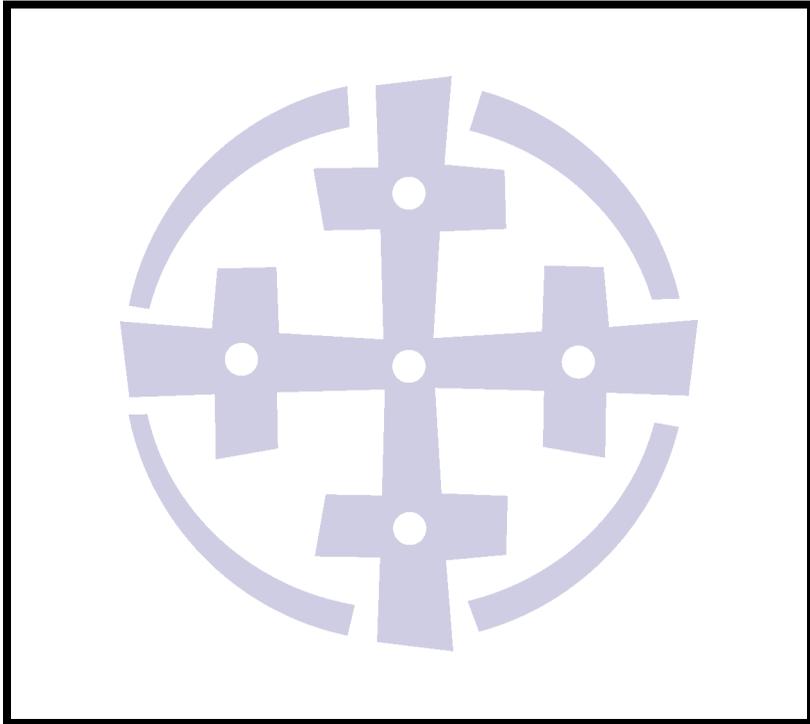


# Welcome to Faith



**Faith Lutheran Church**

December 7, 2025

## ~Second Sunday in Advent~

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

**OPENING HYMN On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry 344 v 1, 2, 4 & 5**

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free.  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

**OUR CONFESSION *and* ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: By faith we walk in the promises of God, that through faith in Jesus, we receive pardon and peace. So let us cast aside everything that hinders our walk of faith and look to God to restore and empower us through His Grace and Mercy.

**People: We confess our sins to You, O Lord. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that by faith, our future is secure in You, and by faith we can show the world Your love.**

Pastor: The Grace of God is upon you for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce to you the Grace of God: Your sins are forgiven! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen!**

## **PRAISE SONG**

## **Prepare ye the way for the Lord**

Prepare ye the way for the Lord  
Make a highway straight for our God.

Prepare ye the way for the Lord  
Every valley raised up  
And mountain made low  
Let's make way in our hearts for the Lord

Prepare ye the way for the Lord  
Make a highway straight for our God

Prepare ye the way for the Lord  
Turn from the dark  
And walk in the light  
Let's All make a way for the Lord

And His glory will shine  
It will be shown to all mankind

And we shall behold  
Our Savior come with His reward  
Prepare ye the way  
Make a way for the Lord

Strengthen your weary hands and feet  
Walk on the path of holiness

Take heart and do no fear  
Our God will soon be here  
And He'll crown our heads  
With ever-lasting songs of joy

Prepare ye the way for the Lord  
Make a highway straight for our God

Prepare ye the way for the Lord  
Every valley raised up  
And mountain made low  
Let's make way in our hearts for the Lord.

And His glory will shine  
It will be shown to all mankind

And we shall behold  
Our Savior come with His reward  
Prepare ye the way  
Make a way for the Lord

Make a way  
Way for the Lord  
Make a way  
Way for the Lord

### ***The* FIRST LESSON**

### **Isaiah 11:1–10**

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### ***The* SECOND LESSON**

### **Romans 15:4–13**

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup>And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup>And again, "Praise

the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” <sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### ***The GOSPEL LESSON***

### **Matthew 3:1–12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **AFFIRMATION of FAITH**

### **The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

### **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

*words by Charles Wesley; music by Rowland Prichard; arranged by Hal Wright*

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Raise us to thy glorious throne!

