



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

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www.faithfremont.org

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2025

Welcome to this Christmas Eve service of rejoicing. May joy fill your heart! May you truly have a holy and happy Christmas!

Prelude: *Selections for This Holy Night*

Various Composers

Special Music: *Night of Nights*

Fritzi J. Bohlmann

Welcome & Announcements

Signing of the Friendship register (pew pad) by all present.

Entrance Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.

Refrain: 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! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Christmas Dialog and Greeting

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

Advent's Holy Light Candle Lighting – Congregational Singing Part

Lighting of Advent Candles

P: As we gather on this sacred Christmas Eve, we light all the candles, including the center candle, the Christ candle. Together, these candles symbolize the Light of the World coming to dispel the darkness. As we light this Christ candle, may its flame ignite the warmth of God's love within us and spread the message of joy and salvation to all.

P: Tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the source of our hope.

C: Let heaven and nature sing.

P: The Prince of Peace has come to dwell among and within us.

C: Let heaven and nature sing.

P: The source of our joy and our salvation is here.

C: Let heaven and nature sing.

P: The greatest gift of all, the gift of love, has been given.

C: Let heaven and nature sing.

P: Gracious Creator, we thank you for the love that brought Christ into our lives, for the hope his birth represents, and for the peace that his presence brings. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may this Christ candle illuminate our hearts and minds, drawing us closer to you and to one another. In the name of the newborn King, we pray. Amen.

Advent's Holy Light – Congregational Singing Part

Repeat from previous page

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading:

Isaiah 9:2-7

R: A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

(4:00) Praise Choir:

Christmas Canon

Ruth Gray

Reading:

Titus 2:11-14

R: A reading from Titus, the second chapter.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

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!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son 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!"

Gospel:

Luke 2:1-20

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was

expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.”

¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and ev’rywhere;
 Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:** *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve* **ELW 271**

Offering

(4:00) Handbell Choir:

Carol of the Bells

Kevin McChesney

(7:00) Senior Choir:

Christmas Gift

Mike Tipton, Arr. Mary McDonald

The Great Thanksgiving

P: Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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: God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!**

Distribution of Communion

Today 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 on the ledge as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten-free bread, please let Pastor Tim 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 Pastor Tim know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 300 *The First Noel*

ELW 282 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW 296 *What Child Is This*

Post Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.

C: Amen.

The Gospel of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14

P: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Congregation is Invited to Light Their Candles

The Prayers

R: Glory to God in the highest,

C: And peace to God's people on earth.

R: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

R: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

C: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all peoples.

R: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

C: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

R: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

R: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Hymn of Light: *Silent Night, Holy 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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Blessing

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father,
✚ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

Departure Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

See Him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. *Refrain*

Postlude:

Fanfare on In Dulci Jubilo

Paul Fey

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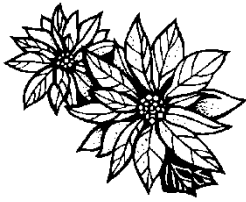
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*Poinsettias decorating the church are placed
To the glory of God in the following manner:*

In Memory of:

Loved Ones	The Bolen Family
Pat & Bill Copley, Katy & Don Smith	Dale & Sal Copley
Herb & Norma Arnold, Don & Mayre Anne Fahle	Den & Deb Fahle
Bob Fought Donna, Dianne, Mike, Candi, Robert & Jackson Fought	
Jack & Betty Hine and Hoot & Aleta Speller	
	Larry & Teri Hine
Clifford & Minnie Harris	Bob & Nancy Krumnow
Emery & Alice Krumnow	Bob & Nancy Krumnow
Family Members of the Shears & LaBine Family who passed this year	
	LaBine Family
Dale & Lois Rhoda, Norm & Mary Leow, and	
Howard & Viola Reed	Larry & Donna, Mike & Heather Leow
Loved Ones	Tom Miarer Family
Our Parents and Loved Ones	Stan & Jadylnne Moyer
My Mother & Father	Betty Nielsen
Our Parents: Pete & Marlene Overmyer and Jim & Jean Vollmar	
	Gary & Bonnie Overmyer
Phyllis & Jack Pollock	The Pollock Family
Our Parents	Gil & Pat Root
Roxanne Root	Mark Root & Trish Watkins
Larry Longanbach, Sandy Schneider and Terri Sattler	
	Dean & Chris Schneider & Family
Sandy Schneider	Edgar Schneider
Our Parents	Phil & Carol Trick
Ken Wasserman	Ryan & Brooke, Parker & Carson Wasserman
In Loving memory of Carnetta & Kathy Weber	
	Willis & Doug Weber, Ginger & Ken Walker, Jr.
Paul Antesberger	Cindy Zorn

