

Faith News and Notes for December 14, 2025

PLEASE Note on The Pew Attendance Card which Service you attended

FAITH FLAME and FAITH NEWS AND NOTES are online at faithlutheran-npb.com

Welcome, welcome, welcome in the name of the Lord! We are so glad you are here with us and our prayer is always that the sweet presence of the Lord would be manifested here every time we gather together. May you be encouraged and equipped in your faith today!

Advent Mid-Week Bible Study Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

From Pastor Mark: It's the most wonderful time of the year, so the song goes. Christmas is full of wonder, but often we get so caught up in the same thing every year that we start to lose that wonder. That's why our Advent mid-week Bible study is called *The Wonder of Christmas*. It's a video series from Right Now Media, and we meet on the first three Wednesdays in December.

Dec. 3: The Wonder of His Presence

Dec. 10: The Wonder of His Plan

Dec. 17: The Wonder His People

Each Wednesday we start at 7 PM, with the study lasting about an hour and a half. Hope to see you there. The Study is also offered via Zoom, with the link emailed each Wednesday afternoon.



A NIGHT OF MUSIC
**HANDEL'S
MESSIAH**
Saturday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church
555 US-1, North Palm Beach, Florida
A suggested donation of \$15 is appreciated.

We are also looking for cookie donations to serve at the reception, following the concert. Thank you in advance.

Faith's Christmas Season Calendar

Worship

(Second Sunday in Advent — Peace)

Sunday, December 7th, 8:45 & 10:45

Congregational Breakfast

Sunday, December 7th, 10 AM

Christmas Tree Trimming and Sanctuary decorating

Sunday, December 7th -- After the 2nd service

Advent Mid-Week Bible Study

Wednesday, December 10th — 7PM

(In person and virtual)

Angel Tree Wrapping Party

Saturday, December 13th, 10 AM — 1PM

Worship

(Third Sunday in Advent—Joy)

Sunday, December 14th, 8:45 & 10:45

Advent Mid-Week Bible Study

Wednesday, December 17th — 7PM

(In person and virtual)

Deliver Angel Tree gifts to Belle Glade

Thursday, December 18th

9:00 AM meet at church; 10:30 AM depart for Belle Glade

School Christmas Program

Friday, December 19th,- 7 PM

Women of Faith Christmas Party

Hobo's Gourmet Kitchen

Saturday, December 20th, 11AM—2PM

Messiah Concert

Saturday, December 20th, 6:30 PM

Worship

(Fourth Sunday in Advent—Love)

Sunday, December 21th, 8:45 & 10:45

Toddler Christmas Program

Monday, December 22, 3:30 PM (Gym)

Christmas Eve Worship (Candlelight Service)

Wednesday, December 24th, 7 PM

Christmas Worship (With Communion)

Thursday, December 25th, 10 AM

Holy Communion

In this Sacrament, Jesus gives us Himself, His true Body and Blood as we receive the bread and wine. Jesus instituted this when he celebrated Passover with his disciples, and assures us that each time we receive it, we again remember his death and receive the full benefits of His grace and all that he offers. In keeping with the Scripture and the teachings of the Lutheran church, we ask each person to consider these questions:

- *Do I acknowledge the fact that I am indeed a sinner and that I am sorry for my sins?
- *Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from all sin?
- *Am I trusting in Jesus' promise that I receive full forgiveness and strength through this Sacrament?
- *Do I believe and agree that the body and blood of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, are truly present in, with and under the bread and wine?
- *With the Lord's help, will I seek to amend my sinful life and live in conformity with His holy will?

If you answer yes to all these questions and are baptized, you are welcome to come and receive all that Jesus offers in Holy Communion. May the Lord bless your personal reception as well as your daily living under His power and blessing.

We offer assistance for the **hearing impaired**. Just speak to one of our ushers, who will be able to help you. Please return the hearing device to an usher as you exit. We have a **Nursery** for infants through age 3 that is available during of our services for you to use. The nursery is through the hall on the right side of the sanctuary (facing the altar).

Old Testament *Isaiah 35:1–10*

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Epistle *James 5:7-11*

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Gospel *Matthew 11:2–15*

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."



