

Epiphany

January 4, 2026 – 9:30am

GATHERING

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – “Light of the Stable,” arr. Kingsmore

Sharing of Christ’s Peace

Call to Worship – “Sing, Sing, Sing,” by Chris Tomlin

**We will sing, sing, sing and make music with the heavens.
We will sing, sing, sing, grateful that You hear us
When we shout Your praise, lift high the name of Jesus. Repeat**

**What's not to love about You? Heaven and Earth adore You.
Kings and kingdoms bow down. Son of God, You are the One,
You are the One we're living for.**

**You are the One that frees us. You are the light that leads us,
Like a fire burning, Son of God, You are the One,
You are the One we're living for.**

**We will sing, sing, sing and make music with the heavens.
We will sing, sing, sing, grateful that You hear us
When we shout Your praise, lift high the name of Jesus. Repeat**

Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise – “Angels/Glory to God,” by Phil Wickham

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains;
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest forever.
For all He has done, His unfailing love,
Glory to God in the highest, forever.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest forever.
For all He has done, His unfailing love,
Glory to God in the highest, forever.**

**Gloria, gloria, Glory to God in the highest!
Gloria, gloria, Glory to God in the highest!**

Prayer

Children's Sermon

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: Carol Kilver

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“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.””

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

R: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

**Gospel Reading: John 1:35-41*

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Song – “Angels/Glory to God,” by Phil Wickham

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest forever.

For all He has done, His unfailing love,

Glory to God in the highest, forever.

Glory to God, glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest forever.

For all He has done, His unfailing love,

Glory to God in the highest, forever.

Gloria, gloria, Glory to God in the highest!

Gloria, gloria, Glory to God in the highest!

Sermon: “Follow the Star”

Song of the Day – “Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 798

1. **Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**
2. **Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?**
3. **Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**
4. **Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“Light of the World,” by Lauren Dalgle
Sung by Marilyn Dichsen

—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God through the use of our time, talents, and finances—

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory: “What Child is This,” verse 3 ELW 296

- 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**

Communion Songs

**“Behold the Lamb,” by Getty
Kelly Hartz, solo**

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain” ELW 290

***Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light. *Refrain***
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain***
- 3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

SENDING

**Post Communion Blessing*

**Prayer and Benediction*

**Sending Song – “Go Light Your World”*

- 1. There is a candle in ev’ry soul; some brightly burning, some dark and cold.
There is a Spirit who brings a fire, ignites a candle and makes his home.**

*Refrain: So, carry your candle, run to the darkness,
seek out the hopeless, confused and torn.
Hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your candle and go light our world.
Take your candle and go light your world.*

**Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to light his own candle some other way.
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to,
still holds a candle without a flame.**

*Refrain: So, carry your candle, run to the darkness,
seek out the lonely, the tired and worn.
Hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your candle and go light our world.
Take your candle and go light your world.*

**We are a fam'ly whose hearts are blazing,
so let's raise our candles and light the sky,
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus: make us a beacon in darkest time.**

*Refrain: So, carry your candle, run to the darkness,
seek out the helpless, deceived and poor.
Hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your candle and go light your world. .
Carry your candle, run to the darkness, seek out the hopeless, confused and torn.
Hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your candle and go light your world.
Take your candle and go light your world.*

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The poinsettias were donated by members and friends of Faith

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin
Greeter: Lynette Hamilton
Reader: Carol Kilver
Usher: Pat Glyshaw
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Pianist: Jean Welch
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen
Financial Assistants: Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw
Coffee Host: Martha Krohe



Singers:

Maddie Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker
			Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 4, 9:30am: Contemporary Worship
11:00am: Traditional Worship

Wednesday, January 7, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Sunday, January 11, 9:30am: Worship

Tuesday, January 13, 5:15pm: Worship Core Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

During January, Faith's Little Flock will explore stories from the season of Epiphany, when we hear how Jesus is revealed to the world. Through storytelling, simple conversations, music, and hands-on activities, our children will learn that Jesus invites us to come and see, cares deeply about people, calls us to honor God, and loves us beyond measure. As we follow these gospel stories together, children will be reminded that they are welcome in God's family and that God's love shines in both joyful moments and quiet questions.

We are always grateful for our wonderful adult and “big kid” helpers. If you feel called to help with Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

First Sunday Schedule January 4

We continue to offer two worship services on the first Sunday of each month. Contemporary at 9:30am and Traditional at 11:00am.

Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany

As we near the 12th day of Christmas, we join the three Magi in celebrating Jesus as a light to all nations. Each of our two services will be filled with light, and we are sent out to shine the Light of the World to others.

Contribution Envelopes for 2026 are available in the gathering area to start using in January. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please talk to Kris Roth, Barb Davenport, or Pam Devlin.

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2025, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 11**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 25, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 18.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **starting on Wednesday, January 7 at 10:00am in the Faith Library** (this new group will take the place of the Discipleship Group). We will gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We'll be utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. People should start reading January 1 and read assigned daily readings from The Bible Recap so that we can discuss what we read.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Post-Service Discussions after Worship resume in January

Next Sunday, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Doorbell Dinners

Our next time to deliver is **January 12-16**. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

Bible Boot Camp & Confirmation

Stay tuned for a schedule for 2026!

Christmas Cheer

Stay tuned for a new date for the Christmas Cheer event that needed to be cancelled at the end of December!

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$9.00** regular & decaf; **\$3.00** tea). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Pillars Giving Tree

Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry. The Giving Tree in the gathering area is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box.

Your generosity will bring joy and hope to these precious children, reminding them that they are loved and valued. Thank you for helping make this Christmas a special one for those in need. For questions or more details, please contact Melissa Street, Kevin Krohe, or Patty Nelson. Thank you for being a blessing this holiday season!

Prayer and Meditation

Prayer and meditation are ways that we invite God into our lives and into those for whom we pray. The health challenges facing Marilyn Dichsen have focused our congregation's attention on the importance of prayers for healing cancer in a gifted young woman. Marilyn's challenges have also brought to our attention all who are struggling with physical and mental health issues. Faith members are encouraged to pray for all who are in need wherever you might find yourself. The church sanctuary is open during regular church office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-1:00) for members to stop by and spend quiet time praying for Marilyn, her family, and all those who are in need of prayer. A prayer book is available at the back of the sanctuary by the tech station, along with the names of those who have been included in worship prayers and our prayer chain. Please sign your name and record your prayers or words of encouragement, if you so desire. The hope is that the time for prayer and meditation will be incorporated into our lives and the life of our congregation as a continuing ministry.