

# Praying

**MORE WORKERS** Pray ... earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few ... (Luke 10:2 ESV)

**PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS** As the Body of Christ gathers on the eve of Christ's birth, let's pray for churches under threat. Pastor Fadhlán's church was shuttered in Indonesia after the government unjustly denied him a building permit, yet the congregants continued to meet for worship. Praise God for their unshakeable faith.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

- Our president, governor, federal and state representatives, mayor, city and county representatives
- Firefighters and Emergency Medical Responders

## HEALING

Those involved with the Israel & Russia-Ukraine Conflict, Juniper Power, Bryan Fevold, Jennie Stutsman & Hugo Sanchez (Angela's friends), Chris Schaffer (Rodney's friend), Rachel Meuchel, Danette Odenbach Welsh (Marlene's daughter), Brandon Kindred, Cole Houska (Jesse's nephew's son), Matt & Christina Smith family, Pat Rusk (Barb's friend), Harold Dragseth, Chris Beard (Bonny's niece), Christy Hoffman (Lindsay's sister), Cattleya

## FAMILY

Chad, Chelsey, Nicholas, Noah & Nathanael Ellis, Sheila Follman, Fred & Marlene Fridley

## SISTER CONGREGATIONS

Mount Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church- Pastor Christopher Priestaf, McAlisterville, Pennsylvania



**Faculty & Staff** Rev. Clint Knutson, Professor of Systematic Theology  
**Students** Seth Vander Ley (Arianna & Lincoln)



Ben and Sara Hosch, along with their 5 kids, have been in Taiwan since fall of 2018. In 2021 they moved to Taichang City to work alongside Taichang Victory Church. They plan to do ministry with students at a nearby university as well as outreach to grassroots families in their community.



Carl and Emily are church planting in Lincoln, ND, a community next door to Bismarck. It is one of the fastest growing communities in the state, made up largely of young families who need to hear the good news of salvation in Jesus. A successful children's ministry has been the major focus. Pray that the Lord will add dedicated members to the launch team as they prepare to begin having weekly worship services in the near future and that he will provide resources to embark on a building program.



# Growing & Serving



## MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship Service

## NO CLASSES THIS WEEK

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:30 AM Morning Prayer  
 10:00 AM Worship Service

## BIRTHDAYS

Dec 25	Sophia Marmon	Dec 26	Marcia Hovet
Dec 30	TJ Downare	Jan 1	Kent Pedersen
Jan 2	Wesley Kindel	Jan 3	Justin Smith
Jan 3	Duane Tretter	Jan 8	Odin Jellesed
Jan 10	Rylee Kirkland	Jan 11	Starla Marmon
Jan 13	Barb Quale	Jan 15	Timothy Kindel
Jan 18	Kelli Walvatne	Jan 19	Meghan Jellesed
Jan 24	Jamie Jellesed	Jan 25	Danielle Klamm
Jan 27	Mabel Muri	Jan 29	Vernon Muri

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14 Annual Meeting  
 January 20 Bedrock Youth Group Ice Games & Fishing



*Welcome!*

## The Fourth Sunday in Advent • December 24, 2023

We're glad you're here to worship with us. If you're visiting with us today, we hope you'll stick around for a bit after the service. We'd love to get acquainted with you. If you'd like us to contact you, please scan our QR code on the back of the bulletin, or fill out a visitor card at our Welcome Center.

**BIBLE CENTERED** Through God's saving Word we have been adopted into God's Family and share in the saving work of Jesus Christ.

**FAMILY FOCUSED** As brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, we serve each other and worship, learn and work together.

**MISSION DRIVEN** We are engaged in Jesus' disciple-making mission - winning souls for Christ by the preaching of the Word and personal witnessing, and strengthening believers



# Order of Worship

<b>Gathering Song *</b>	<b>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</b>
Welcome	
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Psalm 89:1-5
Prayer	
<b>Songs of Praise</b>	<b>Advent Hymn</b>
	<b>Be Thou My Vision</b>
Old Testament Reading	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Epistle Reading	Romans 16:25-27
Children's Christmas Chorale	
Tithes & Offerings	
<b>Hymn</b>	<b>Angels From the Realms of Glory</b>
Gospel Reading	Luke 1:26-28
Sermon	God With Us Isaiah 7:10-14
<b>Hymn</b>	<b>Jesus Thank You</b>
<b>Holy Communion</b>	
<b>The Nicene Creed</b>	
Prayers of the Church	
<b>Benediction</b>	
<b>Doxology</b>	

\* If you are able, please stand for elements of the service noted in bold.

