

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT SHEPHERDS CANDLE
CANTATA
December 20th, 2015~9:30 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.*

NEWS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY/ WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP....."Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child" ...Faith Choir

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - THE ANGEL'S CANDLE The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men." [PURPLE]

Luke 2:8-13

L: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

All: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

L: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

All: Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

L: This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

All: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

L: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

HYMN OF PRAISE....."Joy to the World"...UMH No.246...Vs. 4

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

OPENING PRAYER.....[UNISON]

Restore us, O Lord, we pray, bring us back to that place where we once met, as shepherds to the stable after hearing angels sing.

Bring us back to that place when our love was fresh, not embarrassed to express itself in praise to our heavenly King. AMEN.

SUNDAY SCHOOL All children are invited to attend Sunday School at this time. Please go to the back of the sanctuary to meet your teacher.

RESPONSIVE READING.....CANTICLE OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT)...UMH No. 199

GOD IS WITH US

Created By Mason Brown and Sue Smith

Narrator: Mark Lamont

FAITH CHOIR

Christmas time is a time to rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! "God is with us" gives us the story of His birth and reminds us that He is always with us and will never leave us.

EMMANUEL (Opening)

ONE KING/ GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

MARY DID YOU KNOW?

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT (With Congregation)

JESUS MESSIAH/O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

EMMANUEL (Finale)

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother, Mary, was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,"* which means *'God with us.'* When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

L: THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

All: THANKS Be TO GOD.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

MESSAGE....."An Angel in the Night" ...Pastor Victor Waters

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING....."Breath of Heaven" ...Alison Kluntz

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING**....."Glory Be to the Father" ...UMH No. 70

***THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S GIFTS**

Almighty God, we thank you for the holy scriptures, in which you have revealed to us your Son, Jesus Christ, as the fulfillment of the law and prophets, the promised Messiah of Israel, and the Redeemer of humankind.

Grant that we, who gratefully celebrate his advent and acknowledge him as your living Word, may walk in the light of his truth and make known the good news of his kingdom in all the world, to the glory of your name. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN**....."Infant Holy, Infant Lowly " ...UMH No. 229

***SENDING FORTH..... TITUS 3:4-7**

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

EXIT MUSIC

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH & MILITARY 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 Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson, Deloris Asmus

Colony Court: Millie Groh, Ardella Draheim, Nina Youngberg,
Leona Quast, Muriel Jenkins

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken, Don Lohse

Latham Place: Liz Corchran

Morrow Home, Sparta, WI: Marlene Rietfort

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller, Bill Brooks

Tower Light, St. Louis Park: Darlene Lynch

Those who also need our prayers: Willie Mahler [Home Hospice]

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Bruce and Deb Hering,

Leona Quast, Joann Egeness, Kookie Kukacka, Peter and Verna Fog, Marilyn Possin,
Berts Walker, The Westrum Family, Chuck Youngberg, Marlys Garness,
Deloris Asmus, Jim Keller, Bill Brooks, Brenda and Kip Westrum, Roger Goetz, the
family of Paul Krause.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faye Vork gives Christmas greetings to the Congregation. You may write her at 45 Fareway Drive, Northfield, MN 55057 or call her at 507-645-0134.

Conversation, Bible and Friends will not meet on **Tuesday, December 22nd**. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

12/20/2015 (Sun.) 9:30-10:30 a.m.-Worship with Choir Cantata-"God is With Us"
10:00-10:30 a.m. -Sunday School
10:30-11:30 a.m. -Fellowship

12/22/2015 (Tues.) 10:00-11:00 a.m. -Tai Ji Quan (**FH)
5:30-7:30 p.m. -Girl Scouts (Kilmer)

12/23/2015 (Wed.) 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. -Some Time Away
6:30-8:00 p.m. -Youth Group at the Parsonage
7:00-8:00 p.m. -Choir Practice

12/24/2015 (Thur.) **Office Closed for Holiday**
4:30-5:30 p.m. -Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

12/25/2015 (Fri.) **Office Closed for Holiday**

12/27/2015 (Sun.) Pancake Mix Sunday
9:30-10:30 a.m. -Worship Service
10:00-10:30 a.m. -Sunday School
10:30-11:30 a.m. -Fellowship

*Lakeview Room **Fellowship Hall