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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

Turning and Mending (Again)



Being on the receiving end of sharp language can be heartbreakingly painful. Indeed, words can wound—or worse. John the Baptist, 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.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone

Assisting Minister: Loran Bohman

Lector: Denise Price

Organist: Drew Pogyor

Altar Care: Loran Bohman

Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his grandmothers, Marie Nelson and Josephine Bohman.

The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God.

The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his grandmothers, Marie Nelson and Josephine Bohman.

Hymns for Sunday

Advent Wreath Hymn **949 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning** (see insert-sing only the second verse)

Entrance Hymn **ELW 717 Let Justice Flow like Streams**

Hymn of the day **ELW 255 There's a Voice in the Wilderness**

Communion Hymns **ELW 266 All Earth Is Hopeful**
ELW 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

Sending Hymn **ELW 726 Light Dawns on a Weary World**

Communion- If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, stay in your pew, and the Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is a complete and valid reception.

Membership- There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any congregation activities, and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your membership request.

November 30, 2025 Attendance: 40

Offerings:

Weekly Need: **\$3,300.00**

November 30, 2025: **\$1,275.00**

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

Faith Announcements:

Beginning this month, on the first Sunday of each month, the "Brief Order of Healing" will be offered. Those who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gifts of prayer accompanied by anointing with oil. These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

Our Faith Quilters will once again host a coffee hour on Sunday, December 7th, and have various baskets on display for a basket chance auction. The winners will be announced during! All proceeds will go towards buying quilt supplies for the upcoming year.

Welcome, Visitors and Guests,

We are glad you are here! We welcome you to participate fully in worship and to engage in all church activities. If you are considering joining as a member or have any questions, please get in touch with Pastor Wendy Farone at (412) 443-9122 (c), the Church Office at (412) 673-2296, or email flcpastorwendy@gmail.com. We look forward to speaking with you soon.

Everyone needs a church home and family. We hope to be yours!

Pastor Wendy

Pastor Wendy has a new email address to match her new title! She will be checking her old email address for the next month or so, just in case. New email: flcpastorwendy@gmail.com

Pastor's Podcast- New episode!

Understanding Church: The Wrath of God

<https://www.belc.org/podcast/> or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Council Meeting: December 18, 2025, at 12:30 pm

Bible Storytelling Updates!

The Nativity Bible Study will continue on Tuesday, Dec 9th, with a focus on the Nativity's origin and history.

On December 16, we will gather for the BS Christmas Party. Come one, come all! Bring your nativity or a piece from your nativity to the Christmas party, as we will be sharing stories of its place in our home and our hearts.

Bible Study will be on break December 23 and 30. December 4, Tuesday, 10:00, we continue with our study of the complex book of Hebrews.

Prayer List October - December 2025

<u>Nikki</u> Amhurst	<u>John</u> Konik & Family
<u>Katie</u> Bachinger	<u>Teresa</u> M
<u>Becky</u> Ball	<u>Berty</u> McMillen
<u>Jean</u> Bickerstaff	<u>Georgina</u> McMarlin
<u>Jean</u> Bodenlos	<u>Margie</u> Miller
<u>Barry</u> D	<u>Marlene</u> Newman
<u>Jamie</u> Cummings	<u>Celeste</u> Palcsey
<u>Kara</u> Eaton	<u>Helen</u> Pula
<u>Shelley</u> Gessner	<u>Corey</u> Rhodes
<u>Rose</u> Gombas	<u>Tracy</u> Scott
<u>Heather</u> Grantz	<u>Sandy</u> Seitz
<u>Bill</u> Grimm	<u>Maxine</u> Smith
<u>Jerry</u> Groves	<u>Steven</u> T
<u>Eric</u> Harshman	<u>Theresa</u> Zell
<u>Renee</u> K	<u>Nick</u>
<u>Ken</u> K	<u>Dominick Family</u>
<u>Ellio</u> Keiser	<u>Mundy Family</u>
<u>Nancy</u> Kimling	
<u>Bill</u> Kimling	

*Please email f1cwhiteoak@gmail.com for any additions or removals from this list.

Community Announcements:

White Oak December Senior Activities:

Yoga- Monday's & Wednesdays- 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 24th, 29th, 31st at 11 am

Coffee Hour- Thursdays- 4th & 8th at 9:30 am

Cardio Drumming-Tuesdays (By registration only-no walk-ins)- 2nd & 9th at 1 pm

Christmas Party- Wednesday, December 17th at 1 pm

Synod Weekly Announcements:

New Director for Evangelical Mission:

Rev. Erin Jones

Pastor Erin Jones has accepted the call to serve as our next Director for Evangelical Mission. Already a beloved part of our synod's life, Pastor Jones brings with her a deep love for this region, a pastor's heart, and a passion for helping congregations discover where the Spirit is leading next. In her new role, she will support congregational vitality, nurture leaders, encourage creative mission, and help us tell and live the story of Jesus with renewed courage and joy.

Read more about Pastor Jones> go to <https://www.swpasynod.org/>, click 'News', 'Synod News'

Please join us in welcoming her to the synod staff and holding her in prayer as she begins this new chapter of ministry.

Save the Date

Lutheran Disaster Response Trip

May 3-9, 2026

Camp Lutheridge: Asheville, NC

Our Synod's Lutheran Disaster Response Team will be traveling for a second time for a week of mission work to help restore and rebuild communities across Western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene. More information will soon be available.

GOOD GIFTS ANIMALS TO “FILL THE STABLE”-2025

A new tradition at Faith is to donate poinsettias to decorate our church home to ‘welcome the baby Jesus’. We know too that the shepherds found baby Jesus lying in a manger, surrounded by God’s animals. Many of our Christmas songs refer to the animals in the stable: “Away in a Manger” mentions “the cattle are lowing”, and “The Friendly Beasts” refers to the donkey – shaggy & brown, the cow – all white and red, the sheep – with the curly horn.

This is the first year -- and maybe now a tradition at Faith -- that the option is provided to “fill the stable” with animals to welcome the baby Jesus. We believe that God’s love in Jesus is a gift to us, and through ELCA Good Gifts and World Vision, we can share that love with others. Our donations to buy animals can transform the lives of families in need. Many of these animals can be used not only for food, but also to generate income.

The costs of the animals are listed below. Donations for animals may also be given in memory and honor of loved ones and be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

cow	\$500	Share of a Cow	\$50
piglet	\$30	10 chicks	\$10
goat	\$50	rooster	\$15
sheep	\$150	chickens	\$25

What better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to share these same animals so that families can prosper! Sheep produce warm wool, cows and goats give protein and milk, and chickens provide an abundance of nutritious eggs. As the animals multiply, families can sell surplus food for extra income. A bountiful and enduring blessing! These gifts can make a real, life-changing difference for those around the world who live with hunger and poverty.

Donations must be received by Dec. 8th to guarantee your dedication is listed in the Christmas bulletin.

Dedication _____

Given by _____

Amount given: _____ (checks to be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church)

Upcoming Commemorations

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397

Sunday, December 7, 2025

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.