



CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight
SERVICE

The Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2024
7:00 PM

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
820 West Kenwood • PO Box 2349
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
(541) 672-2231

Church Office Hours:
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday – Friday



Pastors Matt & Janine Goodrich

pastorjanine@faithroseburg.org

pastormatt@faithroseburg.org

Jackie Hill, Office Manager

office@faithroseburg.org

Kirstin Wright, Assistant Treasurer

kidzkirs@outlook.com

Find us on these platforms:

FELC Website: www.faithroseburg.org

Find us on Facebook: *Faith Lutheran Church ELCA*

Livestream: <https://streamlabs.com/faithlutheranchurchroseburg>

YouTube: *Faith Lutheran Church, Roseburg*

We warmly welcome you to Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are an inclusive community of faith that seeks to enable and encourage all people to know and to live God's love in the world. We do this through worship, through service, and through learning. We'd like to get to know you and extend the ministry of this congregation to you. Please sign the Welcome Card found in pew in front of you. **If you are new to Faith Lutheran, we extend a special welcome to you and invite you to worship with us again.**

Listening Devices for hearing enhancement are available in the back of the sanctuary. Please ask an usher for assistance.



All donations for Meals at the Manger will be donated to The FISH of Roseburg Food Pantry. Please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran earmarked "Meals at the Manger".

Put checks and/or cash donations in the receptacle near the entryway doors.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

GATHERING

In Jesus' Name

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Crossroads

Please stand as you are able.

WELCOME

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

INVITATION TO BETHLEHEM

Presider: I bring you news of great joy!
Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.

All: **Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing which has taken place!**

Presider: Place our hope on Bethlehem this night, O God. Convince us that small is victor over large, that we can find a lot in a little. Slow us down. Move us out of the fast lane. Let everything we do contain the seed of your Son's birth, so that we can know the song in the silent night, the gift in giving gifts, and the peace that passes all understanding in the quiet of our hearts.

All: **Let us go to Bethlehem to find him who brings the scattered home.**

Presider: Come softly to us, O Jesus. Bring us home by your path. Open our eyes and ears that we may welcome the life you bring. Revive the desert places in us that we may yet blossom.

All: Let us go to Bethlehem to meet him who hears us when we have no words,

Presider: when we have no justification, no excuses, only the thud of facts and gnawing memories, only the knowledge that too many tables are thinly laid and that we, too, are poor in ways that frighten us.

All: Let us go to Bethlehem to find the child who amazes us.

Presider: For Bethlehem - so small, so insignificant, it seems unlikely that you should use it for your purpose. But you sneak in there, holy child, so silently, almost unobserved. And if you can use Bethlehem, that means you can use us. Come to our quiet space and point us to the purposes you have for us. At your manger, make sense of our lives.

All: Let us go to Bethlehem and see that our usual hopes are too small, that our imagination is inadequate to grasp the things you have in mind.

Presider: Make us wild in hope - that cancer will be cured, that peace will blanket the earth, that we will find calm for our souls. Show us that we are not alone, that you are with us, that in your smallness we find all we truly need.

All: Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing which has taken place!

Christmas Carol

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns; Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2: 1-20

Presider: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Presider: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Presider: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Presider: Let us affirm our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who was spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sin. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(After each petition of "We lift our voices to God"

the congregation will respond "May the Wisdom of Christ light our path.")

A.M.: In gratitude, in praise, may our hearts turn to receive the Light of this Luminous Night. Guide us in the ways of laying our lives gratefully before You. We lift our voices to God:

All: May the Wisdom of Christ light our path.

A.M.: You call us each by name. Teach us to serve all creatures of your sacred creation. Guide us toward unity, healing our division. We lift our voices to God:

All: May the Wisdom of Christ light our path.

A.M.: The nations are yours, part of your wondrous body. May all leaders know they are called to care; may they heed your peoples' cries for release from senseless oppression. Guide us toward justice and peace, healing our deceit. We lift our voices to God:

All: May the Wisdom of Christ light our path.

A.M.: We are yours. Guide our hearts and minds and bodies in the ways of wisdom, that we might hear and heed the pleas of friends among us who hunger, thirst, and face the cold nights. Guide us toward mercy, healing our fear. We lift our voices to God:

All: May the Wisdom of Christ light our path.

A.M.: Strengthen all who suffer, and those who care for them. Open our hearts to see your tender Presence already within us. Guide us toward wholeness, healing our blindness. We lift our voices to God:

All: May the Wisdom of Christ light our path.

A.M.: You welcome all who have completed their earthly journey. Your peace is now their peace. Guide us into your Heart, healing our soul. We lift our voices to God:

All: May the Wisdom of Christ light our path.

A.M.: In gratitude and praise, we invite your peace into our lives. We lift our voices to God:

All: May the Wisdom of Christ light our path.

Presider: God of hope and promise – we lay in your open hands all that our hearts hold this night, trusting in your mercy and love.

All: Amen.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ

The Invitation

Tonight, heaven and earth meet. Tonight, a backyard shed is holy ground.

Tonight, strangers gather as family. And so we come here, to the feast table of God,
as Christ's invited friends, chosen and beloved.

If you have been here often, if the memory of this table stretches back
through all your Christmases, you are welcome.

If you have been here rarely, if reverence for bread and wine is strange to you,
you are welcome.

