

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Hillsborough, New Jersey**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

**10:00 AM**



**The Parable of the Talents**

**TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.*

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Hillsborough, New Jersey**

November 19, 2023

10:00 AM

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**Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church.** We are glad to have you worshipping with us today. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to Pastor Jill and sign the guest book. We hope you will join us again, and cordially extend an invitation to become part of our church family.

**Please remember to turn off all personal communication devices during worship.**

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**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN**

*Here I Am to Worship*

Tim Hughes

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C Amen.**

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

**P** Holy One,

**C we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

**P** Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

ELW 689

**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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☞ Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### WORD

#### FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.*

- ☞ Be silent before the Lord GOD!  
For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.
- <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
"The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm."  
<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.
- <sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.
- <sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
    <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
    and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
    that they shall walk like the blind;  
    because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
    and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
    will be able to save them  
    on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
    the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
    he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 90:1-12

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*

Lord, you have been our refuge  
    **from one generation to another.**

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,  
    **from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
    **“Turn back, O children of earth.”**

<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
    **and like a watch in the night;**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream,  
    **they fade away suddenly like the grass:**

<sup>6</sup>in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
    **in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
    **we are afraid because of your wrath.**

<sup>8</sup>Our iniquities you have set before you,  
    **and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
    **we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

<sup>10</sup>The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;  
    **yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and  
    we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath?  
**Who rightly fears your indignation?**

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ⓛ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Ⓛ Word of God, word of life.

🎵 **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



*Please be seated*

## SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

ELW 678

## APOSTLES' CREED

**A** Let us together confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C** 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 hell.  
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.

## THE PRAYERS

**A** Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *(Brief silence.)*

*Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:*

**A** Hear us, O God. **C** Your mercy is great.

*The prayers conclude with these words:*

**A** We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## PEACE

**A** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.*

## MEAL

*Please be seated.*

### OFFERING

Music During the Offering  
Senior Choir

*All Good Gifts*

Natalie Sleeth

*Please stand as you are able.*

### OFFERING SONG

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW 181

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.



## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**C** Amen.

*The minister makes ready the bread and wine.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

**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.

### PREFACE

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *(Here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory...  
...Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

