Faith United Lutheran Church
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December Emissary



We are so thankful...

Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Brent Ashby for serving as our worship leader
Brent Ashby for teaching confirmation students
For December janitorial work this month: Katie Hoffman
Karen Habeck for decorating the fellowship room every month.
Lois Steenhoven for music leadership
December Ushers & Greeters, Readers, Communion servers
December Altar Guild: Lois Steenhoven

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 24, 2027 following worship.

The 2026 Annual Report will be available on the website: faithunitedlutheranelca.com on or after January 1st.

Click on Annual Report.

You can also email faithunitedlutheran@gmail.com to receive a copy via email.



Important Dates - Mark your calendars!

December 1 - Bible Study at Vangen 6:30 pm

December 16 - WELCA - 9:00 am - noon
December 16 - WOW Christmas Program 6:00 pm
December 16 - Youth Gathering 6:30 - 8:00 pm
January 24 - Annual Meeting following worship

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Gift Cards

If you would like a gift card for groceries or school supplies, please contact the Church at 605-267-2277 or contact Brenda Hoxeng

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We welcome articles from anyone who wishes to write one for the emissary. Articles are due to Brenda by the 21st of each month.



Vicar Brent's Message

Daniel 1:3-9
Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom… competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. The chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs….

So it begins - king Nebuchadnezzar's plan to make foreigners into good citizens of the empire, Babylonian style. In many ways this was an enlightened approach as compared to that of the Assyrian Empire, which Nebuchadnezzar had crushed with the assistance of the Medes. The Assyrians pretty much just piled the heads of their enemies up in mounds and those left alive, heads still attached, became life long slaves. Nebuchadnezzar for all his fierceness as a warrior-king had a better idea. Instead of simply destroying the nations he conquered, he planned to assimilate them into one great Babylonian culture. Surely when educated in the vast knowledge of Babylon (and it was very advanced in all kinds of science, technology and art) surely when properly instructed, these barbarian primitives would come to see the benefit of being Babylonian. It has been this strategy that has guided Western Civilization ever since. It is not and accident that it starts at this point in history. But, of course, we are still talking about the use of the compulsion of master over slave here. Daniel and his three famous friends were not free to say no, for in this school they would be required to dress Babylonian, use Babylonian names, speak Babylonian, read, think and dream Babylonian, drink and eat Babylonian and worship Babylonian as well. It only made sense in the Middle Eastern thought of the day. Babylon was most powerful and therefore it must be due to her superior gods. "Am I right?" We can hear king Nebuchadnezzar say.

As you might guess, the true and living God had other ideas. He would let this king know who the true God is and it would begin with four young men who had everything taken away from them, perhaps even including their manhood. Notice they are in the charge of the chief eunuch (a castrated male). For Daniel and his friends, nothing remained except their faith. Daniel decides, no doubt with a lot of prayer, to ask the boss for a meal exception so as not to eat Babylonian meat and drink dedicated first to idols. Vegetables and water will do, thank you. The chief eunuch is afraid of failing in his duty before a demanding monarch, but Daniel asks for a reasonable test period and the chief agrees. God had granted Daniel favor and it proved a success. Daniel and his friends could preserve something of their religion, something of their faith-filled devotion to God, in this exception. These men would devote themselves in the next few years to learning and wisdom. Daniel was gifted by God in the art of dream interpretation (considered very valuable among the Babylonians). And, when they went to be examined by the king himself, they outperformed all the other candidates for the service. They were chosen to minister in the king's presence, a very high and trusted position.

God was with these faithful men, even in what might be considered one of the worst periods of Hebrew history. Daniel would go on to outlive the Babylonian Empire itself, right up to the time of Cyrus the Great and the Persian conquest of the once great Babylonian nation. The Babylonian gods are now forgotten, minor footnotes in history. But the living God of the Hebrews is still worshiped by myriads of peoples, tribes, nations and languages. God is in control of history as we shall see in our further study. God is in control of our national and personal histories as well. Fear not and trust Him.

Blessings,
Vicar Brent

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION…

The studentsare continuing to collect hats, gloves,mittens, coats and socks to donate to the Contact Center.

WOW is on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 at Faith United. Children from age 3 to sixth grade are all welcome.

The Christmas program will be held on Wednesday, December 16th. After the program, there will be a chili supper with cinnamon rolls. All offerings will be donated to the Contact Center to purchase hats, gloves, mittens and socks for those in need.

