



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
309 Fourth Street Northeast  
Valley City, North Dakota  
*Pastor: Jamie Desai*

*Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith*  
Second Sunday of Christmas January 4, 2026  
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.

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

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to celebrate the twelve days of Christmas with Jesus.

**I have come to join Jesus for the Christmas season.**

Let us prepare for the Prince of Peace.

**I will prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace.**

Let us open our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

**I have come to worship the Christ child.**

\*GATHERING HYMN     **"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**     ELW 270

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(silence for reflection)*

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

SONG OF MERCY     **"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**     ELW 276

## \*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.  
Therefore I declare to you: You are an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God!  
**I am an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God!**

## SONG OF PRAISE    **"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

ELW 275

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S WORD

### SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

**Jeremiah 31:7-14** (PB pg. 816 - Old Testament)

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

**Psalms 147:12-20** (please read responsively)

**Ephesians 1:3-14** (PB pg. 204 - New Testament)

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

### \*Gospel Acclamation    **"Silent Night, Holy Night!"** vs 1,3

ELW 281

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

**Glory to you, O Lord**

**John 1:10-18** (PB pg. 94 - 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

**“The First Noel”** vs 1

ELW 300

## 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 Hymns:

**“Love Has Come”**

ELW 292

**“One in Royal David’s City”**

ELW 269

**“You Are My All in All”** (chorus)

see screen

\*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his 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

**Greeter:** Evelyn Jacobson  
**Ushers:** Larry & Deloris Welken  
**Lector:** Cheryl Foell  
**Acolyte:** Evelyn Jacobson  
**Kitchen:** Larry & Deloris Welken,  
Dean & Brenda Klein, Diane Busche  
**Keyboard:** Amy Johnson

### Attendance

Attendance: 12/28 no service due to weather

### The Week Ahead: January 5-11, 2026

#### Monday, January 5

Pastor's Sabbath  
Reports for Annual Report Due

#### Tuesday, January 6

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

#### Wednesday, January 7

1:00pm - Quilters  
1:30pm - FLC Staff Meeting  
3:15pm - Kids Club  
6:30pm - Confirmation  
at Our Savior's

#### Thursday, January 8

Quilters Class

#### Friday, January 9

Quilters Class

#### Sunday, January 11

Presentation of Baptism Keepsakes  
9:30am - Worship Service  
10:30am - Coffee Fellowship  
10:45am - Sunday School

## 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.



Our sympathies to Dan & Emily Thompson & Family. Dan's father, **Donald "Doc" Thompson**, died Thursday, December 26. His memorial service was held Wednesday, December 31 at Trinity Lutheran.

Our sympathies to Joe & Reneé Martin & Family. Joe's brother, **Rick Martin**, died Wednesday, December 25. His funeral service was held Wednesday, December 31 at West Funeral Home Chapel in West Fargo.

Our sympathies to Rydell & Suzy Becker & Family. Suzy's father, **Ray Schuler**, died Friday, December 27. He will have a graveside service in the spring.

**There will be no Sunday School January 4, 2026. Sunday School will resume on January 11, 2026 with an Epiphany Party. Confirmation and Kids Club will resume on January 7, 2026.**



**The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 25th after worship. The ANNUAL MEETING 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.**

**Baptismal Keepsakes—Sunday, January 11.** Everyone who was baptized in 2025 will receive their baptismal keepsake at the 9:30am worship service. The keepsakes serve as a reminder of this special step in their Christian walk of faith.

We are still working on the new church directory. We will let you know as soon as we have more information on a print date. Thank you for your patience.



The Mission Team will be collecting 2-piece pajamas for Project Ignite Light throughout January and February. All sizes are needed. You may buy sleep pants and a top especially for the older youth since pajamas may be harder to find in the larger sizes. Please note: Project Ignite doesn't take one piece pajamas/sleepers.



The 2026 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up. If you would like envelopes and do not see your name, please talk to Julie in the office and she will give them to you. Your contributions are recorded whether you use an envelope, give by checks or give online. We thank you for your continued financial support!

Please join us in congratulating Mary Rausch who has graciously accepted the role of Church Treasurer. Mary's term begins on January 1, 2026. We are grateful for her willingness to serve our congregation in this important ministry. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Jessica Jenrich for her faithful service and dedication as she concludes her time as treasurer. Her contributions have been a blessing to our church!

The Jr/Sr High Youth would like to thank everyone who purchased a cross ornament for the Celebration of Life Tree in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please don't forget to take your cross ornaments home.

Thank you to everyone who purchases a poinsettia for Christmas. If you would like to take to your poinsettia home you are welcome to do so.



#### **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); JoAn Nellerroe; 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); Doug Altringer; Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

#### **Contact Info**

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Facebook Page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City

YouTube Channel: [vcfaithlutheran](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFaithLutheran)

#### **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.