

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Christmas:**  
**Lessons and Carols for**  
**Christmas: Savior, Christ, Lord**



## **Faith Lutheran Church**

*Mission Statement*

*"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that  
is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."*

**MINISTERS**

**SENIOR PASTOR**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**Every Member**

**Derek Harkins**

**Sylvia Bull**

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING CAROL: ELW 288 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" \*

GREETING

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: ELW 292 "Love Has Come" \*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

## SERVICE OF LESSONS, POEMS AND CAROLS

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 8

#### "FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST, THE LORD"

LESSON: Isaiah 12: 2-6

RESPONSE: ELW 283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (refrain) \*

LESSON: Matthew 1:18-21

POEM: "Savior" by Meta Herrick Carlson

CAROL: ELW 293 "That Boy-Child of Mary" \*

#### "FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOR, WHO IS *CHRIST*, THE LORD"

LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

RESPONSE: ELW 283: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (refrain) \*

LESSON: Luke 2:25-38

POEM: "Anoint" by Meta Herrick Carlson

CAROL: ELW 270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" \*

#### "FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST, THE LORD"

LESSON: Psalm 23

RESPONSE: ELW 283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (refrain) \*

LESSON: John 1:1-5; 10-18

POEM: "Jesus's Birth" by Kate Bowler

CAROL: ELW 295 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" \*

*Order of Worship Continued*

**NICENE CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING CAROL: ELW 294 "In the Bleak Midwinter"**

*Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

**ELW 279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" \***

**ELW 296 "What Child Is This" \***

*Sending: God blesses us and sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbors.*

**BLESSING**

**SENDING CAROL: ELW 299 "Cold December Flies Away" \***

**DISMISSAL**

*\*ELW = Red Hymnal; ACS = Purple Hymnal*

**GOING DEEPER**

- What is on your heart as you come to worship today?
- What connected with you in the sermon today?
- What challenged you?
- What prayers are on your heart today?
- What nourishment do you need from Jesus for the days ahead?
- What will you carry with you from worship this week?

## **GOSPEL READINGS**

### **“For unto you is born a *Savior*, who is Christ, the Lord”**

Matthew 1:18-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

### **“For unto you is born a *Savior*, who is *Christ*, the Lord”**

Luke 2:25-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord"**

John 1:1-5, 10-18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses;

grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**



The **offering for the week of December 22nd** will be announced in next week's bulletin!

**Poinsettias for the Christmas Season** are provided by Altar Guild, sponsored by many people. **Thank you!**

The **Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st**, in honor of New Years Day.

Reminder: there will be **NO SERVICE on Wednesday, January 1st**. We will return to our usual Wednesday schedule of one 7pm service on Wednesday, January 8th.

**Thank you** to everyone who baked cookies, both at the church and at home, helped with organization and set-up, worked the event, and came out to buy cookies for our **Cookie Walk** this year! It was a great success, and we are excited to put the money raised toward the Kitchen Fund and Sunshine Fund. We can't do this event every year without the help of all our volunteers!

Our **2025 Flower Chart is up!** Sign up to sponsor altar flowers (cost is usually around \$50) on a Sunday during the year for a special event, in honor or memory of someone, or just because! Look for the flower chart out in the Gathering Place.

From **Dwight and Connie Barden**: We are happy to announce the **wedding of our son, Adam, to Britany Thorpe!** Their wedding will be **December 30 at 4pm** in the sanctuary at Wartburg Seminary in Iowa. A **live-stream link** will be available that day on the Faith Lutheran Facebook page for anyone who would like to view the ceremony! We will also host an open house later in March here at Faith Lutheran.

Please join the Men of Faith on **Thursday January 9th 2025 at 9am**, as Ben Kubischta will be conducting a **presentation on “Highways and Roads: Connecting the History of Bismarck.”** Some road and street projects in Bismarck were not complicated But, some were and some were very controversial. You will hear stories about these projects. You will learn about a project which was proposed in 1950 that if it was constructed would have had a major impact upon Bismarck today. And you will learn about five Highway Department men from Bismarck who had a major role in developing roads and bridges in the first half of the 20th Century.

Save the Date for a **Blood Drive**, hosted at Faith Lutheran, on **Wednesday, January 8th at 4:30pm**. Look for links to sign up on our Facebook page!

**Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull**

**Music: Vicki Martel**

**Worship Assistants:**

**8:30 - Deb Bensen, Orlin Bensen, Meme May, Sam May, Dalene Berger, Vince Berger, Ron Schneider, Mary Schneider**

**11:00 - Dean Learn, Kristi Learn, Janica Sabot, Lori Wanner, Rod Wanner, Greg Hoffman, Anita Hoffman, Colleen Preszler, Deb Diede, Damien Reinhart, Tori Reinhart, Eden Reinhart, Lawson Reinhart, Lyla Timm, Nolan Johnson, Lexi Johnson**

## CALENDAR

Monday, December 30

7:00 AA

Tuesday, December 31

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

No Church School

No Worship

Thursday, January 2

Friday, January 3

8:00 NA

Saturday, January 4

Sunday, January 5

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

# MISSION Focus



## DECEMBER: GIFT CARDS & BUS PASSES

For December, we are collecting gas gift cards, grocery gift cards, and bus passes (any kind, monthly, one day, or one way). These gift cards will be kept at Faith Lutheran Church, and handed out to those in need that are members of our church, as well as people in our community that reach out to us for assistance. All amounts are greatly appreciated!

Please write the amount on each gift card with pen or marker. Thank you for your generosity!

*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? - 1 John 3:17*