



December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Worship

We are an intentionally inclusive community, proclaiming a warm welcome to people of every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, and ability into all aspects of our church life.

~ Faith Lutheran Church

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Coast Salish people, including the Duwamish People past and present. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.



WE ARE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Welcome to worship at Faith Lutheran Church. Everything you need to **follow the service** is in this bulletin.

Please take a moment to fill out the **information card** found in the pew rack. Place the card in the offering plate so we can be in touch with you.

Prayer requests to be offered during worship can be written on the prayer request card in the pew rack and passed toward the center aisle where it will be collected by an usher during the first hymn.

There are **coffee and treats** in the Library after the service. We would like to welcome you to continued fellowship. **Restrooms** are located on the far side of the Library or down the main stairs. Should an emergency occur an **AED unit** is located in the narthex on the wall by the main entrance. **Masks and sanitizer** are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary.

The **elevator** is located at the top of the stairs in the Narthex. Feel free to **explore** the building and ask questions of the pastors, ushers, or anyone you see!

We encourage you to introduce yourselves and hope you feel **comfortable** here.

Children are welcome and highly encouraged to be in worship. We understand that children have the need to move and make sound; which we find to be a joyful and important part of worship. **Blessing Bags** are found near both entrances of the sanctuary filled with activities for children. A **cry room** is available at the back of the sanctuary should you need a brief respite.

Faith Lutheran Church is a **lively, caring, and energetic** community.
We are so glad you are here!



Introduction

Advent 3: JOY

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *Pastorale: From the Depths of My Heart*

SIGFRID KARG-ELERT*

*My inmost heart now raises, in this fair morning hour,
A song of thankful praises to thine almighty pow'r.*

GATHERING

Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

Mary said, "How can this be?"

We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God's invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

OPENING HYMN 242 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*
(SING VERSES 1 & 2)

REJOICE, REJOICE



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, people gather for prayers around the wreath.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

In a world full of hurt, we see glimmers of joy. We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs. Even in a broken world, joy is all around us.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it. Thanks be to God for that good news!

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 240 *Light Three Candles*

TIF IN VELDELE

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah: Let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy One,
the story of this season is not a new one.
We've heard this tale before.

The story of this season is not a new one,
and yet we long to hear it as if it is.
So spark our spirits awake.
Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us.
Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears.
With hope we pray,
Amen.

Christmas Pageant 2025

The Announcing Angels

Introductory Reading:

*The first Noel, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep,
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel! (The First Noel, English Traditional)*

Reading 1 We Tell the Story From the Gospel of Luke

Today we hear the story of a baby born in a manger long ago, a child born among the poor. We tell this story year after year because this child was Emmanuel, which means "God with us." The people of that time were waiting for a king to come to help them. But no one expected God to send a baby to show how much God loves each of us and the whole world. And that is good news to hear over and over again!

Reading 2 God's Message to Mary

We begin our story when the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to the Virgin Mary who was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David.

Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was confused by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Reading 3 Mary's Response

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy, he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

Mary travelled to the hill country to see her cousin Elizabeth, who asked, "...why has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me?"

And Mary said:

MARTY HAUGEN

All:

1.3. My _____ soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y

great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

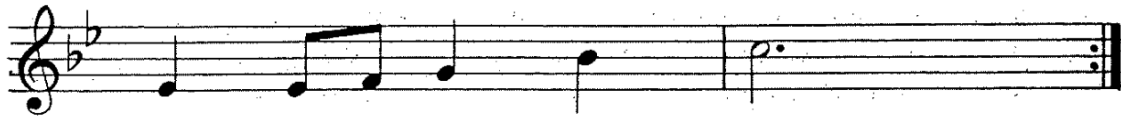
ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah — and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Reading 4 Joseph and Mary Travel

Now in those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered, and all went to their own towns. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 279 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
(SING VERSES 1 & 2)

ST. LOUIS

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!