- A** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION

- P** There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

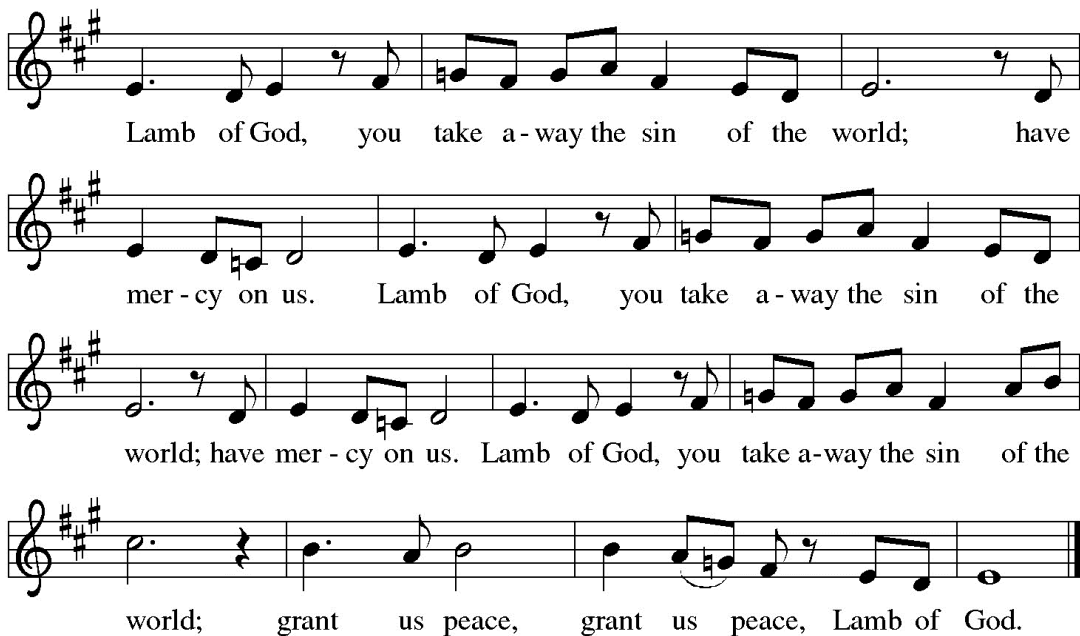
*Please be seated.*

## SHARING

*All are welcome at the table. If you are not receiving communion, you are invited to come forward for a spoken blessing. Holy Communion is received using a loaf of bread today. Please hold out your hands to receive the bread from the pastor. Individually wrapped gluten-free wafers are available – let the pastor know of your need at the altar. White grape juice is in cups in the center portion of the tray, and the wine is red. If you cannot receive either the wine or the bread, know that Christ comes to you fully in one element.*

*PLEASE NOTE...If you are unable to come forward to receive the Eucharist, please notify an usher so Communion may be brought to you. As folks come to the altar, worship assistants are communed, followed by those receiving at their seats. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, given for you. The communicant may say: **Amen.***

## SUNG DURING COMMUNION



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

*Let Us Break Bread Together (ELW 471); All Saints of Old (ELW 695)*

*Please stand as you are able after all have received.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

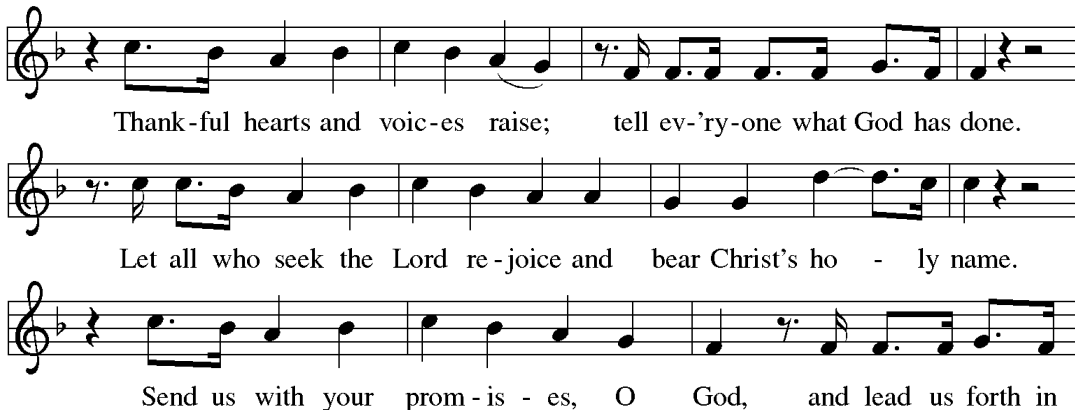
**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

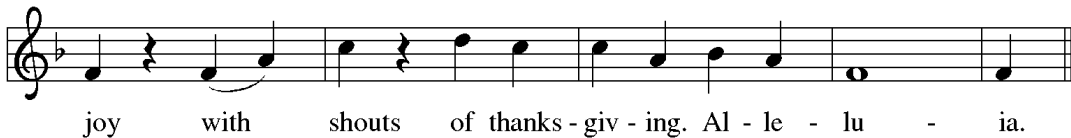
## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

ELW 205



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re-joyce and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom-is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948  
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.
- C** Amen.

## SENDING

### BLESSING

- P** May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign,  $\pm$  Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.
- C** Amen.

