



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Prelude:

In the Bleak Midwinter

Larry Visser

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

***Opening Hymn:**

The King Shall Come

ELW 260

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Advent's Holy Light Candle Lighting – Congregational Singing Part

Lighting of Advent Candle

P: We continue our Advent journey today with the lighting of the Hope candle and the second candle, the candle of Peace. Let the gentle glow of these candles symbolize the tranquility we seek in our hearts and homes, fostering a sense of peace that transcends the chaos of this world.

P: In a world filled with conflict and confrontations

C: We humbly seek the gift of peace.

P: For the storms that sometimes rage within us

C: We humbly seek the gift of peace.

P: As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives

C: We humbly seek the gift of peace.

P: And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens

C: We humbly seek the gift of peace.

P: Gracious Creator, in the quiet moments may we find solace in your presence, and in the noisy chaos of life may your peace prevail. Calm the storms that rage within and around us. May we be instruments of your peace, fostering understanding, compassion, and harmony in our hearts. Amen.

Advent's Holy Light – Congregational Singing Part

Repeat from previous page

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

R: A reading from Isaiah, the eleventh chapter.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see

or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading:

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

R: A reading from Romans, the fifteenth chapter.

- ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

- ¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

- ¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

- ¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

- ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel**

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: ¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and

will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry* **ELW 249**

***Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

**R: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God,
trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole
creation.**

A brief silence.

**R: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world.
Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing,
and equity among peoples. God of grace,**

C: hear our prayer.

R: With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(10:30) Sr. Choir:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Geistliche Kirchengesäng

***Offertory:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Offering Prayer**

P: Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

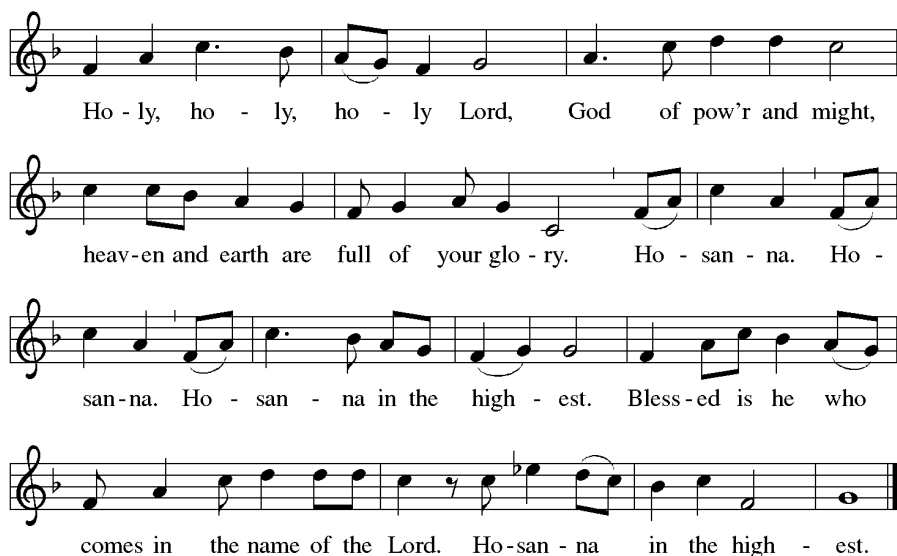
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle. If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 487 What Feast of Love

ELW 474 Bread of Life from Heaven

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

***Closing Hymn:**

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Keep Awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude:**

From Heaven Above

David Schack

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THROUGH SCRIPTURE, John the Baptist still urges people to prepare for Jesus' coming. O God, make today's worship and Christian fellowship part of our hearts' preparation. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all.

THE MITTEN TREE is up and any mittens and gloves will go to Atkinson Elementary School. Other items, such as hats and scarves, will go to Pontifex and/or Liberty Center.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the narthex. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so.