It was a long, tiresome journey for Mary and Joseph, and when they reached Bethlehem, there was no place for them to spend the night.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Enter, Enter, Holy Pilgrims*
(SING TWICE)

POSADA SONG

-- Enter, Enter, Holy Pilgrims --

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive. Above the notes, the lyrics are written in a stylized font. Chords are indicated by letters above the notes: Re D, Sol G, Re D, Sol G, Re D, La7 A7, Re D, La7 A7, Re D. The lyrics are: "En - ter. en - ter, ho - ly pilgrims, ho - ly pilgrims. Welcome to my humble home. Though 'tis lit - tle I can of - fer, all I have please call your own." The signature "- Hugo Olais" is written at the bottom right of the score.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And 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.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 277 *Away in a Manger*
(SING VERSES 1 & 2)

AWAY IN A MANGER

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Reading 5 *The Shepherds Hear the Good News*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 290 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*
(SING VERSES 1 & 2)

GO TELL IT

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills 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***

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

Reading 6 *The Shepherds Go to the Manger*

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When the shepherds saw the baby in the manger, they made known what been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reading 7 *News of the Birth and the Wise Magi*

A few years later, in the time of King Herod, Wise Persons who watched the night skies saw a brilliant new star and knew this foretold the birth of a king. Sometime later, they came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to honor him."

News of the birth of a new king frightened King Herod, and he sent the Wise Persons to find the child.

Reading 8 *The Wise Persons at the Manger*

And so the magi journeyed to Bethlehem, following the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus was.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

We the Kings
(SING VERSE 1)

KINGS OF ORIENT

**We the kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

***Refrain: O, star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.***

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they knelt down and honored him. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered gifts of gold, and also frankincense and myrrh, which were a kind of incense and perfume.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reading 9

This is not the end of the story, but just the beginning of how God comes to us in Jesus, the Christ, Emmanuel, God with Us. As we learn in the stories of the New Testament, Jesus grows up to be a young man who teaches a new way of living in God's grace: how to love one another, to care for the poor, to share what we have, and to live together in peace. We remember the holiness of the night that started it all when we sing:

ENSEMBLE CAROL

Silent Night in American Sign Language

JOSEPH MOHR
TRANSLATED BY JOHN F. YOUNG

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 281

Silent Night, Holy Night
(SING VERSE 1)

STILLE NACHT

**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.**

PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Pastorale

DOMENICO ZIPOLI*

OFFERING CAROL 294

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.
~ Christina Rossetti**

PRAYERS

God of Peace,

As we move through this world, open our ears to hear your voice.

As we move through this world, open our hearts to the invitations, the inspiration, and the nudges you place in our lives.

As we move through this world, God, allow us to hear whatever call you have in store for us in this season.

For no matter how big or how small, we trust that you are a calling, inviting, nudging, inspiring God who sees us in the best light.

With hope we lean forward, we listen for your word, and we pray together the words your son taught us to pray, even if our voices shake, saying. . .

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing. sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy. found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

BLESSING

In a fearful world,
may you look for God's spirit.
May you reach for each other's hands.
May you choose courage whenever you can.
And in all things, may you remember
that good news is louder than fear.
In the name of the one who calls,
the one who sends,
and the one who journeys with—
go in peace and
be not afraid.

Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Happy Birthday, Jesus!*
(SUNG BY ALL)

TRADITIONAL

SENDING

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

+ + +

***WORSHIP NOTES:** This morning's Call to Worship references Advent through the composer's use of the *pastorale* style, which evokes the image of "shepherds keeping watch over their flocks," while the text of the chorale reflects the believer as one of the Great Shepherd's flock. The closing measures include a fragment of *STILLE NACHT* (*ELW* 281), further underlining the hymn's relevance to the season. **Sigfrid Karg-Elert**, a master colorist of the German Romantic era, showcases the richness of our organ's voices through lush harmonies, a standard feature of Karg-Elert's musical language.