## CHILDREN'S CHAT

### SERMON HYMN

### **Comfort, Comfort Ye My People 347**

1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over."

2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day,  
Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.

3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.

### *The MESSAGE*

### *Whatever is Written*

### **PRAYERS** *of the* **CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: We pray for the Church as it awaits the final advent of our Lord, that through it the message of salvation may be proclaimed and the gifts of God may be shared. Lord, in Your mercy,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for those with special needs and concerns this day, especially the hospitalized, the grieving, the unemployed, and all on our hearts at this time for whom our petitions are desired, [including . . .]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**

## *The* LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** 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.

## *The* OFFERING

### *The* HOLY COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PRAYER *of* THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, almighty Lord, King of all Creation. You have blessed our lives with Your presence and protection and with peace. Now gathering at Your Table may we be strengthened in faith toward You and in active love for one another as we await Your final coming in glory. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our thanksgiving.

**People:** Amen.

## WORDS *of* INSTITUTION

### PROCLAMATION *of* CHRIST

Pastor: ....As often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

## SONGS *for* DISTRIBUTION Each Winter As The Year Grows Older

Each winter as the year grows older,  
We each grow older too.  
The chill sets in a little colder;  
The verities we knew  
Seem shaken and untrue

When race and class cry out for treason,  
When sirens call for war,  
They overshout the voice of reason  
And scream till we ignore  
All we held dear before.

Yet I believe beyond believing,  
That life can spring from death:  
That growth can flower from our grieving;  
That we can catch our breath  
And turn transfixed by faith.

So even as the sun is turning  
To journey to the north,  
The living flame, in secret burning,  
Can kindle on the earth  
And bring God's love to birth.

O Child of ecstasy and sorrows,  
O Prince of peace and pain,  
Brighten today's world by tomorrow's,  
Renew our lives again;  
Lord Jesus, come and reign!

### **Prepare A Place**

Prepare a place while you're waiting  
Prepare a place for the coming One  
Prepare a place and be patient  
While you wait for the coming One

Wait for the coming One  
While you wait for the coming One

Prepare your heart while you're waiting  
Prepare your heart for the coming One  
Set time aside and be quiet  
While you wait for the coming One

*Instrumental . . . . .*

Wait for the coming One  
While you wait for the coming One **(2x)**

**DISMISSAL**

## *The CLOSING SONG*

## **How Good and Pleasant**

How good and pleasant it is  
When we dwell together in unity  
And praise the Lord  
Praise the Lord

How good and pleasant it is  
When we dwell together in unity  
And praise the Lord  
Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord

How good and pleasant it is  
When we dwell together in unity  
And praise the Lord  
Praise the Lord

How good and pleasant it is  
When we dwell together in unity  
And praise the Lord  
Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord

Showers of blessing  
Showers they fall  
When we love and live in unity  
When we lift one voice  
Loud and strong

(Call)

As far as the east is to the west  
The north is to the south

**(Response)**

**Praise the Lord praise the Lord**

(Call)

From the rising of the sun  
To the goin' down of the same

**(Response)**

**Praise the Lord praise the Lord**

(Call)

No matter who comes against us  
No matter what the world says

**(Response)**

**Praise the Lord praise the Lord**

(Call)

'Cause we know it won't be long  
We'll see our Savior coming in those clouds  
Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord **(2x)**