UPDATED CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES AND THE F.L.C.W. PROGRAM BOOKLETS for 2026 are available in the narthex for you as well.

ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE – In order to put the Annual Report into your hands a week earlier than the January 25th meeting, the **deadline** to have all committee reports submitted to the office **is Sunday, January 4, 2026**. Please plan accordingly. Thank you.

PRAYER SISTERS FOR 2026 – You have the opportunity to be matched up with a prayer sister for 2026. Prayer sisters keep in touch with each other throughout the year. This can mean meeting for lunch or dinner, sending greeting cards, praying for each other regularly and anything else fun that you can think of to do together. **It really is quite rewarding!** If you would like to have a prayer sister, please let Barb Kocsis know (567-219-2603). Thank you.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026 – We are asking for two people to be our representatives at the Synod Assembly next year on Saturday, May 30, 2026. It will be from 9 am to 6 pm. Please see Dave Kocsis or Pastor Tim if interested.

TICKETS FOR THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA are available November 3rd, for the December 18th concert at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. They are available to purchase in the Grace church office: \$15/adults; \$10/Seniors (65 and up) & students (18 and under).



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – Sunday, December 14th, at the 8 a.m. service.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – Sunday, December 21st, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: There will be a 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion. Offerings from these services and Thanksgiving offerings will go to ELCA – Good Gifts. Please invite your family, friends and guests as we celebrate our Savior's birth.

DECEMBER 28, 2025: There will only be a 9 a.m. service this day with celebration of Holy Communion and Sunday School to follow.

CHRISTMAS IN TIMES OF WAR – A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Tuesday, December 9th, beginning at 7 p.m. we will hear about Christmas in the Trenches from Mike Gilbert. This presentation invites us to reflect on how Christmas has been observed during times of conflict – not a retreat from suffering, but as a bold declaration of faith. This reflection will remind us that the true meaning of Christmas – God's love breaking into a broken world – has never been more powerful than when celebrated in the shadow of war. We will also have our December General Meeting of the women this night beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Please plan to join us. Light refreshments will be provided.

IN OCTOBER, WE LAUNCHED OUR FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH PROJECTS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, taking a bold step toward protecting our facility with a new roof for the next 25+ years, transforming our fellowship entry way into a more accessible and welcoming one, and revamping our sanctuary sound system to enhance and improve our worship experience. Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of a donor who believes in this mission, so far, we've raised \$40,880 towards our ultimate goal of \$250,000! If you would like to contribute to this, simply note on your offering or gift that it is for the Faith Lutheran Projects Campaign.

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PROGRAM directed by D. Greg Fox and hosted by the Christian community of the greater Port Clinton area will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 14th at 2:00 p.m.**, and will be hosted at Trinity United Methodist Church, 135 Adams Street, Port Clinton. Greg's program will feature the Voices of Freedom Choir, a youth choir, with a narration from the gospel of Luke. This is a community-wide event and **ALL are welcome**. Following the program, there will be refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall. TUMC invites your participation in making some homemade delectables for this fellowship gathering. Please contact Heather at Trinity (419-732-3161) regarding your intent on providing refreshments. Your support for this community-wide Christmas musical program is greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS CHEESEBALL SPREAD SALE Orders taken Nov. 22 thru Dec. 14th, at Trinity UMC, 204 N. Wayne St., Fremont. Flavors are Dried Beef, Cheddar, Onion Horseradish, Cranberry Walnut, Peanut Butter/Chocolate. \$10 each. To order or for questions, call 419-332-8167.

CONVERSATIONS WITH CROGHAN: Join us for Insights into Trusts & Wills on December 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce, 1245 Napoleon Street, Fremont, Ohio.

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Joan Bolen, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Gary Overmyer, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Janet Tressler, Linda Woessner. Roger Hardiman, Al & Judi Krumnow, Matt Michael, Jackie Mowry, Eric Paul, Louanna

Rhea, Teri Titkemeier, Victims of Holiday Parade crash in Clyde.

