



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

309 Fourth Street Northeast
Valley City, North Dakota

Pastor: Jamie Desai

Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025

9:30am worship service

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME!

It is good to encounter Christ together. At Faith Lutheran we rise up to:

Worship Christ, Welcome All, and Serve Others because of Jesus.

A special welcome to visitors and guests! May God bless our time together as we celebrate Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the Word of God, and the community we share. Please fill out a welcome card if you have changes: address, phone number, prayer request. Break off the bottom half to place in the offering plate; keep the top as a bookmark and a reminder of worship times.

*Indicates those who are able, please stand. (ELW - Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal)

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to celebrate Advent with Jesus.

I have come to join Jesus for Advent.

Let us begin preparing for the coming of the Christ child.

I will prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

Prepare for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

Come, O come Emmanuel.

*ADVENT SONG **"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"** ELW 240
(*Lighting of the Advent Candle*)

*ADVENT LITANY

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Four candles shine as God's purpose is revealed in word and flesh.

Possibility awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.

Radiant flash and feeble flame break through; a long time coming yet unexpected. Watching and waiting, we prepare him room.

Christ is coming to make all things new, and we are opening to the Light.

ADVENT SONG **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** vs 1-3 ELW 257

CONFESSION OF SIN

Amid the troubles and fears of the world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace and love.

(silence for reflection)

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

SONG OF MERCY

“Christ, Be Our Light” chorus

ELW 715

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, your sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, you are an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God.

I am an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God.

*SONG OF PRAISE

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 270

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S WORD

Noisy Offering—Stocking Stuffer Program

SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

Isaiah 6:10-16 (PB pg. 704 - Old Testament)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (please read responsively)

Romans 1:1-7 PB pg. 158 - New Testament)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation **“Silent Night, Holy Night”** vs 1

ELW 281

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 1:18-25 (PB pg. 1 - New Testament)

The Gospel of the Lord - **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

ELW 279

*APOSTLES’ CREED

ELW pg. 127

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY

“What Can I Give Him”

see screen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 129

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(singing) Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ELW pg. 130

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

ELW pg. 134

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION - We welcome all the baptized to the meal celebrating the new life we have in Christ Jesus. Come forward as the ushers direct. Please take a cup for communion from the center boxes as you come forward. Start at the middle and fill to the sides. Gluten-free wafers are available. Young children will receive a grape and a blessing. Place your empty cups in the boxes. If you wish to refrain from communion, God knows your heart.

Communion Music:

“You Are My All in All” (chorus)

Cyndi Hill
see screen

*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW 283

*DISMISSAL Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Okay we will!**

POSTLUDE

We depart to serve the Lord

Serving Today

Greeters: Duane & Diana Larson
Ushers: Scott & Amy Tichy
Lector: Paula Thomsen
Acolyte: Brooke Bopp
Kitchen: Jessica Jenrich, Scott & Amy Tichy
Keyboard & Vocals: Cyndi Hill

Attendance & Offering

Attendance: 12/14 235 50+ online

Offering: 12/7 \$6,051.75
12/14 \$8,117.00

Mission Plan monthly
\$23,577.78



We invite you to join us Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Worship Service. We will be having 2 services, 3:00pm and 5:00pm. The service will include Holy Communion, Christmas Hymns, and Special Music

Announcements

Stop in fellowship hall for a cup of coffee or juice and a treat served at 10:30am following worship. It is good to enjoy each other's company and conservation.



Noisy Offering—today, December 21 the kids will be collecting a noisy offering for the **Stocking Stuffer Program** at SMP Health—St. Raphael. Your loose change and dollars bills make a difference in brightening the lives of others!

There will be no Sunday School December 21 or December 28 or January 4, 2026. Sunday School will resume on January 11, 2026. No Confirmation or Kids Club December 17, 24 or 31. Confirmation and Kids Club will resume on January 7, 2026.



The office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 in observance of Christmas.

The 2026 offering envelopes will be available to be picked up by December 24th. If you would prefer not to have envelopes you can let the office know. Your contributions are recorded whether you use an envelope, give by checks or give online. We thank you for your continued financial support!

The Week Ahead: December 22-28, 2025

Monday, December 22

Pastor's Sabbath
1:30pm - Merry & Bright
Christmas Carolers Concert

Tuesday, December 23

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24

No Activities
Office Closed
3:00pm - Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
5:00pm - Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas!
Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Office Closed

Sunday, December 28

No Sunday School
9:30am - Worship Service
10:30am - Coffee Fellowship





The Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 25th** after **ANNUAL MEETING worship**. The reports will be ready to be picked up on **Thursday, January 15th**. All reports for the annual report booklet need to be in to Julie by **Monday, January 5**.



2026 Daily Texts have arrived! The cost of each book is \$12. If you are interested in purchasing one they are located on the table under the mirror in the gathering area.



Open Door Center presents—Merry & Bright Christmas Carolers Concert, Monday, December 22 at 1:30pm at Faith. Everyone will enjoy this concert that is free to the public.



53rd Annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner will be held in the St. Catherine's Church Dining Hall, December 24th, 5:30-7pm.

For those who will be alone this Christmas, come celebrate Jesus' birthday with other members of our community. Desserts are welcome. Financial donations are appreciated. **If you need transportation: call 845-0354 by 3pm on Tuesday, December 23.** Sorry—No deliveries except for the love of Jesus to one another!!

Snow/Storm Cancellation Plan for Sunday Worship—

Pastor and Council President will communicate and determine whether worship will be held during severe weather. Any cancellations will be announced to the congregation and community via Facebook, radio, and other social media outlets as soon as possible. Hopefully we won't need to cancel worship much this winter.



LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

SMP Health - St. Raphael:—Clara Bredeson; Marlys Freadhoff; Ruby Hansen; Mark Hill; Diane Kohn; Paula Krall; Arlene Larson; Laurette Zachrison.

General Prayer List:—Maureen Walch (Karen Nitschke's sister); Doug Kratz; Kathy Burke; Laine Schwehr; Verlynn Christianson; LeeAnn Peterson; Bud Anderson; Angela Rohde (Jake Rohde's mother); Sandi Pollock; JoAn Neller-moe; Don Burke; Amanda Spencer (Karen Nitschke's granddaughter); Scott Stanford; Bob Green; Mackenzie Schram (Becky Kratz' niece); Nancy Knutson; Jake Archambeau (Karen Nitschke's nephew); Kay Stanford; Linda Moser; Mary Buringrud (Nikki Moen's mother); Bea Faust; Verna Anderson; Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill's grandson); Rick Anderson (Bud & Verna Anderson's son); Doug Altringer; Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

Contact Info

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