

THE ANGELS' SONG IN 3 WORDS

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words — glory, peace, and good will — still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

Glory. God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

Peace. True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

Good Will. God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.

BIBLE QUIZ

Who told Mary that her child would be called "the Son of the Most High"?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph

Answer: B (See Luke 1:26-32.)



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

As we enter this exciting season of Christmas carols, gift giving, and expectation of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ; let us rejoice at His coming!

The ancient Hebrews have always looked forward to the coming of the Messiah; we celebrate His coming in our hearts and in our world. He comes to fulfill the prophecy by being "Immanuel", which means "God with us".

Thanks be to God that He comes. Shalom,

Pastor Don Safrit

CHURCH CALENDAR

- 12/2 6:30pm McCombs Group at The Recipe
 12/5-12/6 3:30pm Fri. to 4:00pm Sat. FLC Reserved
 (Lisa Painter)
 12/7 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 2:00pm Youth Retreat Info Meeting in
 Assembly Room (Spirit of Joy)
 4:00pm-5:00pm Christmas Play Practice
 12/8 5:30pm Yount Group in Assembly Room
 12/9 11:00am McDaniel Circle Meeting
 12/13 Assembly Room Reserved ALL DAY
 (Stephanie Petrea)
 8:00am-2:00pm FLC Reserved (Holly
 Moody)
 10:45am Young Adult Ministry Breakfast
 in Youth Room
 2:00pm-11:00pm FLC Reserved (FACS)
 12/14 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 10:30am Christmas Cantata
 1:00pm-5:00pm Assembly Room Reserved
 (Cory Barger)
 4:00pm-5:00pm Christmas Play Practice
 12/15 4:00pm-8:30pm Assembly Room Reserved
 (Barbara Moose)
 12/21 **FIRST DAY OF WINTER**
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 8:30am-9:30am Annual Christmas
 Breakfast
 11:30am-8:00pm Assembly Room
 Reserved (Sylvia Barger)
 3:00pm Youth Christmas Caroling, Supper,
 and Dress for Christmas Play
 6:00pm Children's Christmas Play
 12/24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
 9:00pm Candlelight Worship Service
 12/25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
 12/27 10:00am-2:00pm Assembly Room
 Reserved (Sue Bruce)
 12/31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

WEDNESDAYS – 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31

- 10:00am – Bible Study / Chapel
 6:30pm – Handbells
 7:30pm – Choir Practice



- 1 – Lisa Overcash
 2 – Aaron Bradshaw
 3 – Abby Cobb
 8 – Bradley Cobb
 9 – Wayne Canup
 Ashtyn Peeler Gardner
 Beverly Petrea
 13 – Trent Bradshaw
 21 – Natalie Spinella
 23 – Gavin Peeler
 Charles Walker
 27 – Cory Barger
 29 – Jake Moose

ANNIVERSARIES

- 29 – Tony & Sallie Herrin

CUB SCOUTS

Dates: Thursdays – 12/4, 12/11
Times: 7:00pm-8:00pm

WiFFLe

Dates: Every Monday, Tuesday,
 Thursday, and Friday mornings in FLC
Times: 10:00am-11:00am

FACS Basketball

Dates: December 1st, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th,
 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th,
 19th
Times: 3:00pm-7:00pm in FLC

SUNDAYS – 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/28

- 9:00am – Refreshments & Fellowship
 9:30am – Sunday School
 10:30am – Worship

**Please email or call the church office if your birthday/anniversary has been missed.*

DECEMBER EVENTS



Please return your wrapped gifts by **Sunday, December 14th** and place around the tree in the Gathering Room.



DECEMBER 14

10:30AM

**LESSONS
& CAROLS
SERVICE**

On this year's Third Sunday of Advent, join us during Worship for our "Lessons & Carols" Service.

DECEMBER 21

8:30AM - 9:30AM

**CHRISTMAS
BREAKFAST**

Sponsored by Social Ministry as a thank you to everyone who has generously donated or given their time to help with various efforts throughout 2025.



6:00PM

**CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM**

This year's play is entitled:

**Deck the Halls
and
Trim the Tree**



Everyone is invited to attend the Sweet and Salty Reception following the conclusion of the Children's Program.