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

USHERS NEEDED ON SUNDAY MORNINGS – I would like to appeal to those of you interested in being ushers to please sign up on the clipboards in the coat room area. Thank you very much! Mike Fought, Deacon.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Noah Seibert Lillian Harder

Lector: Karly Paeth Kendra Paeth

Acolyte: Greyson Tooman

Communion: C. Paeth/K. & K. Paeth C. Paeth/K. & K. Paeth

Counters: Dave Kocsis* & Judi Neill

Fellowship Time Host: Adult II Sunday School Class

Altar Guild: Annie , Allison & Lauren Gazdecki

Ushers: (8:00) Steve & Mason Harder

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer **Pianist:** Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Reese/Ryla S./Peyton H. Sally Sleek & M. L. Cooper

Lector: Kim Smith Brielle Weiker

Acolyte: Jackson Fought Braelyn Weiker

Communion: A. Gazdecki/M. Fought Amy Wagner & Barb Kocsis

Counters: Marie Reiselt* & Nicole Weiker

Fellowship Time Host: Sheri Ripley & Jackie Seibert

Altar Guild: Annie , Allison & Lauren Gazdecki

Ushers: (8:00) Jim & Kim Smith

REMINDER... *When Sandusky County is under a Level 3 Snow Advisory the church will be closed. This includes Sunday services as well as all weekday events, meetings and activities for that day. If we are under a level 1 or 2 snow emergency, the church will be open and if it's on a day of worship, we will have worship.*

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Dec. 7 to Dec. 14

Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Dec. 7----- 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

Monday

Dec. 8-----8 a.m. Men's Group in Fellowship Hall
 10 a.m. Valley View – Tea Time with God
 11:30 a.m. FLCW Visitation at Bob Evans
 7:30 p.m. Dartball – Away vs. St. John's

Tuesday

Dec. 9-----6:30 p.m. FLCW December General Meeting
 7:00 p.m. FLCW Program – Christmas in the Trenches

Wednesday

OFFICE CLOSED

Dec. 10-----6:15 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:15 p.m. Praise Choir
 7:15 p.m. Sr. Choir
 8:05 p.m. Cantata Practice

Thursday

Dec. 11-----3 p.m. Christ Care

Friday

OFFICE OPEN

Dec. 12-----

Saturday

Dec. 13-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care
 1-5 p.m. Hall Reserved – Jane Frederick

Sunday

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT 8 A.M.

Dec. 14----- 8 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 115 – OFFERING: \$2,632.85

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Turning and Mending (Again)

Being on the receiving end of sharp language can be heartbreaking. Indeed, words can wound—or worse. John the Baptizer, a key figure in our Advent narratives, finds himself at odds with other religious leaders of the time, and uses the tool he has (language) to call attention to their broken relationship. It's unclear what exactly led to this prickly, pointed exchange between John and the Pharisees and Sadducees, but there is a growing chasm between them.

“Prepare the way of the Lord,” John cries out in the wilderness, echoing the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah cried out in his own day centuries prior, testifying to God's desire to mend the world (though the world seemed to be at an end). Perhaps John repeats Isaiah's plea in order to remind the people of his day of God's intent for all things: for the world to be mended, healed, made right; for the reign of heaven to be revealed on earth, here and now. Often, however, mending brokenness requires honesty first about the wounds that have been inflicted and the death that has been wrought. With John's painful honesty, his strained relationship with other leaders of his time takes a step toward healing, toward justice, so that a new beginning might take hold. This is a starting point, as difficult as it may be.

Every Advent, as the church year begins again, we hear the familiar call: *Repent. Turn back to God.* Repentance is no easy thing, but thankfully, God draws us back to this imperative, year after year, day after day, hour after hour. With infinite mercy, once again God invites us to turn toward healing, toward justice, toward the righting of the world, one relationship at a time.