tune in to monthly program Free to be Faithful to hear host Kip Allen and guest Tim Goeglein discuss religious freedom developments in the past year (12/20 @ 2:30pm CT), hear Best Of episodes for Sharper Iron with Rev. Jonathan Fisk (weekdays @ 8am CT) and Thy Strong Word with Rev. William Weedon (weekdays at 11:00am CT), and study the roots of your Lutheran faith in the Apology of the Augsburg Confession on Concord Matters (12/19 @ 2pm CT). Hear the live midweek Advent service broadcast from Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, MO, on 12/20 at Noon CT. Stay tuned for Christmas Music for the Sacred Season beginning December 24 and continuing through Epiphany.

For churches outside the St. Louis area for the week of December 24.

Listen to Worldwide KFUO.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

This week on KFUO.org, we wish all of our listeners a blessed Christmas! Tune in to hear Christmas music and readings for the Sacred Season beginning December 24 and continuing through Epiphany. Regular programming will resume January 2, 2018.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE WENESDAY,
DECEMBER 20, 2017
THE SECOND WEDESDAY IN ADVENT

Organist Chris Wilson
Acolyte.....Lili Jenkins, Esther Surburg
Sound..... Greg Roland

RECEIVING IN FAITH :
DECEMBER 6, 2017

Advent Service 44

RECEIVING IN FAITH :
DECEMBER 6, 2017

General Fund235.00
Adult Sunday School.....18.00
Loose Cash53.00

Total.....306.00

RECEIVING IN FAITH :
DECEMBER 10, 2017

Divine Service 112

RESPONDING IN FAITH:
DECEMBER 10, 2017

General Fund.....3,679.80
Building Fund..... 40.00
Loose Cash..... 136.96

Total.....3,856.76

ADULT STUDIES IN GOD'S WORD

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY This class meets every Sunday morning in the fellowship area of the church, immediately following our time of fellowship after the Divine Service. We are studying the book of Hebrews. Come join us!

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY This class meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 in the fellowship area of the church, with refreshments served 15 min. before. We are studying the Song of Solomon. Come join us.

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY— This lay led study meets every Saturday at 8:00 am.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 24, 2017
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Organist Richard Thompson
Crucifer.....Grant Shepherd
Acolyte Evan Houser, Joey Roland
Communion Assist: Bob G. Yeager, Bob M. Yeager
Elder on Duty.....Matthew Surburg
Greeters.....Mary Jo McConnell
Ushers..... Richard Curry, Nate Gaff, Jim Arthur
Youth Assistant.....Christopher O'Connor
Altar Guild..... Karen Roland & Lori Yeager
Jr. Altar Guild.....Joey Roland & Grant Shepherd
Sound..... Brian Atkins
Refreshments Yeager families

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 24, 2017
CHRISTMAS EVE

Organist Richard Thompson
Crucifer..... Chris O'Connor
Acolyte Aaron Surburg, Esther Surburg
Communion Assist: David Temme, Randy Litten
Elder on Duty..... Tim Wagner
Greeters.....Mary Jo McConnell
Ushers..... Richard Curry, Nate Gaff, Jim Arthur
Youth Assistant..... Christopher O'Connor
Altar Guild..... Karen Roland & Lori Yeager
Jr. Altar Guild.....Joey Roland & Grant Shepherd
Sound.....Rick Riegle

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 25, 2017
CHRISTMAS DAY

Organist.....Richard Thompson
Crucifer Bailey Shanton
Word Bearer.....Lili Jenkins
Acolyte..... Garrett Hollis, Ethan Hollis
Communion Assist: Mark Jenkins, Jeff Corlew
Elder on Duty..... James Froiland
Greeters..... Mary Jo McConnell
Ushers Richard Curry, Nate Gaff, Jim Arthur
Youth Assistant.....Christopher O'Connor
Altar Guild..... Karen Roland & Lori Yeager
Jr. Altar Guild Joey Roland & Grant Shepherd
Sound Ken Peterson

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Rick Rogers..... 12/21

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

T.J. Corlew 12/18
 Richard Curry 12/18
 Chuck LaVallee 12/19
 Rick Riegle 12/19
 Tamara Whitmer..... 12/19

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Bev Wilson (46 yrs.)..... 12/18
 Chuck & Thelma Ford (46 yrs.) 12/23

CHURCH LEADERS

Council:

- Jeff Dickmander (Chairman)
- Brian Atkins (Vice-Chairman)
- Amanda Houser (Recording Secretary)
- Robert M. Yeager (Treasurer)
- Phyllis Arthur (Parochial Ed. Chair)
- Tom Fitzwater (Evangelism Chair)
- Mike Schildmier (Properties Chair)
- Rebecca Shanton (Parish Ed. Chair)
- Bob G. Yeager (Stewardship Chair)
- Tim Wagner (Elders Chair)

Elders:

- Tim Wagner (Chair)
- James Froiland
- Shawn Houser
- Mark Jenkins (Recording Secretary)
- Ken Peterson
- Matthew Surburg

Please Contact Lori (317) 431-9514, and email address is loriyeager@comcast.net. You may also call or email the office to have it forwarded

IN OUR PRAYERS

Note: Prayer requests will be listed for four weeks, unless longer is requested.

- Audrey Rittenhouse (Carolyn Haas's granddaughter)*
Knee surgery
- Matthew Siefert of Mueller's Body Shop*
Fire
- Rev. Ken Shaw*
Surgery
- The Rogers Family*
Rich's Parents, Reece and Peggy Rogers's passings
- Donna Schustor (Julie Litten's friend)*
Aneurism
- Gracie Lowhorn (17 yr. old friend of the Yeagers)*
Cancer
- Kay Eckert*
Cancer
- Bernice Thackery (Julie Dickmander's mother)*
Illiness
- Richard Trautmann*
Illiness
- Trent Stevanak (Debby Thompson's nephew)*
Cancer
- Donna Kuppler*
Homebound in Illinois
- Marjorie Lung*
Nursing home bound
- Chuck LaVallee*
Nursing home bound
- Betty Mattsey*
Homebound
- Don Pfaff*
Homebound
- Peggy Price*
Homebound (in Ft. Wayne)
- Marilyn Rothkopf*
Nursing home bound
- Ellie Trautmann*
Nursing home bound in Carmel
- Emily Rogers (LWML National Board)*

Serving our Country

Rob Wolfla, Nick Arthur, James McConnell,
 Noah Heiwig, Will Harlow (friend of Pastor's)