“And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God.” *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Advent III (Gaudete) – Our congregations must become comfortable speaking publicly about abortion if for no other reason than that Christian hearts also carry guilt and grief over the killing of their own children. The Word of the Lord commands us to condemn sin so that we may cry out comfort and peace (Isaiah 40:1-2) in the Heavenly Father’s forgiveness, even for violating the sanctity of human life.

Advent 2025

November 30 — December 25

Hope — Peace — Joy— Love



The Christ-Child in a manger is a familiar site at Christmas. But the meaning of this quaint scene often gets lost in the flurry of the holiday. God has come to us—to you and me—as a human, with the divine purpose of rescuing us from our sins. In *Born to You ... a Savior*, we treasure the Father’s beloved Gift of love to each of us.

In the Narthex, there is a small Advent booklet with daily devotions that we encourage everyone to pick up.

Prayer Requests



Our Homebound: **Sandy** Aiken (now living at Courtyard Gardens of Jupiter), **Alma** Coates, **Carla** Sesola (now living in Missouri), **Donna** Van Bommel (now living at Palm Beach Memory Care, NPB)

Other Requests: **Faith Lutheran Teachers, Students and their families;** **Gail** Bolognese, **Andrea** Emde, The **family of Esther Fiene**, **Judith** Gonnerman, The **family of Fran** Hickman, **Dave** Johnson, **Rick** Knudtson, **Istvan** Krisko, **Gordon** Lerner, **Kathy** McCoy, **Nancy** Meyer, **Ernie** Munter, **Carole** Satterthwaite, **Tricia** Shankin, **Sally** Schwartz, **Bob and Laura** Tegart, **Walt & Sharon** Wiley, **Lynn** Wilke, and **Ron** Woita.

Women of Faith Christmas Party



Saturday, December 20, 11AM — 2PM

Hobo's Gourmet Kitchen

\$20 per person (kindly pay at the door)

BYOB

Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for an exchange.

Sign-up in the Narthex. The deadline is Monday, December 15th.

Poinsettias to Beautify our Altar



Please help the Altar Guild decorate the altar with poinsettias.

If you would like to share in this project, kindly fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate.

Checks should be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church and note "Poinsettias" on the memo line.

You may pick up your plant(s) after the service on December 25th, or leave it to decorate the Church during the Christmas season.

The deadline to order is Monday, December 15

As we order our plants this year, we remember our Fran Hickman as for years Fran was responsible for seeking out the best place(s) to purchase the poinsettias, picking up the plants, and caring for them in the Chapel before the Sunday they were placed on the Altar. We all miss you, Fran

Each Poinsettia is \$15. ____ (Quantity)

Name: _____



Christmas Eve Worship — 7PM (With Candle lighting)

Christmas Day Worship — 10 AM (With Communion)

This week's altar flowers



**In Honor of David Hernandez's
Birthday
by Brandon Hernandez**

2026 Flower Chart

Be sure to post your important dates on the 2026 Flower, now displayed in the Narthex.

**In Memory of
In Honor of
To the Glory of God**



**Dave Hernandez
Sue Weber
Brandon Hernandez
Kennedy Finn**

Christmas cards for our members in Rehabilitation Facilities



At this time of year, we would like to remember and bless those in our church family who are currently in Rehabilitation Facilities with Christmas cards.

If you feel moved to do so, we're sure that anyone listed below would be delighted to receive a card. Thank you.

Sandy Aiken

Courtyard Gardens
1790 Indian Creek Dr. W, Jupiter, FL 33458

Judith Gonnerman

Prosper
11375 Prosperity Farms Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Gordon Lerner

Luxe Rehabilitation Center of Jupiter
674 Pioneer Road, Jupiter, FL 33458

Ernie Munter

Concordia Village of Tampa
4100 E. Fletcher Ave., Tampa, FL 33613

Donna Van Bommel

Palm Beach Memory Care
639 U.S. Highway One, North Palm Beach, FL 33408

New Day Alzheimer's Association



Monthly Evening Educational / Support Group
Thursday, December 18th, 6 PM—7PM

For Caregivers of Dependent Adults

Educational topics vary each month, followed by discussion/questions & answers about
Alzheimer's Disease and Care-giving

This group provides a supportive and compassionate space for caregivers to talk openly about their struggles, to learn various coping strategies, share resources and explore ways to alleviate stress. The idea is to take care of yourself so you can effectively care for others.

