

Sunday, January 4, 2026
Epiphany
What Do You Fear? *Fear Doesn't Stop Us*



King Tingz
by Nicolette Faison
*30"x40" Acrylic, paper, markers,
synthetic hair on canvas,
inspired by Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18*

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 275 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" *

GREETING

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

HYMN OF PRAISE (Tune: ELW 301 "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky") *

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.

READING: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Tune: ELW 301 "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky") *

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 915 "When a Star is Shining" *

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & RECEIVING OF STAR WORDS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING MOMENT & SONG: ELW 302 "As With Gladness Men of Old" st. 3

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS:

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

ELW 815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 301 "Bright and Glorious is the Sky" sts. 1-5 *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

Reading: *Ephesians 3:1-12*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:1-18*

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and

he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

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

ARTIST STATEMENTS

During this Advent and Christmas season, we will have art works centered around the texts we are reading from the theme "What Do Your Fear?" from Sanctified Art. Below is a reflection on the artworks found on the front of the bulletin from the artists that created the piece.

King Tingz by Nicolette Faison

30"x40" Acrylic, paper, markers, synthetic hair on canvas, inspired by Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

If there is one thing I can't stand, it is when people disregard the spiritual use of herbs, metals, and the stars. For years, there has been a nasty practice of shaming indigenous practices, such as the usage of sage, when high church settings actively use incense in worship. We have come to a tension where anything that does not look like a particular type of Christian practice is perceived as pagan or satanic. For years, I have been reminding people that Jesus was gifted gold, frankincense, and myrrh by people who followed the stars to find him. That is the heart of my piece, *King Tingz*. I wanted to emphasize the sky and the importance of the stars, a reminder that this was essential to their witness. I wanted to bless each king with a different gift which is found in different places of their attire.

Of the magi, the one bowing is marked with the flower of frankincense on their robe. On their left shoulder is a map of modern Persia, reminding us of their journey back home having to take a new route because they defied the request of Herod. They are crowned with cornrows and covered with more greenery because

of their position to the ground. While we celebrate the stars, I wanted there to be some grounding to the earth. As Jesus is both divine and human, he holds space in both worlds.

The king to the right has soft myrrh flowers on her elbow and collar. Her outer arm is holding an infant, not Jesus, while her sleeve holds the Palestinian flag with the Arabic word *Nakba*,¹¹ reminding us of the genocide of 1947. She is weeping for the children that Herod commits to murdering because of their defiance. She holds a child in the palm of her hand with deep lament. Her golden crown is surrounded by a blue bandana, a quiet nod to Chola culture found on the West Coast, as Latino Christians have always emphasized the importance of *los reyes*.¹²

The one to the left is dripped in a starry durag and plated in gold. He has a subtle gold bottom grill and his face is celebrated in a gold pattern. He looks up to the sky, more concerned about navigation, as he is the guiding force for the three of them. I gave this king a durag after some research on Persian magi showed me variations of headwear or turbans that emulated that of a durag.

Above all, if there is something I have learned from living in a Hispanic community and attending a Spanish-speaking church, it is that BIPOC¹³ communities do not play about *los reyes*. I wanted aspects of my culture and other American subcultures to be able to see bits and pieces of themselves in this art. But to also see our connection to the stars and the earth alike. I urge this to be a reminder that even if your church does not celebrate herbs, crystals, metals, and the stars, that does not mean they are not Christian practices nor that they are satanic.

11 Meaning “the catastrophe,” this refers to the events of the 1948 Palestine war in which Palestinian Arabs were ethnically cleansed and displaced from their homes. These events continue to shape the ongoing Israeli-Palestine conflict.

12 Meaning “the kings.”

13 This is an acronym for “Black, Indigenous, People of Color.”



CHURCH Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$21,663.50** for the week of **December 28th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Heather Schmidt, in memory of Jan Hugh. **Thank you!**

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.

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 on February 12 and March 12 (location details coming soon)!

The next **Men of Faith meeting** will be on **15 Jan 2026 at 9AM** and will feature Ben Kubischta doing a presentation on Building the Interstate through the Badlands

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am** in the East Room! **For the month of January, we will be meeting on the 11th and 25th.**

This year, we will be **mailing giving statements in mid-January!** You can also access a record of your donations in your ICON online portal.

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 **Sunday, January 25th at 5:15pm at Lucky's 13 (915 South 3rd St., Bismarck).** Questions? Reach out to Pastor Sylvia.

Message: Bishop Craig Schweitzer

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team B: Karen Michalka, Joe Michalka, Jim Isaak, Connie Isaak, Dave Anderson, Sue Anderson, Jason Dockter, Brenda Dockter, Cheri Foy

11:00 - Team 4: Andy Steiner, Amy Steiner, Hadley Steiner, Collins Steiner, Lincoln Steiner, Ann Schlafman, Kayla Mahowald, Lisa Bennett

CALENDAR

Monday, January 5

7:00 AA

Tuesday, January 6

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, January 7

10:00 Bible Study

5:30 Handbells

5:30 BLAST Meal

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

Thursday, January 8

11:00 Gene Severson Funeral

7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, January 9

8:00 NA

Saturday, January 10

February Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, January 11

8:30 Worship

9:45 5th Grade P/S

9:45 Church School

10:00 Choir Practice

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



JANUARY: STEPPING STONES MINISTRIES

Stepping Stones Ministries provides a safe and healing environment for individuals experiencing homelessness who need to recover from illness or injury. We are looking to support their mission with donations of toilet paper, tissues, and Lysol spray. Thank you for your generosity!

"... when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" - Matthew 25:39-40