

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 15, 2024~9:30 A.M.**

*Welcome to Faith United Methodist Church. It is our heart and desire to **engage** the community of Waseca with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **equip** those who respond to be the next generation of disciples of Jesus Christ and **empower** them to go into the world as partners with God for the healing of the world.*

PRELUDE

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!

**Our joy is in the Lord, who blesses us.**

Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

**Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**

Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

**Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN.**

HYMN.....“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” .....UMH #203

UNISON PRAYER

**Lord, heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything, but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**Lay Reader:** Today we light three candles-the first candle is called HOPE. The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives. The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's absolute presence in our lives. Come, all is ready. Let the light of this these candles, called HOPE, PEACE, and JOY, bring brightness to your spirits.

PASSING THE PEACE *Let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.*

ANTHEM.....“Where’s the Line to See Jesus?” .....Faith Choir

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER.....Unison

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY.....UMH #95

OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Unison

**God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your kingdom. Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust and not be afraid.  
The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.”  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

In that day you will say:

“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.  
Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world.  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

**Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD!  
THANKS BE TO GOD!**

HYMN.....“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” .....UMH#224

SCRIPTURE READING

**Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones

God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

MESSAGE.....“Joy and Giving” .....Rev. Dong Hun Shin

### A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

**Come Holy Spirit, fill our voices with praise, so that all we speak will glorify you.  
Come Holy Spirit, give us such faith that we will go wherever you ask us to go.  
Come Holy Spirit, help us to be a friend like Jesus.  
Come Holy Spirit, warm our hearts, so that as we love our community, they see you.  
In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN.....“Jesus, Name above All Names” .....TFWS #2071

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

## REMEMBER OUR CHURCH FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

**Colony Court:** Margaret Dahnert

**Foxdale Memory Care:** Shirley Burdick

**Latham Place:** Joe Tollefson, Wally Ruedy

**Prayer Requests for Sunday:** Sue Baldini, Tim Dahnert, Ron Dahnert, Gail Sauer, family and friends of Gloria Rollag, Kathy Dahnert Johnson, Margaret Dahnert, Les Wells, April Lupas, Dennis Dahnert, Tom Kuyper, Doug Smith, Sherry Scholljegerdes, Blayke Klassen, Lucille Youngberg, Anna Born, the Ukraine, the Middle East, government officials, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be sure to sign the red attendance pads at the ends of the pews.

**Faith's Blessing Box** – Just a reminder that we are continuously collecting donations of non-perishable food items and cash donations for Faith's Blessing Box (**please no glass jars, no expired items and, during winter months, no canned goods**).

The Leadership Team needs some new members to join beginning in January. We are looking for a Lay Leader and three members at large. One person could serve as both Lay Leader and a member at large. In addition to serving on the Leadership Team, the Lay Leader attends the Annual Conference each year, usually in late May or early June. Please consider joining. It is a great way to share your voice and ideas for the church as well as help oversee church business. The Leadership Team meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. If you are interested in serving on the team, please contact the church office or let a current Leadership Team member know.

Please note that Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be out of the office December 23 through December 27.

Dates and times to remember during this Advent season:

Sunday, December 22, Faith Choir will present the Cantata, The Glory of Christmas, during worship.

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00pm we will have our Christmas Eve worship service.

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The Christmas Day Dinner this year will be hosted by St. John Lutheran Church. This meal is open to senior citizens and those who will be alone on the holiday. Takeout and delivery is available upon request (limit of 5 dinners per household for takeout or delivery). Sign up at Waseca Senior Center (507-835-4552) or call St. John Lutheran Church (507-833-1703) before noon on Tuesday, December 17. There is no charge for the meal; free will offerings gratefully accepted.

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**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...**

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12/15/2024 (Sun.)	Third Sunday of Advent 9:30am – Worship Service 10:30am – Fellowship
12/18/2024 (Wed.)	7:00pm – Choir Practice (*LV Room)
12/22/2024 (Sun.)	Fourth Sunday of Advent Pancake Sunday 9:30am – Worship Service with Choir Cantata 10:30am - Fellowship

\*Lakeview Room    \*\*Fellowship Hall

**Administrative Assistant Hours this Week:**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:30am to 1:00pm

**Rev. Dong Hun Shin Office Hours this Week:**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00am to 12:30pm

**Rev. Dong Hun Shin Contact Info.:**

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