Sunday, November 29, 2026

The First Sunday of Advent

Keep Awake:



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Faith Lutheran Church

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

MINISTERS **Every Member**
SENIOR PASTOR **Derek Harkins**

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
CALL TO WORSHIP
GATHERING HYMN: ELW 438 "My Lord, What a Morning" *
LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH
SONG: ELW 240 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" v. 1
CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS
PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READING & GOSPEL READING: see next page
CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON
HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 242 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"
APOSTLES' CREED
SHARING OF THE PEACE
PRAYERS
OFFERING MOMENT

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

HOLY COMMUNION
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE LORD'S PRAYER
INVITATION TO COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMNS:
ELW 487 "What Feast of Love" *
ELW 257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vv 1-4 *
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

BLESSING
SENDING HYMN: ELW 654 "The Church's One Foundation" *
DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Gospel Reading: *Mark 13:24-37*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

'Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come,

in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

BRINGING IT HOME

Use this section, consisting of various elements from the "Keep Awake" Theme to reflect on todays' passage.

Objective Summary

- Remember Jesus' invitation to keep awake and watch for signs of God's saving presence.
- Understand that harmful powers and unjust systems do not have the final word.
- Recognize signs of healing, justice, compassion, and belonging in everyday life.
- Distinguish between what diminishes life and what helps life flourish.
- Reflect on what communities need in order to experience greater healing, justice, and belonging.
- Express and embody hope by imagining what becomes possible when God's healing, restoration, and love are given room to grow.

Theological Summary

The Season of Advent begins with both hope and release. Jesus speaks not about a world ending but a world changing. As Peter, James, John, and Andrew ask how they will recognize what is coming, Jesus points them toward attentiveness, rather than certainty. The systems, values, and structures that diminish life will not last forever. God's saving work is already drawing near.

In Mark's Gospel, salvation is not reduced to an escape from a troubled world. Jesus assures his followers that even in the midst of wars, disasters, uncertainty, and suffering, God's kin(g)dom is approaching and God is present with us. We can recognize salvation whenever healing, justice, liberation, compassion, and

restoration take root where fear and oppression once held power.

Before we learn how to welcome Christ's coming, we learn to say goodbye to what harms God's beloved creation. We wait actively by participating in God's saving work—serving others, practicing compassion, resisting injustice, and helping prepare the way for a more just and loving world. Salvation, then, is something we learn to recognize, breaking into the present now and not something we simply hope for in the future.

What New Knowledge Should Emerge?

Participants learn that salvation can be recognized even during times of uncertainty and change. Through Jesus' teaching in Mark 13, they discover that harmful powers and life-diminishing systems are not permanent. They learn God's salvation is remembered in scripture, experienced today through healing, justice, compassion, and belonging, and anticipated in God's flourishing future. Participants also discover Advent waiting is active and that they can participate in God's saving work by helping nurture what brings life.

CHURCH *Announcements*

Thank you for your offering of **$11,904.88** for the week of **November 22nd!**

Make sure to join us on **Sunday, December 13th at 9:45am for our Congregational Meeting.** Come hear about and vote on the 2027 budget, new Executive Committee members and Compass Group chairs, and hear about our plans for the future. Hope to see you there!

The Interfaith Alliance of North Dakota, in partnership with Palm Sunday Path, is offering a **Voicing Your Values** workshop series from **October to December on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (1143 N. 26th St).** Designed to help you effectively share your values with friends, family, and policymakers, you can attend any or all sessions. Upcoming classes include **December 17** on **Testifying at the ND State Legislature** (in person or online) led by Rudie Martinson.

Message: Wayne Granfor
Presiding Minister: Pastor Sharon Korsmo
Assisting Minister: Mercy Carkuff (8:30am) Lisa Bennett (11am)
Music: Judy Kubischta

Worship Assistants:
8:30 - Team C: Ron Schneider, Mary Schneider, GT Solseth, Erica Solseth, Brendan Solseth, Allen Pedersen, Avis Pedersen, Deb Bensen, and Orlin Bensen
11:00 - Team 6: Matthew Nygard, Dina Nygard, Micah Nygard, Troy Olson, Roberta Modin, Alisha Sabot, Willow Hain, Casey Nyhus, Evelyn Rauser, Lillian Rauser

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CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS
At Faith Lutheran

Altar Guild will be **selling Christmas Poinsettias** in honor or memory of loved ones, or just because, for the Christmas season! Sign-ups will be available on **Sunday, November 29th, Wednesday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 6th, before and between services,** or you can call the office at (701) 223-2236. Poinsettias will be **$15 each** and will decorate the sanctuary through the Christmas season.

The **Faith Lutheran Crafters have ornaments for sale** in honor or memory of loved ones again this year! These ornaments will be available **for purchase at $5 each between services on 29th and December 6th.** You can also call the church office to reserve them. The ornaments will hang on the church tree during the Christmas season and will be available for pick-up as a keepsake starting in January. The proceeds from the sale will be given to the "Sunshine Fund".

Join us on **Wednesdays in Advent, starting December 2nd, for a Soup Lunch at 11:15am, and 12:05pm Midweek Worship Service**, along with our usual 7pm Worship Service. Hope to see you there!

Please join us for the **Men's Christmas Supper on Thursday, December 3rd at 6pm.** The Meal consists of traditional ham, potatoes, green beans, and bars, with carol singing and a freewill offering going towards the upcoming 2027 Youth Gathering. If anyone requires transportation, please contact the church with your name and address and arrangements will be made. **Sign ups available to bring bars!**

Join us on **Saturday, December 12th at 9am for our Annual Cookie Walk!** Please consider baking your specialties to sell at this event! **The sign-up sheet for workers will be in the gathering area.**

Make sure to join us on **Thursday, December 24th at 3pm, 5pm, and 11pm for our Christmas Eve services, and Friday, December 25th at 10am for our Christmas Day service!** Be on the lookout for Worship Assistant sign-ups coming soon!

CALENDAR

Monday, November 30
4:30 Altar Guild
7:00 AA

Tuesday, December 1
9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
6:00 Stewardship
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, December 2
10:00 Bible Study
11:15 Advent Soup Lunch
12:05 Worship
5:30 BLAST Meal
5:30 Handbells
6:00 Church School & Confirmation
7:00 Worship

Thursday, December 3
9:00 Esther Circle
6:00 Men of Faith Christmas Dinner

Friday, December 4
8:00 NA

Saturday, December 5

Sunday, December 6
8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship
2:00 A Church Basement Ladies Christmas
4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



NOVEMBER: MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS

Ministry on the Margins needs non-perishable food like peanut butter, canned soups, ramen, canned fruits, canned vegetables, and snack items. They also need hand warmers, feet warmers, winter hats, winter gloves, diapers, small-sized personal care items like toothbrushes, deodorant, laundry soap, and dish soap. Next time you're out, grab a few extra items to help local families stay stocked and warm through the upcoming winter months. Thank you for your generosity!

"The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord."
— 1 Chronicles 29:9