In the Offertory, **Domenico Zipoli's** *Pastorale* continues the theme of the shepherds' unwitting anticipation of the Savior's birth, as they play their flutes in a call and response across the hills, and briefly dance in the central section of the piece. Zipoli's tone painting includes the braying of a donkey, which may reflect the passage of Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding: Pastor Shannyn Fuerst

Music: David Buice

Ushers: Holly & Jim Johnson

Fellowship: Barb Sharkey, Barb Lovseth & Julie Pierce

Altar Guild: Donna Shy

Zoom Host: Debbie Strom

Tech Operator: Mark Strom

NEXT WEEK:

John 1:1-18

Psalms 130:5-8



Participants in the Christmas Pageant 2025

Announcing Angels with bells: Harper Friedhoff, Holden Chandler, Landon Dierks, Austin Humaydan; Grace Holbert; Auggie Hushagen; Jennings Measom

Angels-in-Training: Connor Dierks; Riley Friedhoff, Brooks Inslee

Mary: Clara Elliot

Joseph: Andrew Snook

Innkeeper: Susan Lansverk

Angel: Elsa Elliot

Adult Costumed Angel: Lauren Humaydan

Shepherds: Esther Sunardi, Calvin Chandler, Landon Humaydan; Penny Hushagen; Eloise Measom

Adult Costumed Shepherd: Eric Lansverk

Wise Persons: Karen McElhenney, Susan Lansverk, Ralph Minor

Infant Jesus: Baby doll

Toddler Jesus: Brooks Inslee

Toddler Jesus Back-up: Riley Friedhoff

Magnificat: Congregation

Go Tell It On the Mountain: Congregation

Pageant Readers: Ian Richmond, Maple Barone, Kea Manahan; Sheryl Schmeling

Stage Crew: Connor Richmond, Todd Wagner

Pageant Organizers: Barb Sharkey, Linda Hynes, Ann Cohan, MaryAnn Wagner

The Donkey: Originally acquired by Sandi Dexter for Wedgwood Preschool where it became a zebra, the donkey was then donated to Faith in 2019 where it was repaired and repainted to its original appearance by Sheryl Schmeling.

This pageant was originally written by Jane Rieke in 1992 and most recently adapted in 2022 by Barbara Sharkey

Thank you to all who helped us continue this Faith tradition with the sanctuary setting, back-up support, congregational singing, fellowship, cupcakes and, of course, special thanks to our kids and their families.



Artwork by Marin Devine

Celebrate Christmas at Faith

Christmas Pageant
December 14 at 9:45am

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
December 24 at 5:00pm In Person & Online

Christmas Day
December 25 at 9:45am In Person

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing
December 28 at 9:45am In Person & Online

Giving Tree

Once again, the members of Faith have an opportunity to help the LCSNW foster parents provide holiday gifts for their teens and young adults from all over the world. We provide an unwrapped gift based on the needs or wants of the young people. They have filled in forms with their sizes and needs that are in the library at FLC or available online (check your weekly email for link) thanks to Emily! Gift cards work well! We deliver the gifts to LCSNW the week of Dec 14.