Please turn in your Poinsettia orders by **Friday, December 12th** to decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent Season.



DECEMBER 24

9:00PM

**CHRISTMAS
EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**

One service for Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANGEL TREE:

We have 40 Faith Academy children on our Angel Tree this year, don't forget to sign up! Please return all gifts by December 14th and include your numbered Angel on EVERY bag/box. Don't like to shop or can't, please consider a monetary donation towards an Angel and we'll do the shopping for you.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:

The Altar Guild is accepting orders for Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent Season. Each foiled plant will be \$11.00. Order forms and drop boxes are available November 16th through December 7th around the church. Please finalize your orders by December 12th.

RELAY FOR LIFE LUMINARIES:

Christmas Eve Luminaries can be purchased for \$10 each or 3 for \$25 in memory of or in honor of someone who has had a cancer diagnosis. Forms will be available in the pews. Please return forms and donations by December 21st to Carolyn Rogers, Crystal Bradshaw, or Wendi Bradshaw.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP:

Please remove out-of-season and old/faded flower arrangements from cemetery plots by Friday, December 5th.

DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS:

McCombs Circle - Tuesday, December 2nd - 6:30pm - The Recipe (Salisbury)
Yount Group - Monday, December 8th - 5:30pm - Assembly Room
McDaniel Circle - Tuesday, December 9th - 11:00am - Location TBA

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

Our Young Adults had a great first meeting in November, with 15 in attendance. All Young Adults (Ages 18 to 49) are invited to our next gathering on Saturday, December 13th at 10:45am in the Youth Room for Breakfast, Games, and Fellowship before our 2025 Planning Meeting in January.

CHURCH MAILBOXES:

Don't forget to check your church mailbox (in the room beside the Narthex) for Christmas cards this season!

OFFERING ENVELOPES:

2026 offering envelopes will soon be available in the upstairs hallway behind the Altar. Remember to always write your Name, Amount, and Specific Designation you wish your donation to be given on the envelope, thank you!



2026 OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Thinking of new opportunities for service in 2026? Please consider being a part of one of our ministries:

Volunteer your time for **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**. Contact Wendi Bradshaw (704-792-5804 or wmbradshaw1@yahoo.com).

Provide the **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** a few times a year.
Contact Barbara Moose (704-213-6000).

Help with our **CHURCH SIGN** for a month.
Contact Barbara Moose (704-213-6000).

Provide **FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** as often as you would like.
Contact Barbara Moose (704-213-6000).

Serve in the **NURSERY** during worship. Contact Crystal Bradshaw (crystalpack95@gmail.com or 704-213-6333).

If you're interested in our other opportunities for service, contacts are listed:

LECTOR - Lisa Overcash (lisaovercash3@gmail.com).

OFFERING TELLER - Jeff Mills (704-642-2682).

COMMUNION PREPARER - Wanda Mills (704-223-0747).

USHER - Donnie Gandy (704-796-1138).

Also keep in mind that our various Church Committees are always looking for new team members:

Worship & Music, Christian Education, Youth, Social Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Stewardship, Property, Safety/Security, Young Adult Ministry, the Women of Faith and Men of Faith.

2025 CHURCH SURVEY RESPONSES *(Page 1)*

1. What does our congregation do well?	
Help the community	25
Help members in need	16
Music/Choir	7
Events	9
Traditional Service	4
Youtube	4
Greeting/Welcoming	5
Wonderful Members	6
Church Decorations	1
Sunday School/VBS/Christian Ed.	8
Communication	4

2. What does our congregation need to do to improve?	
Younger People	9
Target Local Schools/Community	8
Better Eval of Pastor/Transition Committee	4
Blended Service	6
More people involved/Bringing People Back	12
True Evangelism/More Welcoming/Team	11
Less Traditional	4
Less Politics/More Bible	8
Shorter Sermons/1 hour service	3
Fellowship/Activities	12
Shut-In Outreach	7
Mission Trips/Youth and Others/NALC	4
Listen to each other/Better communication	5
Lutheran 101/Small Group Bible Studies/Christian Ed.	5