If you have much faith or little, or wouldn't know where to begin even if you wanted
to believe, you are welcome here. For Christ does not hold himself back from us,
but boldly enters every heart.

Christ welcomes you to this table. That is all you need to know.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All Sing:

*Of the Father's Love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.*

We remember how Christ came- from the vast expanses of heaven to a world that
barely made room for him - fragile and vulnerable and tiny-
we shudder to think of a child in a backyard shed in the cold of night
with only the protection that the fierce love of his parents could give him.

We remember how shepherds and kings knelt before him,
before he could form words of blessing or raise his hand to heal
how they adored him, not for what he'd done, but who he was
God among us - a miracle to hold in your hands.

All Sing:

*Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.*

We remember too, Christ of the upper room, gathered with his friends
who seized a loaf of bread and a cup of wine, as commonplace as anything
and declared they too were a miracle, a miracle to hold in your hands
because they would be his signs for all eternity
bread for new life - new life rising out of the old
and wine for forgiveness - forgiveness unearned but complete.

We remember with pain Christ's body broken, and with wild joy his rising again,
and with faithful hope await his return.

All Sing:

*This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.*

Light of the world, we give thanks that you came among us,
with healing in your touch, compassion in your voice, and grace in your power.

Darkness may seem so strong, but the slightest light disrupts it.

Descend upon our world again, we pray, vanquish the powers of evil, sorrow, and
despair shine for those who grieve tonight, who are lost or lonely, ill or empty
who dread the night and fear the morning.

Shine in us, that we might shine for them, that all shadows would clear away and we
would meet each other in heaven's light, and call each other beloved as you do us.

All Sing:

*Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.*

Holy Spirit, presence of Christ in and among us, we praise you with our own Alleluias

Rest yourself in these gifts of bread and cup

that they may be sure signs of God's love for us, forgiveness and life abundant.

Unite us with all the saints in every time and place,

all those who loved you and all those you loved

Remind us that at this table are those we miss so dearly tonight
those who are missing from our holiday tables but ever present at your
heavenly banquet

And most of all, unite us with Christ, the child of Bethlehem,
that we might love as he loved, so greatly that it changed the whole world.

Alleluia, we sing tonight. Alleluia, Lord most high!

Presider: And now we join together in the prayer Christ himself has taught us,
saying:

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your
will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from
the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Tonight we celebrate Christ, the Bread of Heaven, who, on the night before he was
arrested for daring to love more boldly than others thought proper, took bread, and
after giving thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This
is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my
blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in
remembrance of me. And so, whenever we eat this bread and drink of this cup, we too
proclaim the boldness of God's love, that will always come to us again. The feast is
ready. All are welcome.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Today we celebrate Christ's presence among us as he comes to us with grace and forgiveness in
the ordinary bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. The cups contain red wine and white grape
juice. We have Gluten-Free bread available - please let your server know if you would prefer
this. At Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, ALL are welcome to receive communion.*

COMMUNION CAROLS

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn king:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored. Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

"Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Presider: *Prayer* Bread of heaven, let us not be unchanged by tonight. Let us not pass by the table in silence; let us not leave the table empty. Dwell in our hearts, and shine in our lives, that we might know your deep, deep peace, and share it with the world. Fill us with your love, that we might walk hand in hand with you all our days. We pray in the holy name of the Christ-child, born for us this night.

All: Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

(The minister, taking a large candle, lights it from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes Christ the Light of the World. The light is then given to the first person in each pew, who then passes the light on. Tip the unlighted candle only to receive the light.)

Presider: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

All: Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

Presider: In his light, draw all to the manger

All: to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

Presider: In his light, draw all to the manger

All: to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

Presider: In his light, draw all to the manger

All: to sing for joy with the angels.

Presider: In the brightness of his life,

**All: cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty,
violence and hunger in the world.**

Presider: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

All: In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

Presider: Let this flame represent the light of our Savior's love.

Receive its warmth, and let it grow bright in you.

Christmas Carol

“Silent Night”

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, “Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

BLESSING

Presider: When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with
their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins:

**All: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the
prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to
make music in the heart.**

DISMISSAL

A.M.: Go in peace and shine with the light of Christ!

All: Thanks be to God.

Music to send us on our way into the world.

*If you wish to make a monetary donation to Meals at the Manger, you may place it in the
receptacle near the front doors. Food for hungry families is one of the greatest needs in
Douglas County. Helping Hands of Faith Lutheran will match the first 1,000 pounds of
food with \$1,000.*

Please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran earmarked “Meals at the Manger”

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The liturgy is adapted from works by Kevin G. Thew Forrester and Carol Holbrook Prickett.*



<i>By:</i>	<i>In Memory of:</i>
<i>Ed Cole</i>	<i>Linda Cole</i>
<i>Margaret Gilbert</i>	<i>Robert Gilbert</i>
<i>Jerry and Sue Colombo</i>	<i>Our Parents</i>
<i>Jerry and Cindy Kent</i>	<i>Mary Kent Hart</i>
<i>Sharon and Jim Muck</i>	<i>Skip and Elaine Twietmeyer</i> <i>Jim and Arlyce Muck,</i>
<i>Gwen Soderberg-Chase</i>	<i>Ernie and Elsie Soderberg</i>

<i>To the Glory of God</i>
<i>Bill Schnautz and Jackie Peterson</i>
<i>Jim and Mary Wicklund</i>