For more information call 561-844-0012.

Support our School!!

We recently received word from the beach that it is requesting the sand from our playground be returned ASAP!

Since our school wing was constructed in 1985, we have always used sand as a soft surface, however, over the years the sand has ended up in the classrooms, in your cars, and in the shoes of our little ones. In celebration of our school's 64th Anniversary, we have decided to replace the sand with a soft surface material like in our playground at our 301 campus.



Total cost including
sand removal is

\$47,000

Donate by check or
Vanco



See Mrs. Tucker or Ms. Slavin for more information

This Week at Faith

Sunday, December 14

- 8:45 AM Traditional Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School (Ages 3-7: Classroom 3. Ages 8-12: Conference Rm.)
- 10:45 AM Contemporary Service
- 12:00 PM Contemporary Worship Practice

Monday, December 15

- 7:00 PM Gambler's Anonymous (Chapel)

Tuesday, December 16

- 12:00 PM Lifewise meeting (Michel Building—Classroom C)

Wednesday, December 17

- 10:00 AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry

Thursday, December 18

- 9:00 AM—11:00 AM Weight Watchers (Michel Building/Classrooms A&B)
- 9:00 AM Prepare for delivery of Angel Tree gifts
- 10:30 AM Depart to deliver Angel Tree gifts to PEPPI Head Start in Belle Glade
- 10:30 AM Canasta Club (Upper Room)
- 6:00 PM—7:00 PM New Day Support Group (New Day)

Friday, December 19

- 9:30 AM Weight Watchers (Michel Building/Classrooms A and B)
- 7:00 PM Pre-School Christmas Program (Gym)

Saturday, December 20

- 8:00 AM Weight Watchers (Michel Building/Classrooms A and B)
- 11:00 AM Women of Faith Christmas Party (Hobo's Gourmet Kitchen)
- 6:30 PM Messiah Concert

Sunday, December 21

- 8:45 AM Traditional Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School (Ages 3-7: Classroom 3. Ages 8-12: Conference Rm.)
- 10:45 AM Contemporary Service
- 12:00 PM Contemporary Worship Practice

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
555 US Hwy 1, North Palm Beach, FL 33408
Office: 561-848-4737 / church@faithnpb.com / faithlutheran-npb.com
Follow and Like Us on Facebook at Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor	Rev. Mark Stillman
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. John Frerking
Director of Music Ministry	Dr. David McCalla
Praise Team Director	Janet Cunningham
Office	Jen Iacobucci
Bookkeeper	Angie Pendas
Director of Accounting	Janet Cunningham

FAITH LUTHERAN PRE-SCHOOL — 561-842-2487

Lisandria Slavin: Administrative Director

Pilar Tucker: Director — Evelyn Lawrence: Assistant/After School Director

NEW DAY ADULT CARE CENTER — 561-844-0012

	8:45 AM	10:45 AM
Altar Guild	Lou Raffa	Barbara Cahill
Communion Assistant	Lauree Cano	John Fortini
Greeter	Jim Beermann	Jane Blevins
Lector	Magdala Ray	Karen Hernandez
Usher	Frank Russo	Mark Leininger

Your Church Elders

Ben Schuemann, president: 561-385-6648

Mark Leininger: 561-722-4994	Susan Russo: 561-371-5135
Tracy O'Daniell: 815-482-5566	Ben Schuemann: 561-385-6648
Mary Jo Petterson: 561-339-0941	Bert Seitz: 561-818-0543
Lou Raffa: 561-601-4058	Matt Henshaw: 561-315-8052

OUR VISION

We believe God calls us to engage, encourage and equip our church, community and world with His unfailing love.

We will **engage** all people in meaningful relationships with God's unfailing love as the foundation.

We will **encourage** all people to a closer relationship with Jesus.

We will **equip** all people to live a loving, powerful, Spirit-filled life.