In Honor of:

Faith's Senior Choir

Our Blessed Family

My Family & Friends

Our Family

Ron & Kathy Wasserman and Doug & Shelly Albright

Ryan & Brooke, Parker & Carson Wasserman

Parm Boyer

Roy & Shelli Burgoon

Betty Nielsen

Gary & Bonnie Overmyer

A Gift for:

Robert and Jackson Fought

Bill & Ruth Ann Seibert

Grandma & Aunt Tiny

Anonymous

You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after either worship service.

Please check if a poinsettia has been gifted to you,

and take it home at that time.

Thank you. Merry Christmas!

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.*



MERRY CHRISTMAS! All the staff here at Faith Lutheran Church would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERINGS will be given to ELCA – Good Gifts. Thank you!

WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 28TH – THIS SUNDAY will be at 9 a.m. only with the celebration of Holy Communion. Sunday School will follow.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2026. Please plan to attend. **All Committee Reports are due by Sunday, January 4, 2026 to be included in the Annual Report (in digital format if possible).** Thank you.

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. Remember not to use them until after January 1st. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so.

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

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.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

THANK YOU to everyone who provided special music this evening.
Merry Christmas!

Preaching: Pastor Tim Miller

Organist: Parm Boyer

Bell Choir Director: Darla Brown

Senior Choir Director: Darla Brown

Praise Choir Director and Accompanist: Becky Fox

Special Music Soloist: Jadlynnne Moyer

Special Music Accompanist: Amy Wagner

Special Music Composer: Fritzi Bohlmann (Amy Wagner's sister)

CHRISTMAS EVE – 4 P.M.

Greeters: Eric McBride & Family

Lectors: Evan McBride

Acolytes: Jackson Fought

Communion: Kim Smith/A. Gazdecki

Counters: Laurie Krynock* & Randy Koch

Altar Guild: Annie, Allison and Lauren Gazdecki

ASSISTING AT 7 P.M.

Harder Family

Gary Overmyer

R. Brown & G. Walker

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.

ANY HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE YOUTH interested in participating in our next Bible Study starting January 11 – We will be concentrating on how we can use God's Word daily to support & strengthen our faith. Feel free to sign up on the youth room door, text or email, so enough Study Guides can be ordered. Please consider joining us! ajgazdecki@hotmail.com
330-696-0931. Deadline to order supplies is December 28th. Thank you.
Annie Gazdecki.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 24, 2025

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE

What Really Matters

“All the world should be registered” (Luke 2:1). This announcement from the emperor was an order for all people to stand up and be counted, to prove their worth by stating their name, their lineage, and the details of their existence, like the stats on the back of a trading card.

But an angel made a different sort of announcement: “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12). The shepherds would need to look for a baby just lying there, doing nothing but existing in all his God-given glory.

This baby is such good news in a world that tells us every day, in every possible way, that we need to prove our worth, that we need to convince the world and everyone around us that we matter. In what ways do you repeatedly try to prove your worth to the world? To your friends and family and colleagues? To yourself? To God?

What would it feel like—in your body, in your heart, in your gut—to just exist in all your God-given glory? To remember that the Savior of the world came to us as a baby who couldn’t do a single thing besides lie in the straw? And what would it be like for you—for all of us—to live each day in response to this wild grace?

Each of us matters to God, who sent Jesus into the world for us and all creation. God loves us, claims us in baptism, and continues to sustain us in holy communion. This indeed is good news of great joy for all people. Glory to God!