### ***The* BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you His peace, His power, and His presence! Amen.

**ALL: Amen.**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen**

### **POSTLUDE**

## Announcement

**Stewards of God's Grace-** “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace...” (1 Peter 4:10 NIV) By now, your family should have received a stewardship letter and commitment card in the mail. Please return the top half of the commitment card in the offering plate this Sunday, December 7th. If yours has not arrived, additional cards will be available again in the narthex this Sunday. Please take one and fill in your personal commitment for 2026 (Faith's 75th anniversary). As you prayerfully consider your response, reflect on how God is shaping your giving in the coming year “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” (Colossians 3:17 NIV) This verse gently reminds us that every act of faith—small or large—is an offering to God. Our daily choices, our quiet service, and our gifts of time, talent, and treasure all become ways we participate in God's ongoing work in the world. Nothing given in Christ's name is insignificant. Each contribution matters because God uses it to bless others. As a CLG, we are encouraged and uplifted as we envision the ministry before us. God is at work, creating pathways for us to bring Christ's compassion into our community, always reminding us of our calling: “Need Hope? Come to Faith.” May God's grace guide you as you discern how to share the gifts He has entrusted to you.

**Poinsettia Forms-** Forms are available in the Narthex, pick yours up today. We would like the forms returned in time by Sunday, December 14th. Forms can be turned into Betty Sifferman, the offering plate, through the mail or into the office. If you need help please contact Betty or Amber.

**Wednesday Advent Services-** We have 2 more **Wednesday Advent** services this year. They started on Wednesday, December 3rd and will go through December 17th, services will start at 7:00 pm in person and online on our YouTube channel.

**Footprints Wish Tree-** There is a wishing tree in the Narthex, starting today. Please help out by taking a wish and fulfilling it, so that the children at Footprints can enjoy these items in learning and play. If you have any questions contact Amber in the office. All gifts please drop them off in the office with Amber.

**Share the Light-** Don't forget to join us on Saturday, December 13th. Grab your flyer in the Narthex, that holds the information. And sign up to volunteer your time and/or items that are needed. Lets make this a grand big event for our community and for our congregation.

**Christmas Caroling!**- It's the most wonderful time of the year, and We need YOU!  
All are welcome to join the fun and festivities! Who should join us...ages ranging from 2 to 102!  
Who doesn't love singing carols??!! Now, if you're not into singing but love crafts or baking, we could use help with little gifts to leave so please contact Jessica if you'd like to help! Please bring your kids or grandkids too! Dress in holiday colors and hats. Bring jingle bells too if you have them or an oboe is nice. We will provide carol books to use. All locations will be in the area of Pleasant Hill and Concord (exact locations to be finalized)

**DATE:** TODAY, Sunday, December 7th

**START TIME:** 1:00 pm: meet at Faith to pick up carol books, the list of addresses we will carol to and determine car pools and carol groups

**END TIME:** around 3:30 pm or so...

Please join us in spreading the joy of Christ's birth this wonderful Christmas season. God bless!  
Please RSVP! to Jessica Grant at jrgrant2005@hotmail.com. And if you need to be picked up/  
taken home, let me know that too!

**Epiphany Dinner- January 10, 2026 at 4:30 pm**- Sign up now to attend or host! Starts at Faith! Contact Marlane Huffaker, Jessica Grant or Irene Desmond for details. Rides will be made available for those who do not drive after dark. **There is a sign-up sheet.**



**Don't forget to donate!**

Scan this QR code to donate online

# Upcoming Events at Faith

December 7- Sunday Worship @ 9:00 am  
December 7- Kidz K'nection @ 9:15 am  
December 7- Sunday Fellowship @ 10:15 am  
December 7- Bible Study @ 10:30 am  
December 7- Choir Practice @ 10:30 am  
December 7- Christmas Caroling @ 1:00 pm  
December 8- Ladies Bible Study @ 1:00 pm  
December 8- Handbells Practice @ 5:30 pm  
December 10- Over The Hill Gang @ 9:00 am  
December 10- Footprints Chapel @ 10:30 am  
December 10- Education Committee Meeting  
@ 4:00 pm  
December 10- Wednesday Advent Service @ 7:00 pm  
December 12- Bursey/Hanson House Group  
@ 7:30 pm  
December 13- Share the Light @ 6:30 pm  
December 14- Sunday Worship @ 9:00 am