### SENDING SONG

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ELW 693

### DISMISSAL

- A** Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

*Now Thank We All Our Gods*

G.F. Kaufman

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## **We Remember in Our Prayers...**

*(Please call or email the Church Office with any additions, deletions or changes to our prayer list.)*

### **...those who are ill**

*Jerry Sproul, Charles Hoyda, Martin Boer, Bob Perrone, Pastor Zimmermann, Betty Hannum, Andrew Wishnow, Lorraine Capobianco*

### **...those who are hospitalized**

### **...those who are anticipating or recovering from surgery**

*Alexander Gerbino, Barbara Turck*

### **...those who are grieving; the family and friends of:**

*Beverly Porter (Colleen Marvits)*

### **...those who are homebound or in care facilities**

*Nick Troisi, Mildred Valentine*

### **...those away at school**

*Rider Bumgarner, Joey Cseh, Ailyn Del Rio, Nick Fanizzi, Patrick Flynn, Nathan Haase, Abby Mastakas, Noel Mastakas, Zoe Mastakas, Jana Mizrachy, Christian Nielsen, Lexi Nielsen, Greg Nobile, Matthew Porowski, Tommy Porowski, Brianna Reimann, Nick Silady, Zach Volpe, Gillian Westhusin, Joey Westhusin*

### **...those in the military**

*Peter Burfeind, Dominick Distano, Brian Hanson, Catie Hawkes, Chris Johnson, Erik Johnson, Zackary Johnson, Carter Post, Nathaniel Quam, Mike Subach, Matt Toste*

### **...family and friends (requested by)**

*Tricia Coppola (Monica Adelman), Lucy Mavinda (Sharon Mavinda), Ken Wetzel (Colleen Marvits), Barb Noble (Beth Noble), Eileen McIntyre (Colleen Marvits), Tricia Cantone (Monica Adelman), Nolan Mooney (Carol Samaniego), Vicki Pisani (Ellen Lindemann), Charlotte Keyes (Debra Porowski), Ann Binczewski (Barbara Turck), Ian Progin (Becky Majewski), Krishnan Patel and the Patel Family (Izzy Volpe), Maddie (Izzy Volpe), Jackie (Izzy Volpe), Meg Donhauser (Becky Majewski), Georgianne Hofmann (Brenda Overcash), Mitzi Schoen (Kristin Wishbow), Patrick O'Neill (Janice Vahl), Kristen Heinzl (Bob Hawkes), Emmett Kresge (Sarah Ponsini), John W. Kalmbach (David Haase), Emmalyn Schmitt (Debra Porowski), Jane Moreland (Monica Adelman), Rosalie Loder (Monica Adelman), Maureen Dunleavy (Marty Williams), Carol Schmitt (Mel Hixson), Barney Hoffman (Joan Karsay), Charlotte Johnson (Joan Karsay), David Hudock (Vanessa Markota), Jim Gilmore (Kelly Villano), Travis Metcalfe (Kristi Metcalfe), Josh Diesner (Faith Ludvigsen), Kristin Donahue Doulis (Joan Karsay), Carl Patane (Anthony Patane), Marian and Jerry Coiley (Beth Noble), Cecelia Kukuchka (Erica Puskas), Jen Croke (Erica Puskas), Mike Wetherill (David Hart), Holly Spector (David Hart), Karen Gilmore (Kelly Villano), Nabil Barsoum (Beth Noble), Adam Weiner (Janice Vahl), Donna Hart (David Hart), Ann Boer (Martin Boer), Rinaldo Cantone (Monica Adelman), Dorothy Staszczyk (Tom Staszczyk), Michelle Losey (Melissa Hixson), Randy and Lousie Martin (Brenda Overcash)*

**God of compassion, your son Jesus Christ, the great physician, made the broken whole and healed the sick. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts and restore to us wholeness of life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

SUN (11/19)	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	
	Worship	10:00 AM
	Adult Forum	11:00 AM
	Foundations of Faith	4:00 PM
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:15 PM
MON (11/20)	RIC Meeting	6:30 PM
	Finance Meeting (Zoom)	7:30 PM
TUES (11/21)	Council Meeting	7:15 PM
THURS-FRI (11/23-11/24)	Church Office Closed	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN (11/26)	Christ the King	
	Worship	10:00 AM
	Adult Forum	11:00 AM
THURS (11/30)	Senior Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
SAT (12/1)	SHIP	10:00 AM
SAT (12/2)	Clothing Drive Pick Up	11:00 AM



