



# FOCUS ON FAITH WEEKLY

✦ FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ✦ GREENFIELD INDIANA ✦

This Week at Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday Dec. 24	Monday Dec. 25	Tuesday Dec. 26	Wednesday Dec. 27	Thursday Dec. 28	Friday Dec. 29	Saturday Dec. 30
<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> 9:15 am Divine Service  Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service 7:00 pm	<b>Christmas Day Divine Service</b> @ 9:15 am.	No Preschool	No Preschool	No Preschool	No Preschool	<b>Men's Bible Study</b> 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](mailto:pastorwdo@faithgreenfield.org)

Administrative Assistant e-mail: [secretary@faithgreenfield.org](mailto:secretary@faithgreenfield.org) Focus on Faith Deadline: 9 am Thursday

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, emails, and phone calls we received following Steve's surgery. And a special thank you to Pastor O'Connor for his VERY early morning visit to the hospital on the day of surgery and later home visit to bring communion. We are truly blessed to have such a caring church family.

Steve and Ann Coon

## FROM LUTHER

Repentance is an important part of the Christian life. It's why we celebrate Advent before Christmas, and are being sure to celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Advent this morning before celebrating Christmas tonight. The Christ of Christmas came to save sinners, and to receive the salvation He brings we repent – i.e.,

## FROM LUTHER CONT

we turn away from our sins and turn toward Christ and His forgiveness. Or as Luther puts it in the following quote ...

“For because he (i.e., the sinner) repents, he becomes just from being unjust. Therefore repentance is a medium between unrighteousness and righteousness. And thus he is in sin as a beginning point and in righteousness as an end point. If therefore we are always repenting, we are always sinners, and yet at the same time we are just and are justified, partly sinners, partly just, that is, nothing more than penitent.” (Luther's Works – volume 25, p.434; from Luther's *Lectures on Romans*, delivered from the Summer of 1515 to the Summer of 1516)

## REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

**St. Stephen, Martyr** (December 26) – Stephen is mentioned in Acts chapters 6-7 as one of the seven deacons appointed by the Church to provide for the needs of the poor in the Christian community in Jerusalem. Because of his powerful witness to the Gospel, Stephen was brought before the Jewish Sanhedrin, where he boldly confessed Christ. Infuriated, the Sanhedrin took him outside the city and stoned him to death. Stephen was the Church's first martyr (a word which in Greek means "witness") as he died for the faith. He is remembered for commending himself to Christ in death when he said: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," and for forgiving those murdering him with the words: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." (Acts 7:59-60)

Collect: Heavenly Father, in the midst of our sufferings for the sake of Christ, grant us grace to follow the example of the first martyr: Stephen, that we also may look to the One Who suffered and was crucified on our behalf, as well as pray for those who do us wrong.

**St. John, Apostle and Evangelist** (December 27) – John and his brother James were among the first apostles called by Jesus. John was present with our Lord at His transfiguration and in the Garden of Gethsemane, and from the cross Jesus entrusted the care of His mother: Mary, to John. John is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, as well as three epistles and the book of Revelation. According to tradition, John was banished to the island of Patmos (off the coast of Asia Minor) by the Roman emperor: Domitian. In his later work John is associated with Ephesus, and he is believed to have been the only apostle who did not die a martyr's death, as he lived to a very old age and died at the end of the first century A.D.

Collect: Merciful Lord, cast the bright beams of Your light upon the Church, that we, being instructed in the doctrine of Your blessed apostle and evangelist John, may come to the light of everlasting life.

## REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs** (December 28) – In the attempt to kill the infant Jesus, King Herod the Great murdered all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or younger (Matthew 2:16-18). Since they were killed because of Christ, the Church very early honored these babies as "the buds of the martyrs," killed by the frost of hate as soon as they appeared. The Holy Innocents remind us of the terrible cruelty which sin has brought into the world. Their deaths point forward to the death and resurrection of *the* Innocent One: Jesus Christ, through Whom God has conquered sin and death.

Collect: Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will, that our lives may bear witness to the Faith we profess with our lips.

**David** (December 29) – David, the greatest of Israel's kings, ruled from about 1010 to 970 B.C. David was gifted musically. He helped organize the music for the Temple, and was the author of 73 psalms. His public and private character displayed a mixture of faithfulness (see his defeat of the giant Goliath in 1Samuel 17) and sin (see his adultery with Uriah's wife, followed by his murder of Uriah in 2Samuel 11). In 2Samuel 7:12-16 God promised that He would establish David's kingdom forever, as He promised that the Messiah would descend from David. It was under David's leadership that the people of Israel were united into a single nation, with Jerusalem as its capital city.

