

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MAPLE LEAF PARISH
DECEMBER 17, 2011
9:00 A.M.**

The asterisk () indicates those times in the worship when those who are able are invited to stand, if you choose to do so.*

**PRELUDE
CHORAL INTROIT
WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please pass the attendance registration pads. We ask all members, as well as our guests, to fill out the information.)

THE LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLES

THE SCRIPTURE *Luke 1:38*

THE ADVENT REFLECTION

We marvel at Mary, the mother of the Messiah, herself a single, teenaged mother, herself poor and powerless. But she understood that the baby she would call Jesus was sent, not just to her, but to the world...

...To the hungry
...To the weak
...To the very young and the very old
...To those who suffer or are in pain.

[Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.]

We light this fourth candle to remember Mary, the mother of Jesus. May the light of this candle also remind us that the light of Jesus shines for everyone.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*ADVENT HYMN "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph" UMH 215

*UNISON PRAYER of CONFESSION

Lord of Light and Mercy, it is easy for us to get caught up in the various darknesses of our lives; the darkness of stress and expectation,

the darkness of loneliness and alienation, the darkness of greed and selfishness, and the darkness of fear. Break through the darkness and help us see your light. Let the light of your love show in our pathways as we learn again how to serve, how to wait, how to care for your people and your creation. Forgive us as we stumble and fall. Lift us up and place us back on your pathway. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

CONSECRATION of BANNERS

CHORAL ANTHEM

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER
OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

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, forever. Amen.

THE RECEIVING of our TITHES and OFFERING

**Offertory Music
Presentation of our Offering
*Doxology (No. 95 UMH)
*Prayer (Unison)**

Father, teach us how to listen for your call in our lives. Teach us how to be faithful stewards with the gifts you have entrusted to us. Teach us how to use this offering as a source of your ministry and mission. Teach us how to bow down on our knees and to spend time beholding the miracles all around us. In the name of the greatest teacher, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE Hosea 3:1-5

THE MESSAGE "Imitating God's Scandalous Love!"

*CLOSING HYMN "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" UMH 216

*THE BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 A.M. Worship
10:00 A.M. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 A.M. Church School for all ages

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 19, 6:00 p.m. Hand Bell Choir practice.
Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee to meet.
Tuesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m. Church Council to meet.
Wednesday, December 21, noon, January Newsletter deadline

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Services at Faith.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 A.M. Worship
NOON Christmas Day dinner at Faith Church!

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2012 offering envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not see a packet with your name on it, please notify the church office and one will be prepared for you.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

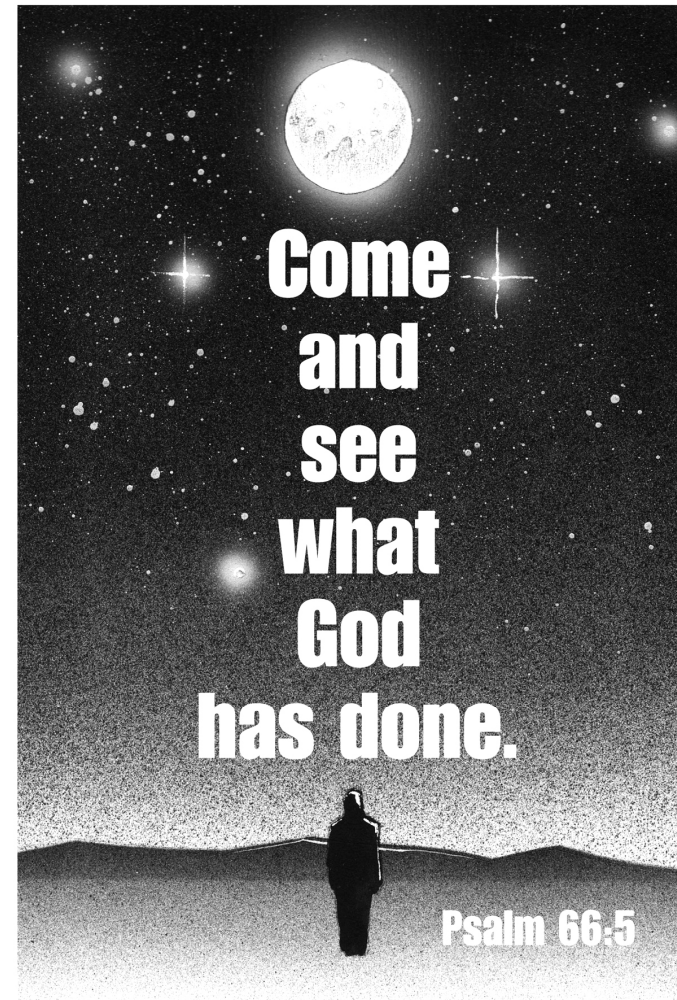
Contributions must be postmarked or received in the church office by December 31st to be included as 2011 tax deductions. Thank you.

POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY

*Joe Kunert from
Kirk & Betty
Cecil & Lyli
Jake & Rachel*

*Loren & Bernice Terbeest
& Arne & Millie Thompson from
Larry & Arlys Terbeest*

*Loved Ones from
Iola Thompson & Family*



FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Mark Rader and Pastor Beth Perez

617 Maple Lane

Spring Valley, MN 55975

Phone: 1-507-346-2830

E-mail: faithunited@centurytel.net

Web: www.faithsv.net

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 – 4:00 PM