December 14- Kidz K'nection @ 9:15 am  
December 14- Sunday Fellowship @ 10:15 am  
December 14- Bible Study @ 10:30 am  
December 14- Choir Practice @ 10:30 am  
December 15- Ladies Bible Study @ 1:00 pm  
December 15- Handbells Practice @ 5:30 pm  
December 16- Page Turners Book Club @ 7:00 pm  
December 17- Over The Hill Gang @ 9:00 am  
December 17- Footprints Chapel @ 10:30 am  
December 17- Wednesday Advent Service @ 7:00 pm  
December 17- CLG Meeting @ 7:30 pm  
December 21- Sunday Worship @ 9:00 am  
December 21- Kidz K'nection @ 9:15 am  
December 21- Sunday Fellowship @ 10:15 am  
December 21- Bible Study @ 10:30 am  
December 21- Choir Practice @ 10:30 am  
December 22- Ladies Bible Study @ 1:00 pm

## Servants of Faith

### This Week: December 7

**Altar Guild-** Naty Sigurani

**Tech Projections-** Amber Nelsen & Barry Milstead

**Acolyte-** Ava Kriksciunas

**Reader-** Sheryl Hanson

**Welcomers-** Mary-Margaret Robbers & Chris Wilburn

**Elders-** Mike Snow & Phil Calahane

**Ushers-** Naty Sigurani & Mary-Margaret Robbers

**Youth Donuts-** Ava Kriksciunas

### Next Week: December 14

**Altar Guild-** Betty Sifferman & Kathy Wilson

**Tech Projections-** Kathy Wright & Todd Slattengren

**Acolyte-** Sophia Sigurani

**Reader-** Laura Milstead

**Welcomers-** Sheryl Lack

**Elders-** Evan Bursey & Lance O'Connor

**Ushers-** Paula Calimeris & Rachael Kriksciunas

**Youth Donuts-** Sophia Sigurani

**“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” LSB 344** Charles Coffin | Michael Praetorius | George R. Woodward

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**“Prepare ye the way for the Lord”** Tommy Walker

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**“Each Winter As The Year Grows Older”** William & Annabeth Gay

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**“Prepare A Place”** Christine Dente | Michael W. Smith

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**“How Good and Pleasant”** Tommy Walker

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## A Word To Guests About Holy Communion

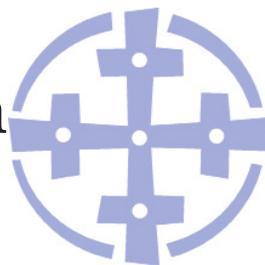
Lutherans believe and teach that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in and with the bread and wine when we receive the Lord's Supper. We do not believe that the bread and wine somehow mystically changes into Christ's body and blood, nor do we believe that the elements merely represent Christ's body and blood. Rather, we embrace the words of Jesus when He said, "Take, eat, this is my body," and "Take, drink, this is my blood." When we receive the bread and wine, we believe we are also receiving the body & blood of Christ because He said so.

We believe that Christ truly comes to us in this meal, offering His body and His blood in an outward sign of His love, His assurance of the forgiveness of our sins won for us by His death on the Cross, and the promise of His very real presence in our everyday lives.

If you are a Baptized believer in Jesus, repentant of your sins, and agree with our understanding of Holy Communion, we invite you to join us in this Sacrament. However, if you are in doubt, you may wish to consult with the Pastor or Elder beforehand. Children may receive Communion after receiving appropriate instruction from the pastor. *Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the altar. If you have a dietary restriction to wine, grape juice is available in cups at the center of our communion trays.*

# Faith Lutheran Church

## Grow Christ's Life In Every Heart.



### Serving at Faith

Pastor David Floyd- Pastor

Mary-Margaret Robbers- Director of Footprints Preschool

Amber Nelsen- Office Administration

Jeff MacDonald- Director of LivingFaith Praise Band

David Engelbrektson- Director of Music, Gloria Chuang- Organist/Pianist

50 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (925) 685-7353

Office Hours: Monday- Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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