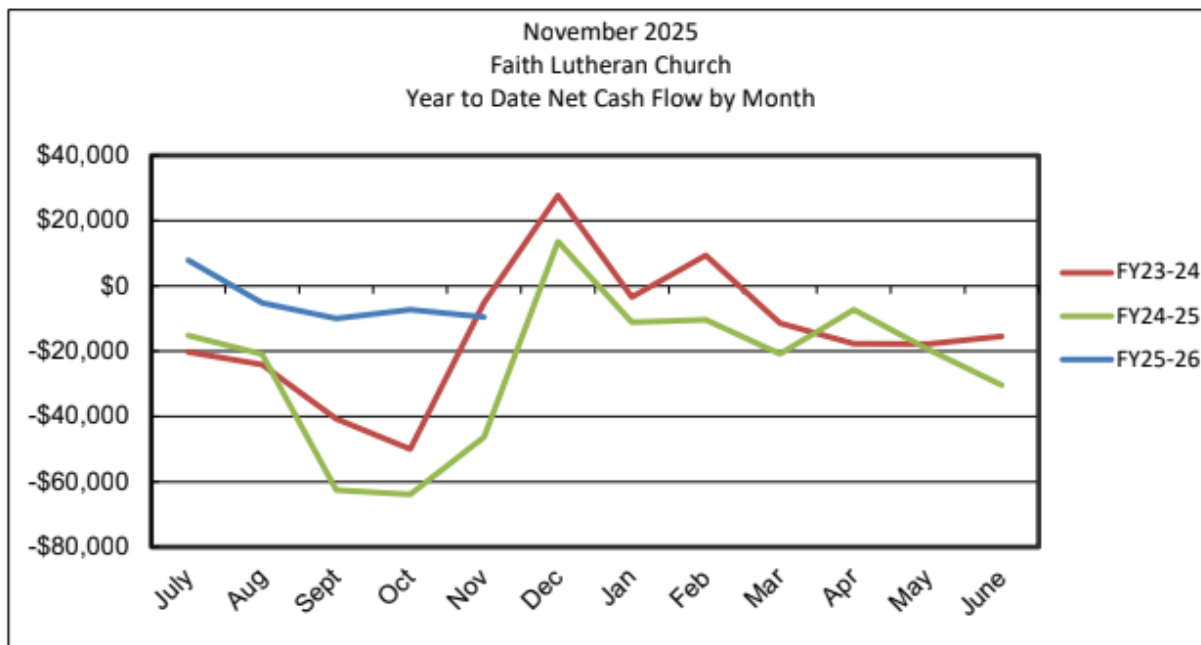
Any questions please feel free to contact Nancy E at 206.595.8610



Finance Update

The Council appreciates everyone's participation in our brief Congregational meeting this past Sunday, December, 7th. We are pleased to report that the modest increase in our budget to increase the office staff position to full-time was approved by the Council and Personnel Committee and overwhelmingly approved by the congregation.

On a related financial matter, reference the year to date graph, we are a bit behind the trend from previous years. We are looking for a strong finish to the calendar year to match previous years' giving. Your generosity helps set us up for a strong start to 2026 and continue Faith's expanded community support through programs like the Winter Shelter and Bridge of Promise.



Bloodworks Northwest Blood Drive



Wednesday, December 17, 12-6pm

In this season of giving, take an hour to give the best gift of all – a lifesaving pint of blood. When you give blood, Bloodworks Northwest will have you wrapped up in an hour or less, cookie in hand, with the warm feeling that you just gave local patients another shot at life. Your blood donations support people across the Pacific Northwest undergoing cancer treatment, surgeries, and organ transplants.

If you're ready to make a difference, join us for the Faith Lutheran Church blood drive on Wednesday, December 17. Appointments are available between 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. It only takes an hour to make a difference. Sign up for your appointment by scanning QR code or clicking the link in the weekly email.



Candlelight Concerts and Faith Lutheran Church present

Jazzin' with the Classics *for Christmas 2025*



Jaz Lund
vocals

Martin Lund
flute, clarinet & piano

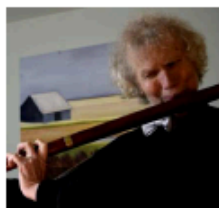
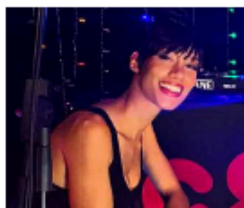
Paul Gabrielson
bass

Jeffrey Cohan
flute

——*—*—*—*—*

Musical Perspectives
Blend in this
Unique Celebration
for the Yuletide Season

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~ The ensemble returns for the 8th year with a festive new program as always ~

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Faith Lutheran Church

8208 18th Ave NE in Seattle • (206) 523-9636

Suggested donation (a free will donation towards expenses): \$15 to \$30 • 18 and under free!