

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

310 Southdale Road East

London, ON N6E 1A1



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. (Philippians 1:27)

MORNING WORSHIP at FAITH.....11:00 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP at GRACE 9:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Website: www.faithlutheranlondon.com

Email: faithlutheranchurch@rogers.com

www.facebook.com/faithlutheranlondon

Rev. Oscar Castillo, Pastor: pastorocflc@rogers.com

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Rev. James Scholz, *Pastor Emeritus*

Deacon Stan Diehl, *Emeritus*

Elizabeth Biser, Secretary

Jane Harris, Organist

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Saviour, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

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OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: Printed Order of Service
Holy Communion

HYMNS: 809v.1,3; 357v.1-4; 343; 933; 352; 634; 338

FIRST LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (p. 259)

SECOND LESSON: Romans 16:25-27 (p. 951)

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:26-38 (p. 855)

SERMON: “The Conception of the Lord” (Luke 1:26-38)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Christmas Eve at Grace at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve at Faith at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day with Holy Communion at Grace at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Day with Holy Communion at Faith at 11:00 a.m.

FAITH TELECARE MINISTRY is in operation in our congregation. Five members have taken the task to call members from time to time. The purpose of the Telecare Ministry is to strengthen our relationship with each other and to deliver rich information to the membership. Please give these members your support and prayers. *Pastor Castillo*

GUESTS AND HOLY COMMUNION: In the fullness of time the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. Until the end of time His grace is still given to us as He promised in the **Lord's Supper**. As we receive His gift today, we would ask guests who desire to commune to speak with the pastor before the service. In joyful obedience to the teaching of Scripture, we practice closed communion.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION: You may find it helpful to read Luther's Questions and Answers on p.329 (LSB) prior to communing at the Lord's table today.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:



Special needs: John, Walter and Donna, Patricia, Ritva and family, Alice, Reiner, Marsha, Shirley, Sara, Susan, Shirley, Michelle (Stan's daughter), Marian, Sue, Mike and Anne, Stan, Gerda, Melissa, Cheryl, Rachel and children,

Lloyd and Elsie

Homebound: Becky, Ana, Grace, Nancy, Delbert

Family Focus: Joshua and Rebecca; Bill and Linda; Doug and Melissa ; Gene and Anna

THE SACRED SEASON OF ADVENT continues today. We again prepare our hearts to greet our Saviour who came, who comes, and is coming again.

UKRAINE NEEDS OUR HELP! Considering the crisis in the Ukraine and the humanitarian needs that are arising, we are inviting members to consider donating to the C.L.W.R – Ukraine. The Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU) consists of 14 Congregations; 5 Mission Stations; 3 Humanitarian Foundations; and 1 Seminary. Your donations can be made through Faith offering, use the Lutheran Church Canada website (Missions) or directly to C.L.W.R. donations@clwr.org.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

ELDERS: Jack, Darcy

USHERS: Jack, Keith, Mike

FINANCE STEWARDS: Pam & Barb

STEWARDS NEXT WEEK: Pam & Barb

SOUND OPERATOR: Fred

LIVESTREAM OPERATOR: Darcy

ALTAR GUILD TODAY: Connie

ALTAR GUILD NEXT WEEK: Connie

LESSON READER TODAY: Elders

LESSON READER NEXT WEEK: Randy & Mathias

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 109

Livestream: Peak Viewers:3

Total Unique Viewers: (until December 19th): 19

GOD'S KIDS: 18

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE: 36

MEMBERS TELEPHONE DIRECTORY: Please check your information for the congregation's new telephone directory. The draft pages are posted on the library windows. If the information is correct, please put a check mark and your initials beside your name. If there are changes/updates, please make them directly on these pages. Also, if you are aware of any information changes of other members, we would welcome this information – you can add it in the section entitled "Additions and Changes". If you have an email address that you would like included in the new directory, please add it or let the office know, either by phone (519-685-9700) or email at faithlutheranchurch@rogers.com. ***If your name has been highlighted in blue, that means that the office has corrected the information.*

FROM THE ELDERS: Check out Lutheran Public Radio at lutheranpublicradio.org or their podcasts "issues, etc." and "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever" or download the LPR app for Lutheran bible studies and discussions pertaining to the culture in which we live.