3. Where do you see our church in 10 years?	
Closed/Dead unless changes are made	14
Decreased Membership	13
Need to make changes to increase membership	9
Hope, still be thriving and loving	11
Need Dynamic Peacher/Leadership	6
Younger Members are needed and to participate	11
Where God wants us to be	7
Lack of Tithing	2

2025 CHURCH SURVEY RESPONSES *(Page 2)*

4. What ideas do you have to draw more people to our church?	
More youth activities, with other churches	13
More friendly, welcoming, open and inviting to the community	17
Family Game Night-Monthly	1
Blended Service/Contemporary Service	15
Meet and Greet after Church	1
Better advertisement, New Logo, Yard Signs, Pamphlet	9
More Bible Studies/Small Group	7
Bible based Sermons	6
One hour service	4
Increase technology (Live Stream, TVs, Youtube)	3
Lutheran Leadership/Adult Confirmation Classes	5
No Reading of the Lessons	1
More Pastor Visits	1
Keep Current Members	1

5. If you are a young adult, are you interested in a Sunday School class catered to your specific age group?	
Yes	5
No	7
Possibly	1

6. Contemporary service?	
Yes/need	20
No	28
No early	3
Once a month	4
More relaxed service	2
Go with majority	1

7. Should the Children's Sermon be given during Children's Church?	
In Worship Service(NO)	35
5 minutes or less	4
Alternate	2
Children's Church	10

2025 CHURCH SURVEY RESPONSES *(Page 3)*

8. Do you like the hymns/music we use?	
Yes	38
More older/traditional	15
More contemporary/uplifting	29
No	10

9. What changes do we need to make in our Worship Service?	
Early/Contemporary Service	6
Short Announcements	5
Children Sermon Short	2
Increase Technology	4
More Praise/Uplifting Service	9
No Politics/Sports	6
No Communion every Sunday/Once a Month	11
Pastor Speak Louder	1
Bible Based Sermon-New and Old Testament	4
One hour Service	5
Keep the Same	7
Change the Routine/Settings	4
Lower Age of Children's Church	1
More Casual Service	1
Stop Sharing the Peace	3
No more Acolytes	2
Stop passing the offering plates	1
Shorten Hymns/Don't Connect to Gospel/Christmas Month	3

10. How many times monthly do you think we should have Communion?	
Once	17
Twice	20
Every Sunday	9
High Holidays	6
Pastoral Decision	1
First and Fifth Sunday	1

2025 CHURCH SURVEY RESPONSES *(Page 4)*

11. List any additional comments or concerns.	
Thank you for doing this survey	2
Keep politics out of church	8
Stop doing communion by intinction	2
More emphasis on youth	3
We will have to change to survive	1
Compensation for use of facility by community	1
Choir not wearing robes	1
Pastor needs to be more enthusiastic and on FIRE	5
Only a couple people run the committees	1
Parsonage outside appearance kept up	1
We run off too many pastors	2
Christ centered ministries that develop disciples/Lutherans	2
Don't need a paid youth leader	1
Long songs no one sings/Better music	2
Shorter Service	1

12. What is your age?	
Not answered	2
13-25 years old	2
26-39 years old	7
40-59 years old	10
60-69 years old	18
70 years or older	25



YOUTH CORNER

NO
CONFIRMATION
CLASSES IN
DECEMBER

DECEMBER 7

2:00pm

Two pastors from Spirit of Joy Lutheran are coming with some of their students to tell us about a retreat for youth. This meeting is for confirmation students, parents, and any youth who have been confirmed but not graduated high school. The Retreat is to help Youth understand that Confirmation is not an end, but a beginning as an adult member of the church; and will give them tools to step into their adult life in church as strong Christian leaders.

DECEMBER 7

4:00pm-5:00pm

Play Practice
Snacks by Laura Peeler

DECEMBER 14

4:00pm-5:00pm

Play Practice
Snacks by Crystal Bradshaw

DECEMBER 20

10:00am-12:00pm

Dress Rehearsal & Lunch

DECEMBER 21

3:00pm

Christmas Caroling to homebound members, followed by Supper, and getting dressed for the Play.

CHRISTMAS PLAY

6:00pm

"Deck the Halls and Trim the Tree"
Christmas Play in the FLC,
Sweet & Salty Reception afterwards.

