



A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE WITH A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Baptism of Our Lord, January 11, 2026**

**Rev. Bill Kees, presiding**

**Devlin Gillespie, sermon**

PRELUDE

Greensleeves | James Biery

WELCOME

Rev. Bill Kees

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 532 | Gather Us In | v. 1, 3-4

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,

van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

## GREETING

Rev. Bill Kees

## CONFESSON & FORGIVENESS

Rev. Bill Kees

**CALL)** Mighty God, lover of justice,

**RESP)** you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Bill Kees

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Josh Edwards

## CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

ELW 290 | Go, Tell It on the Mountain | v. 1

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

Sherri Kimmelshue

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup> I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

CALL) Word of God, word of life.

RESP) Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 29 | Michel Guimont

Response) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW s. 6, p. 171a



Al - le - lu - ia.      Lord, to whom      shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life.      Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Devlin Gillespie

CALL) The holy gospel according to Matthew.

RESP) Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

CALL) The gospel of the Lord.

RESP) Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

?

Devlin Gillespie

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 779 | Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., stns. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Steve Hall

**Sung Response) O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Bill Kees

**CALL)** The peace of Christ be with you all.

**RESP)** **And also with you.**

WELCOMING OF VISITORS

Rev. Bill Kees

OFFERING

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* | Arr. Chris Rice

*If parents would like their children in communion, please get them during this time.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

**CALL)** The Lord be with you.

**RESP)** **And also with you.**

**CALL)** Lift up your hearts.

**RESP)** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**CALL)** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**RESP)** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE 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.**

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 10, p. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION SONGS

ACS 955 | Come to the Water of Life

Come As You Are | David Crowder Band



If you would like one-on-one, personal prayer at this time, we invite you to pray with today's Healing Minister on the north side of the room/wall facing East 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Steve Hall

## GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Rev. Bill Kees

## SENDING OF DEVLIN GILLESPIE

Rev. Bill Kees

## SENDING SONG

ELW 538 | The Lord Now Sends Us Forth



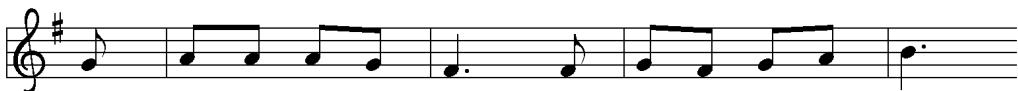
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - taes - tá  
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,



pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.



Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain



un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad,  
 that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.  
 Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

BLESSING

Rev. Bill Kees

DISMISSAL

Steve Hall

CALL) Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

RESP) Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Dix | Craig Phillips

### Giving at Faith Lutheran



You can use this QR code by opening the camera on your phone and focusing on the image. A prompt from "tithe.ly" will pop up. Click it and you will be sent to our giving page. You can also access our giving page at [ChioFaithLutheran.org/Give](http://ChioFaithLutheran.org/Give). Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate during service or dropped off at the office. You may donate to our General Fund which supports our budget (staff salaries, operating costs, repairs and maintenance) or you may give to any designated fund like the capital campaign, visiting musicians, or youth and children.

## **MINISTERS: THE PEOPLE OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Presiding Minister: Rev. Bill Kees

Sermon: Devlin Gillespie

Assisting Minister: Steve Hall

On-Site Council Member: Dawn Stafford

On-Site Equipping Minister: Annette Jefferson

Communion: Dave Barnum, Gen Brink-Capriola, Elaine Lund, Dianna Snyder (shepherd), and Marge Troester

Communion Clean-up: Jon Stafford

Ushers: Suzie Ernest and Joan Palmer

Lector: Sherri Kimmelshue

Welcome Table: Mary Cannon and Vickie James

Coffee Hour: Char Miller and John Miller

A/V Desk: Malinda Ard, Adeline Havens, and Kate Ory

Healing Minister: Penny Melvin

Offering Counters: Lori Briggs-Oman and Gayle Palys

Parking Lot: Bob Bay, Mike Kruschke, Tom Melvin, and Suzanne Steel

Musicians: FLC Contemporary Team

Cantor: Luke Nicolay



## ***Introducing Webster Moore, our new Band Leader for Sundays @ 5***

We are pleased to welcome Webster Moore as the new Band Leader for Sundays @5pm! Webster is a pianist/organist/singer/songwriter who grew up right here in Chico and attended Inspire School of Arts & Sciences, which he credits for sparking his passion for music. Webster is part of the band, *Lo & Behold*, as well as being the musical director for Bethel AME Church on Sunday mornings. His first official Sunday as Band Leader at Faith's evening service will be January 18th. Come join us in welcoming him!

