

Sunday, December 28, 2025
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: "Fulfill" 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" *

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

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*

About Today's Service

This service of Lessons and Carols is intended for use on the Sunday closest to Name of Jesus (January 1). It can also be adapted for other times during the Christmas season. The service takes its theme from the angel's message to the shepherds in the Gospel of Luke (2:10-11), focusing on the ways God comes to us in Jesus as Savior (first set of lessons), Christ (second set of lessons), and Lord (third set of lessons).

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!**



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$22,246.22** for the week of **December 21st!**

Poinsettias for the Christmas Season are provided by many members, listed on a poster on the back counter. Thank you!

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

Reminder: there will be **NO SERVICE on Wednesday, December 31st**. We will return to our usual Wednesday schedule of one 7pm service on Wednesday, January 7th.

Our **2026 Flower Chart is up!** Sign up to sponsor altar flowers (cost is usually around \$60) 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.

We are currently seeing if there is **any interest in a ski trip the weekend of Presidents' Day (February 16)**. If you are interested, **please let Kenny know!** More details available in mid to late December.

Ruth Circle is beginning a new Bible Study on Thursday, January 8th at 7pm. We will be reading the book “Messy Spirituality” by Michael Yaconelli. He states: “Open your eyes to the deep spirituality of being loved, shortcomings and all, by the God who meets you and transforms you in the midst of a messy and unpredictable life.” Join us for our introductory meeting to find out more!

Please join us **on Thursday, January 15th for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, II!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at Faith Lutheran, will start with a light dinner at 5pm, and then study from 5:45pm-8pm.** A free-will offering will be taken if you feel moved to help supplement the speaker fee. Look out for other Scripture Circle opportunities coming soon!

Are you **stressed out about our divisive political climate**, yet unsure of how to respond? Join for conversation and support as we build connections and community on **Sunday, January 25th at 5:15pm at Lucky's 13 (915 South 3rd St., Bismarck).** Questions? Reach out to Pastor Sylvia.

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Ushers: Volunteers Needed, Communion Assistants: Sue Anderson, Todd Erickson, Volunteers Needed, Reader: Volunteer Needed

11:00 - Volunteers Needed

CALENDAR

Monday, December 29

11:30 Funeral for John Olson

7:00 AA

Tuesday, December 30

9:00 Quilting

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

No Church School

No Worship

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

Friday, January 2

8:00 NA

Saturday, January 3

Sunday, January 4

No Church School

8:30 Worship

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus

DECEMBER: GAS AND GROCERY GIFT CARDS

For the month of December, we are asking for donations of gas and grocery gift cards. 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

