

*When they
saw the star,
they rejoiced
exceedingly
with great joy.*

Matthew 2:10, ESV



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
Epiphany of Our Lord January 7, 2024
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

INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

And God said, This is My Son, The Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

We have come to join The Beloved, in whom God is well pleased.

Let us thank God for sending His Son Jesus, *The Beloved* to dwell amongst us.

We have come to join *The Beloved, in whom God is well pleased.*

*GATHERING SONG **“Angels from the Realms of Glory”** ELW 275

CONFESSION OF SIN Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, know and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SONG OF MERCY **“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”** vs 1-3 ELW 282

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ died for you and has forgiven you all your sins. In Christ Jesus, you too have been named a child of God. Therefore, I declare unto you; You are an accepted, forgiven and *loved* child of God.

I am an accepted, forgiven and *loved* child of God!

SONG OF PRAISE **“We Three Kings”** vs 1-3 see screen

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, **creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF THOSE NEWLY BAPTIZED

**Oliver Jeffrey Stearns, Lewis John Stearns, Asher Ray Foell,
Jackson Jay Larson, Wrevyn Wynn Friestad, Owen James Houdek,
Frankie Sue Ashline, Mari Rose Anderson**

PRESENTATION OF BAPTISMAL KEEPSAKES

CHILDREN’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

Genesis 1:1-5 (PB pg. 1 - Old Testament)
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Psalms 29 (please read responsively)
Acts 19:1-7 (PB pg. 145 - New Testament)
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Hymn

“The First Noel” vs 1,2,4

ELW 300

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 2:1-12 (PB pg. 2 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

“The Maji”

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

ELW 302

*NICENE CREED

ELW pg. 126

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

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY

“Let All Things Now Living” vs 1

ELW 881

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:

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

ELW 281

“Come to the Table”

ELW 481

“Baptized and Set Free”

ELW 453

“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

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

*DISMISSAL Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

We depart to serve the Lord

Serving Today

Greeter: Gavin Welken
Ushers: Larry & Deloris Welken
Lector: Kay Bostrom
Acolyte: Morgan Larson
Kitchen: Larry & Deloris Welken, Dean & Brenda Klein
Keyboard: Amy Johnson
Vocals: Julie May

Attendance & Offering

Attendance: 12/31 42

Offering:	12/3	\$5,540.00
	12/10	\$4,622.00
	12/17	\$8,620.00
	12/24	\$4,598.00
	12/31	\$5,488.00

Mission Plan monthly

\$21,265.25

Announcements

Stop in the 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 conversation.



Our sympathies to the family & friends of **Mike Brand**. Mike died Thursday, December 28th in Fargo. His prayer service will be here at Faith on Wednesday, January 10th at 7pm with visitation beginning at 5pm. His memorial service will be Thursday, January 11th at 11am at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN.



The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 21st after worship. The reports will be ready to be picked up on **Thursday, January 11th.**

The Week Ahead: January 8-14, 2024

Monday, January 8

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, January 9

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

1:30pm - Text Study

5:15pm - Council Meeting

5:30pm - Mission Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 10

3:15pm - Kids Club

7:00pm - Prayer Service for
Mike Brand

6:30pm - Confirmation at
Our Savior's

Sunday, January 14

9:30am - Worship Service

10:30am - Coffee Fellowship

10:45am - Sunday School

1:00pm - Jr/Sr High Youth—

Feed My Starving Children Event



Today, January 7 the Sunday School Children will have an Epiphany Party during their Sunday School time! This is the first Sunday back after Christmas break.

Confirmation and Kids Club both resume this Wednesday, January 10th. Confirmation will be at 6:30pm at Our Savior's throughout the month of January. Kids Club will continue to meet at Faith from 3:15-5pm.

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

The 2024 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up.



If you don't see your name and would like to receive envelopes please let Julie know and she will get them for you. Your contributions are recorded whether you use an envelope, give by checks or give online. We thank you for your continued financial support!

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

Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

The current FLC council has approved the below constitution changes to be presented for a congregational vote at our January 2024 annual meeting. Please review and reach out to any current council members with questions or comments. **See you at the annual meeting Sunday, January 21st.**

Change #1

Article IX—*Section 1

Original: The church council shall consist of the pastor or pastors and nine (9) elected members.

Revised: The church council shall consist of the pastor or pastors and seven (7) elected members.

Change #2

Article VIII—Section 4

Original: Their tenure shall be so arranged that one third of the terms expire annually.

Revised: Their tenure shall be so arranged that no more than three terms expire annually.



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:—Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill's grandson); Heath Webber; 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; Lori Hill (Tami Kratz's sister); Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

Contact Info

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We Are Looking for a Treasurer:

Job Description: record bulk deposits (not responsible for recording to member records), bill entry and payment, payroll, payroll tax deposits & reporting, reports for council meetings and annual meeting, attend council meetings, manage online giving account. Bookwork is done in Quickbooks. Microsoft Office skills, especially Excel, are needed. For more information on the position, please talk to Amy Johnson or a council member.