Collect: God of majesty, Whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven, we give You thanks for David who, through the Psalter, gave Your people hymns to sing with joy in our worship on earth so that we may glimpse Your beauty. Bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection that will be ours as we stand before Your unveiled glory.

## 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! Note: there will be no Bible Study this morning, due to the fact that we will be back in church again this evening. We will meet again next week (Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>) to continue our study of Hebrews

**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. Note: there will be no Bible Study the next two weeks (Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> & Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>) because of the Christmas/New Year's holiday. We will resume meeting Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> to continue our study of the Song of Solomon.

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

## 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](http://lhsi.org) where you also may purchase LuFest tickets (\$125 each).

MATCHING FUNDS DONATION  
OPPORTUNITIES

LOVE, INC. Until December 31, 2017

## KFUO LUTHERAN RADIO

*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.

*For churches outside the St. Louis area for the week of December 31.*

**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 New Year! Christmas music and readings for the Sacred Season continue through Epiphany, and regular programming will resume January 2. Coming this January, KFUO will be unveiling a brand new website and new morning program schedule, including your favorite Oratio and Sharper Iron and adding daily chapel services and an exciting new morning program. Stay tuned!

RECEIVING IN FAITH :  
DECEMBER 13, 2017

Advent Service 37

RECEIVING IN FAITH :  
DECEMBER 13, 2017

General Fund .....	495.00
Adult Sunday School .....	5.00
Loose Cash .....	23.88
Memorials .....	30.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>553.38</b>

RECEIVING IN FAITH :  
DECEMBER 17, 2017

Divine Service 112

RESPONDING IN FAITH:  
DECEMBER 17, 2017

General Fund .....	4,948.30
Building Fund .....	40.00
Loose Cash .....	68.91
Memorials .....	310.00
FFC Rental .....	1.50
Pre-school .....	4,755.60
Miscellaneous .....	50.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>10,174.31</b>

RECEIVING IN FAITH :  
DECEMBER 20, 2017

Advent Service 66

General Fund .....	273.00
Adult Sunday School .....	11.00
Loose Cash .....	115.00
Miscellaneous .....	20.80
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>419.80</b>

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 31, 2017  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Organist ..... Elise Temme  
 Crucifer ..... Joey Roland  
 Acolyte ..... Esther Surburg, Grant Shepherd  
 Communion Assist: ... Jeff Dickmader, Tom Fitzwater  
 Elder on Duty..... Shawn Houser  
 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..... Jeff Corlew  
 Refreshments ..... The Fox 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**

Brian Atkins .....12/28  
 Tim Wagner.....12/28  
 Don Pfaff .....12/29  
 Donna Visnack .....12/29

**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Christy Kingen .....12/25  
 Mike Leininger .....12/25  
 Tim Wagner.....12/28  
 Evan Steuer .....12/30

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Richard & Debby Thompson (38 yrs.).....12/29

**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](mailto: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.*

*Dale Schroeder (Friend of Pastor)*  
 Cancer  
*Matthew Siefert of Mueller's Body Shop*  
 Fire  
*Rev. Ken Shaw*  
 Surgery  
*The Rogers Family*  
 Rich's Parents, Reece and Peggy Rogers's passings  
*Gracie Lowhorn (17 yr. old friend of the Yeagers)*  
 Cancer  
*Kay Eckert*  
 Cancer  
*Bernice Thackery (Julie Dickmander's mother)*  
 Illness  
*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)



# Issues, Etc.

*Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio*

Talk Radio for the Christmas Season

*The Hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

Dr. Arthur Just, Concordia Theological Seminary

*Apparent Contradictions on the Genealogies of Christ*

Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Concordia Seminary

*Praetorius: Lutheran Mass for Christmas Morning*

Dr. Joseph Herl, Concordia University Nebraska

*Jesus Presented at the Temple*

Dr. Carl Fickenscher, Concordia Theological Seminary

*The Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

Rev. Bryan Wolfmüller, Table Talk Radio

*Top Religion Stories of 2017*

Terry Mattingly, Get Religion

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## LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

*Sacred Music for the Christmas Season*

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<http://www.lutheranpublicradio.org>