



John 1:23

Make
straight
the **WAY**
of the

LORD

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

309 Fourth Street Northeast
Valley City, North Dakota

Interim Pastor: Jamie Desai

Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

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

"He Came Down" vs 1-3

ELW 253

(Lighting of the Advent Candle)

*ADVENT LITANY

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Three candles shine as God's promise draws near, beckoning us to be good news in body and spirit.

Justice 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

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

ELW 289

*CONFESSION OF SIN O God, as we approach the end of the year, life seems so dreary and we feel so weary. We see the reality of the world: hunger, poverty, loneliness, disease, emptiness and despair. But despite our best efforts, nothing seems to change. And we're ready to give up. Forgive us.

In this time of Advent, we pray that you would enable us to watch for signs of where you are trying to break through the tinsel and glitter we use to

mask our pain. Help us to face reality with patience and hope instead of becoming indifferent to the world's evil. Empower us to prepare for Christ's coming by cleaning up the clutter of our lives and creating a welcoming space for your presence in our lives.

SONG OF MERCY

"The First Noel" vs 1,2

ELW 300

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

The Christ child has looked with favor upon you and through the power of the Holy Spirit, you are a reborn child of God. 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

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs 1-3

ELW 283

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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

Noisy Offering—Stocking Stuffer Program

SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (PB pg. 767 - Old Testament)

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

Psalms 126 (please read responsively)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (PB pg. 219 - New Testament)

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

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

Glory to you, O Lord

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (PB pg.94 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW 282

*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 Hymns:

“Drawn to the Light”

ELW 593

“Silent Night”

ELW 257

“He Came Down”

ELW 253

“You Are My All in All” (chorus)

see screen

*BLESSING

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 **“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**

ELW 275

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

Serving Today

Greeter: *Samantha Carlson*
Ushers: *Mark & Paula Thomsen*
Lector: *Brenda Bong*
Acolyte: *Halle Welken*
Kitchen: *John & Tonya Samuelson, Tyler & Angela Van Bruggen,
Jessica Jenrich, Mark & Paula Thomsen*
Keyboard & Vocals: *Cyndi Hill*
Vocals: *Julie May*

Attendance & Offering

Attendance: 12/10 109 94+ online

Offering: 12/3 \$5,540.00
12/10 \$4,622.00

Mission Plan monthly

\$21,265.25

The Week Ahead: December 18-24, 2023

Monday, December 18

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, December 19

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

1:30pm - Text Study

Wednesday, December 20

No Kids Club or Confirmation

12:10pm - Sounds of the Season
at Our Savior's

1:00pm - Quilters

1:30pm - FLC Staff Meeting

Friday, December 22

Office Closed

1:30pm - Merry & Bright
Christmas Concert at Faith

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

No Coffee Fellowship or

Sunday School

9:30am - Worship Service

4:00am - Candlelight Christmas

Eve Worship Service

5:30pm - Community Christmas

Eve Dinner at St Catherine's

Announcements



The Children's Christmas Program will be today following worship at 10:45am! The kids are so excited to share their program with you! We will have our potluck dinner following the program. Enjoy a time of fellowship!

Noisy Offering—today the kids will be collecting a noisy offering during the Children's Word. The noisy offering collected will be given to the **SMP - St. Raphael Stocking Stuffer Program**. The monetary donations are used to purchase gifts for their residents to brighten their Christmas. Your loose change and dollars bills make a difference!

Christmas Family Giving Tree—The gifts should be returned by **today, December 17**. Thank you to everyone who took a tag to purchase a gift.

A box containing items for SMP Health - St. Raphael is set up in the gathering area. Items for SMP Health-St. Raphael should be here by **today, December 17th**. Thank you to everyone who purchased items of St. Raphael.

We would like to have about 15 poinsettias to adorn our altar on Christmas Eve. If you would like to purchase a plant for \$20 or bring a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one there is a sign up sheet on the table in the gathering area. This is the last day to sign up.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Christmas Eve morning worship service will be at 9:30am.

Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 4:00pm.

There will be no Sunday School December 24 or December 31. Sunday School will resume on January 7, 2024. No Confirmation or Kids Club December 20 & 27. Sunday School will resume January 7, 2024. Confirmation and Kids Club will resume on January 10.

The office will be closed on Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.

The 2024 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!

17th Annual “Sounds of the Season” Brown Bagger Series—Wednesday, December 20, 12:10-12:50pm at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Sanctuary. **Trisa Olson and Judy Karch** will be the featured performers. Bring your lunch or just come to listen to the music of the holiday season and enjoy provided refreshments.



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

The 2024 Daily Texts Devotional Books have arrived! The cost of each book is \$11.95. The books are on the table by Julie’s office in the gathering area.



LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

SMP Health - St. Raphael:—Clara Bredeson; Marlys Freadhoff; Mark Hill; Mavis Johnson; Diane Kohn; Paula Krall; Laurette Zachrison.

Hospitalized: Mary Ann Anderson (Mayville Hospital)

General Prayer List:—Sue Olson; Christl Durand (Tami Kratz’ sister); Doreen Vangerud; Dave Heley (Shawn Ranisate’s stepfather); Rick Anderson (Bud & Verna Anderson’s son); Curt Tufty (Sue Olson’s brother-in-law); Dan & Bea Faust; Sandy Mulvaney; Doug Altringer; Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill’s grandson); Lori Hill (Tami Kratz’s sister); Mary Schram (Becky Kratz’ mother).

Contact Info

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



51st 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. For questions or to volunteer please call: Jessica Storhoff at 845-0354. If you need transportation: call 845-0556 from 1-4pm on December 24. Sorry—No deliveries except for the love of Jesus to one another!!