PUZZLE

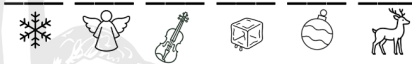


GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?

Directions: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

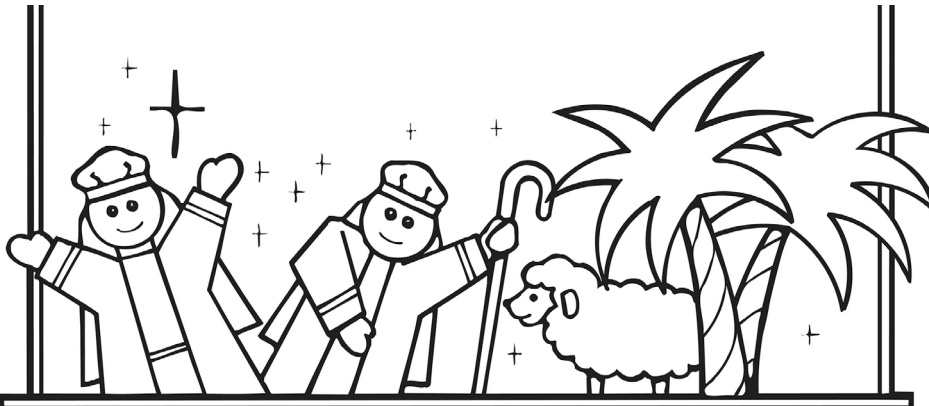
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Luke 2:11, NIV

Answer: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11, NIV



Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)



What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
— James 1:17 (NIV)



DATE	TOTAL OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
OCTOBER 26	\$5,200.80	51 Sunday School, 119 Worship
NOVEMBER 2	\$6,354.00	48 Sunday School, 88 Worship
NOVEMBER 9	\$4,700.95	58 Sunday School, 122 Worship
NOVEMBER 16	\$6,119.66	39 Sunday School, 98 Worship
NOVEMBER 23	\$6,531.00	48 Sunday School, 123 Worship

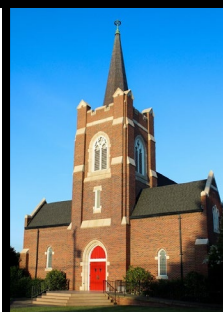
SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

	DEC. 7	DEC. 14	DEC. 21	DEC. 28
Acolytes	Griffin Alderman, Leila Roberts	Sailor Shoaf, Reagan Bradshaw	Adam Short, Julianna Sheets	Sydney Alderman, Brooks Moody
	DEC. 24: Reagan Bradshaw, Sailor Shoaf (Processional: Griffin Alderman)			
Audio/Broadcast Team	David Alderman, Aaron Smith, Jeff Mills, Jeff Overcash, Caitlin Rimmer			
Children's Church	<i>Children take Communion</i>	Wendi Bradshaw	<i>Children take Communion</i>	Holly Moody
Children's Message	Pastor Don	Lu Gamewell	LeaAnn Buckwell	<i>Faith Kids Sing</i>
Church Sign	Tim Williams			
Communion Prep.	Ann Bruce & Wanda Mills			
Fellowship Refreshments	Trent & Crystal Bradshaw	Kenny & Meredyth Fisher	<i>Annual Christmas Breakfast</i>	Chad & Jamie Sheets
Lector	Chris & Beverly Smith Family	Chad & Jamie Sheets Family	Dave & Vicki Meyer	Jaime Sheets
	DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: Vicki Meyer			
Nursery	Meredyth Fisher, Lela Brooks	Jamie Sheets, Chris Earnhardt	Meredyth Fisher, Lela Brooks	Amanda Meacham, Holly Moody
Offering Tellers	Becky Cobb, Barbara Moose			
Ushers	Kenny Fisher, Gwynn Harrison, Ted Peeler, Perry McKnight			
2025 Council Members	Jeremy Alderman, Jeff Barger, Dwight Bradshaw, Randy Buckwell, Dallas Cobb, Chandra Fink, Donnie Gandy, Jake Moose, Laura Peeler			

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Don Safrit, *Interim Pastor*
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