Owen Gardner  
Nathan Haase  
Christina Satanik

David Kandell  
Bob Hawkes  
Simon Mizrachy

Christina Adelmann  
Jerry Sproul  
Jack Dankers



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**December 17th, 4:00 PM** – Everyone at Faith is invited to participate in our Intergenerational pageant, “*Emmanuel, God With Us,*” in the sanctuary. There are lots of costumed parts to silently play the Nativity characters. Narrators are needed to read parts of the Christmas Gospel story. We’ll sing carols and have refreshments, too! Please use the Google Form link in the weekly email to sign-up, or speak with Aubrey Kandell or Becky Majewski so we can plan. Family and friends are invited to attend and/or participate, too!



Representatives from Thrivent are with us today following worship to discuss what Thrivent can do for Faith. They will be answering questions about actions teams and Choice Dollars. Let's put together a list of activities that we would like members to sponsor action teams for. If we can do just 10 action teams that's \$2,500!



The youth group is selling Christmas Wreaths to raise funds to purchase holiday gifts for the children of the Steps Together families. Wreaths are 16 inches in diameter (total of 20 inches across) and cost \$35. Please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "Wreath Sale" in the memo line and place your check in the offering plate. You may also pay online by using the Vanco Mobile app or visiting the Giving page of Faith's website and selecting the "Youth Group Wreath Sale" option. You must order your wreath by Sunday, November 26. Pick up will be in the morning on Saturday, December 2 and after church on Sunday, December 3 at Faith. The link for ordering can be found in an email sent out last week or on our Facebook page!



Help send Faith's youth group to the Gathering! In July, 9 youth and adult leaders from Faith will attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please prayerfully consider how you can help send the youth there! We are currently hosting our envelope fundraising drive. Please pick up an envelope personally designed by one of our youth for your donation and return it to the box in the narthex, or use our online giving platform and choose "2024 Youth Gathering". Thank you for supporting these young people as they travel to New Orleans to learn who God created them to be!



**Advent Worship** – Join us Wednesday, December 6 and 13 at 7:30 PM for evening prayer, song and devotion around the Advent candles.

**Longest Night Service** – Join us Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 PM for a service of scripture, prayer, songs and candle lighting. It is a space where we're invited to bring those thoughts and feelings, grief, worries, and loneliness that do not fit easily into the celebrations of the season. Here you do not need to force a smile but rather can bring your need just to "be."



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
**381 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844**  
**(908) 369-3201**



*Ministers: All Baptized People*  
The Rev. Jill Collict, Senior Pastor  
Becky Majewski, Director of Music  
Debra Porowski, Youth Director  
Colleen Marvits, Church Office Administrator

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM  
Adult Forum: 11:00 AM  
Foundations of Faith: 4:00 PM (Check calendar for dates)  
Church Office Hours: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM, Monday-Friday

[faithlutheranhills@comcast.net](mailto:faithlutheranhills@comcast.net)  
[www.faithlutherannj.org](http://www.faithlutherannj.org)  
[www.facebook.com/faithlutherannj](https://www.facebook.com/faithlutherannj)

### **Assisting with Today's Service**

Assisting Minister – Faith Ludvigsen  
Acolyte – Emily Majewski  
Lector – David Hart  
Ushers – David Hart, Cheryl McCollum  
Altar Guild – Lynn DeLozier  
Bread – Debbie Hixson  
Counters – Brenda Overcash, Mike Pfau

### **Altar Flowers**

In memory of loved ones  
by Diane Handwerk

In celebration of Shaun Hixson's birthday  
by (Grandma) Ilene Torode

### **Faith's Mission Statement**

*It is our mission to celebrate God's love, accept each other as Christ accepts us, and serve with His Spirit in our community.*