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sundays

- Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Dungeons & Dragons (5e) on 2nd Sundays of Month, 5:00 p.m. Room 6 (Kate Ory, Malinda Ard)
- Sundays @ 5 Service in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

### Mondays

- Inviting Silence at 7:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Time Out for Art in Room 6 from 1-4:00 p.m. (Caryl Quinones, Sherrill Heinz)
- Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting in Room 4 at 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesdays

- Quilters in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM to about 3:00 p.m. (Char Miller)
- Centering Prayer on Zoom from 4-5 p.m. (Bill Kees)
- Pastor's Bible Study on Zoom from 5-6 p.m. (Pr. Ben)

### Wednesdays

- Spanish Conversation Group on Zoom at 9am (Clark Colahan)
- Inviting Silence at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Handbell Practice in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)

### Thursdays

- Spiritual Seekers Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room (Mary Schweder)
- Afternoon Games at 1200 Park Ave. Clubhouse from 12 to 3:00 p.m. (Elise Gladu)
- Choir Practice in the Sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Gambler's Anonymous at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
- Contemporary Music Practice in the Sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Troop 12 in Room 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Chris Brown)

### Fridays

- Men's Breakfast at Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo at 8:00 a.m. (Howie Stensrud)
- Bulletin Folders in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. (Laurae Dunn)
- Food Bank, 1st & 3rd Fridays in the Parking Lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Lisa Roehling)

## The Greatest Gift Project for January: Safe Space



Safe Space provides emergency overnight shelter rotating through churches during the coldest months of the winter. They are a first-come, first-serve shelter but prioritize those with extreme vulnerability, putting them at too great a risk to sleep outside. The shelter is currently operational and is scheduled to run through March 1, with our church hosting from January 18-February 1. From now until January 31, we are collecting the following supplies which you can put in the manger at the altar at church on Sunday, or you can drop items off at the office:

### UPDATED LIST!!!

Heart Socks   Heart Women's Underwear   Heart Baby Wipes  
Heart Paper Towels   Heart Hand Warmers   Heart Coffee  
Heart Non-perishable, individually wrapped snacks

The Safe Space Winter Shelter will be on site at Faith Lutheran Church starting next Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, and will run through Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

For two weeks, the shelter will operate from the fellowship hall. The fellowship hall won't be available to use during that time, so please make sure you connect with the office if you're planning to use the facility, and Michael will help you find a space that fits your needs.

## **National Day of Racial Healing, Online, Tuesday, Jan 20 from 4-6 p.m. PST.**

Join us online or in-person at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Naperville, Ill. on Jan. 20, 2026 from 4-6 p.m. Pacific Standard time for a night of centering multiracial voices from across the ELCA as we observe the 2026 National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH). Presented by the ELCA in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, this free program will feature intentional storytelling through words and music and provide opportunities for deep listening, reflection and drawing closer together as fellow children of God. (***Please call the church office and we'll send you a registration link.***)

## **Youth Ministry**

We are thankful that our Children and Youth Ministry continues to grow! Each Sunday we welcome nearly 30 kids ages 2-12, and with that growth comes a need for more caring volunteers to help provide a safe, fun, and welcoming environment where kids can grow in their faith and learn about Jesus.

## **Marketing Team**

Faith Lutheran is launching a new Marketing Team, and we're looking for creative, dependable volunteers to share what God is doing in our church. Help create weekly announcement videos, take photos and short videos during morning and evening services, and promote upcoming events and ministries at Faith. This is a new opportunity that has the potential to make a big impact by helping build connection, community, and growth at Faith Lutheran. If you enjoy photography, video, social media, or creative storytelling, we'd love to have you join the team.

## ***Noisy change can lead to change for the good.***

Just one Sunday is left to collect change to purchase ELCA "Good Gifts" that make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities. A bottle will be present in the sanctuary where we can drop change with the intention of collecting as much as possible during that time. Our Sunday school children will help us decide what will be given and to whom, whether an individual, family, or community. Among the many possible gifts are: a flock of chicks; a goat or two; piglets; honeybees; water filters —and more. These gifts help sustain the lives of people and communities across the globe.

## Distractions destroy us; fear of the Lord frees us from distraction

God is both all-powerful and all-gentle. God's voice is strong enough to break cedars of Lebanon (Psalm 29:5) and yet a bruised reed he will not break (Isaiah 42:3).

Though God is perfect and all-powerful, God entrusts power into our imperfect hands.

Improper fear paralyses; proper fear focuses.

*What has been distracting you from what truly matters?*

*When has fear helped you focus on what truly matters?*

*When have you experienced God in something powerful? When have you experienced God in something gentle?*