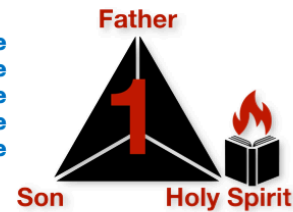


## HOME TALK

Making Disciples in the Middle of Everyday Life Mt 28:20a

### Talking about The Third Article of the Creed Sanctification

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



#### What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, My Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith, just as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith, in which Christian church he daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant everlasting life to me and all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true.

#### 236 What is preservation?

Preservation is that gracious work of the Holy Spirit by which He, through the Word of God and the Lord's Supper, feeds and strengthens my spiritual life, and gives me instruction, guidance, correction and comfort, keeping me in God's grace.

**Philippians 1:4,6** "...always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy... And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

**1 Peter 2:24-25** "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

Scriptures are noted in the English Standard



### The Lord's Supper

#### Who may participate?

This sacrament is meant for believers in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). It is the way that God unites His church, sustains the church and grows faith, hope and love as the church participates in this shared grace together. Communion is God's way of delivering assurance of the forgiveness of sins to the flock.

#### What is received?

Christ gives to the communicants His body and blood - in, with, and under the bread and wine. He declares the forgiveness of sin to all believers, and strengthens their faith.

#### I feel I'm unworthy to receive

Being unworthy of Jesus' body and blood is the primary reason to receive the forgiveness of sins promised in communion. But it is possible to receive communion with an unworthy attitude. Therefore, self-examination is called for (1 Corinthians 11:28, 31).

#### I do well to ask myself:

**1. Do I believe Jesus' promises?** "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).

**2. Do I recognize Jesus' presence?** "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11:27, 29).

**3. Am I reconciled with my fellow believers?** If we do not value reconciliation with others, we put ourselves in a place where we are distancing ourselves from God's will for us. We are living in rebellion.

**4. Do I recognize my sinfulness and that it will be the death of me?** (1 John 1:5-10)

**5. Is my hope in Jesus alone as the one who can give me eternal life?**

We invite those who confess Jesus as their Savior from sin and death to receive the gift of forgiveness of sins offered and gifted in this sacrament.

#### A Note for Parents

Because communion requires time for self-examination, we do not encourage communion for children until they are old enough to be taught and old enough for self-examination. Through teaching they will appreciate its significance. Catechism Classes provide an opportunity to learn about the Lord's Supper. These classes are taught with the use of Luther's Small Catechism ... If you would like a copy of the Small Catechism for personal instruction or to instruct your children please contact the Pastor or the church office.

- adapted from We Believe, Rev. Tim Yazaboe, (Faith and Fellowship Press, 2009)

### Living Faith CLBA

805 14th Street SW  
Watford City, ND 58854  
P.O. Box 993 • 701-842-4617  
livingfaithnd.org

Living Faith is a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America

#### STAFF

##### Pastor

Roger Olson  
rogerolson@livingfaithnd.org  
701-978-1147

##### Director of Youth & Young Adults

Seth Vander Ley  
youth@livingfaithnd.org

##### Church Administrator

Shannon Warren  
office@livingfaithnd.org

#### OFFICERS

Justin Smith, chair  
Jena Jenks, secretary  
Brett Wisness, treasurer

#### ALTAR GUILD

Chelsey Ellis Linda Bundy  
Susan Sampsel Kathy Tretter

#### GREETING

Myrna Nelson

#### MUSIC MINISTRY

Amanda Kindel Carol Olson  
Arianna Vander Ley

#### USHERING

Jesse Johnson

#### TECHNOLOGY

Rodney Sampsel - audio  
Pieter Buckle - livestream  
Emily Kindel - projection

#### ELDERS

Justin Smith, chair  
Myron Hovet Seth Vander Ley

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kevin Warren, chair  
Chelsey Ellis Tanya Heiser

#### FINANCE & PROPERTY

Lynn Heiser, chair  
Mike Jenks Levi Kono

#### HOSPITALITY & FELLOWSHIP

Julie Dragseth, chair  
Myrna Nelson Marcia Hovet

#### MISSION PARTNERSHIP

Angela Smith, chair  
Linda Bundy Savannah Warren