LADY LOOKING TO RENT A ROOM IN LONDON: A friend of one of our members is looking for a place here in London. If you have an extra room, and are able to help this sister in Christ, please contact the church office either by phone (519 685 9700) or by email at faithlutheranchurch@rogers.com

THE POINSETTIAS which beautify God's church this festive season have been given to His glory by: Art & Della; Rob & Cathy; Dan & Cheryl; Bill & Linda; Shirley; Keith & Shirley; Ron & Connie; Vicky; Brian & Carol; Bob & Marian; Pastor Jim & Sandy; George & Carol and Anna. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home after Christmas Eve service or Christmas morning service.

LIFE QUOTES: "This time of the year always fills us with cheer | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!" *Jerrod Nelson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife*

CHECK YOUR MAILBOXES: December 2023 calendars are in your mailbox. If you haven't visited your mailbox recently, please do so in order to get your copy of the calendar to ensure that you don't miss any fellowship activities, bible studies and meetings.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: Ukraine
The Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU) consists of 14 Congregations; 5 Mission Stations; 3 Humanitarian Foundations; and 1 Seminary.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY: We are getting low on some items which are: *cereal, cereal bars, Kraft dinner, sugar, pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned fish, hearty soups, fruit cups, peanut butter, juice boxes, canned vegetables, but not baked beans, personal hygiene items, and a variety of soups, but not tomato.* If you would like to help out in a different capacity, you are most welcome to provide grocery store gift cards. These cards are given at the discretion of the pastor to those individuals requiring perishable items.



FLOWER CHART: The new flower chart for 2024 has been posted. Please sign up for a Sunday to adorn our altar as we praise God for the many blessings that He has given us.

COFFEE HOUR AT FAITH will be held after non-Communion worship services. Please sign up to prepare coffee and tea and also clean up afterwards.

OUR SPECIAL OFFERINGS: Our special gift offerings have been designated as follows this Christmas season:

- * Christmas Eve offerings support LCC-Missions
- * Christmas Day offerings support Capital Improvements

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024 are available in your mailbox. *Please wait until the new year to begin using them,* as occasionally numbers may have changed. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like some, please speak to Pastor Castillo.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES: “The Exit From Regret”
(Luke 2:27-28)

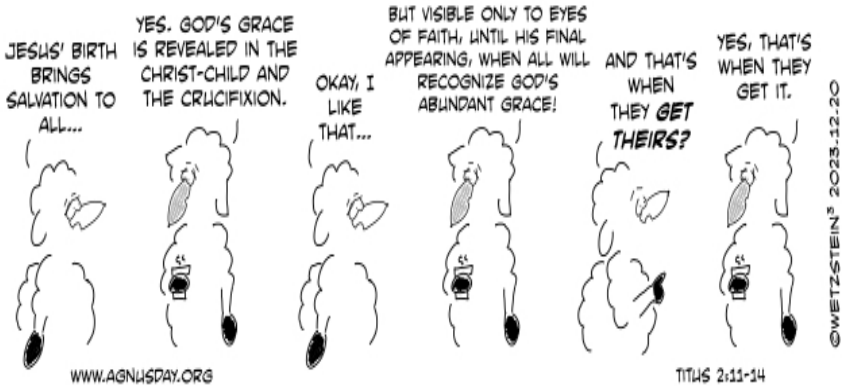
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

When life becomes an endless roundabout of regret, Christ is your entrance to forgiveness and a new start. Hear this inspirational message on CFPL-980 AM on Sunday, Dec. 31st at 7:30 a.m. Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for help in some areas. If you are interested in being an usher, a counter for Sunday offerings, a sound operator or livestream operator, please speak with Pastor or let the office know.



FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR: If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please let the office know a week or two in advance so that it can be included in the bulletin.



Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org

AT FAITH AND GRACE

Mon.	9:00 a.m.	Grace Christmas Day Worship/Holy Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Faith Christmas Day Worship/Holy Communion
Tues.		Church office closed
Wed.		Church office closed
Sun.	9:00 a.m.	Grace Morning Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Faith Morning Worship