There will be a full rehearsal for the program on Sunday, December 13th from 3:30 - 4:30 pm.

IF YOU NEED HELP

River City Domestic Violence Center 24 Hour Crisis Line	**(605) 665-1448**
Suicide and Crisis Hotline	**988**
Local Resources and Services Helpline	**211**

Faith United WOW Christmas Program and Party

WHERE: Faith United Lutheran Church
WHEN: December 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Performed and presented by the WOW students

T'was the Night Before Christmas



An evening program at the Church with food, games and fun following in the basement!



December 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Luke 2:11 *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*		1 **BibleStudy at Vangen 6:30 pm**	2 **WOW 6:30 - 7:30 pm**	3	4	5 **St. Paul Lutheran Church - Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner 4-7:30 pm**
6 **Worship with Communion at 10:30 am**	7	8	9 **WOW 6:30 - 7:30 pm**	10	11	12
13 **Worship at 10:30 am.** **WOW Rehearsal 3:30 - 4:30 pm**	14	15 **Bible Study at Vangen 6:30 pm**	16 **WELCA 9:00 am - noon** **WOW Christmas Program 6:00 pm** **Youth Gathering - Gayville Lutheran Church 6:30 - 8:00 pm**	17	18	19
20 **Worship with Communion at 10:30 am**	21 ***Emissary articles due***	22	23	24 **Christmas Eve Worship with Communion at 5:30 pm**	25 	26
27 **Worship at 10:30 am**	28	29	30	31		

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS

A reminder for those students who have completed their first semester of college to apply for the one-time $250 Faith United Celebration Scholarship!

Email faithunitedlutheran@gmail.com to get an application.

The WOW students are collecting socks, hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves for the homeless.

The congregation is invited to join our students with their project. There will be a box upstairs and in the basement to place all donated items. Donations will be delivered to the Yankton Contact Center.

There are so many people in need of winter clothes. Your participation is greatly appreciated.
Cash donations are also welcome.

St Paul Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

Saturday, December 5th
4 pm to 7:30 pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church

31903 475th Ave, Elk Point, SD
invites you to enjoy our Norwegian heritage with us.

Join us for a traditional holiday meal of lutefisk, meatballs, potatoes, lefse, and fruit soup. In case of inclement weather, the meal will be held Sunday, Dec. 6th.
Mange tak, many thanks, for your support!

Cost is $30 for adults; $10 for children 4-12;
Children 3 and under are free

Purchase tickets here:
https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/lutefisk-dinner--2026

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20 - Fourth Sunday in Advent: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 24 - Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 27 - First Sunday of Christmas: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Worship Schedule

December 6 Worship, Holy Communion
December 13 Worship
December 20 Worship, Holy Communion
December 24 Worship, Holy Communion
December 27 Worship

	Ushers / Greeters	Lay Readers
December 6	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
December 13	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
December 20	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
December 24	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
December 27	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer

	Acolyte	Communion Assistants
December 6	Need Volunteer	Anna Patterson
December 13	Need Volunteer	
December 20	Need Volunteer	Tara Bartekoske
December 24	Need Volunteer	David Hoxeng
December 27	Need Volunteer	

Alter Guild	Janitor	Bread Bakers/ Providers
Lois Steenhoven	Katie Hoffman	LoisSteenhoven

Work Group

Chair - Brad & Michelle Tronvold

Gloria Snoozy
Dave & Anna Patterson
Kari Nelson
Deanna Huether
Bill & Robin Huether
Jack & Dana Huether

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

If you or family/friends are in need of prayer and would like to be on our prayer chain please call:

Lois Steenhoven

Extended Care Facility:

Norma DeJong, Marcia Braeger

Each month we pray for a random list of members from our congregation, not because they are sick or having problems, but to lift them up to God, give thanks for them and pray for their well-being. We pray for our members: Tim, Cindy, Kassie, Isabella, McKenna & Liam Jensen; Trudie Jones; Amy, Emma, Charlie, Amanda & Graydon Logan; Travis, Paige, Riley & Gage Lowery.

Work Group for December

Military personnel and those serving stateside or overseas and their families:

Ryan Habeck, Jeffery Heier, Kyle Huether, Derrick Mehlhaf, Trevor Habeck, Brendan Oien, and Boyt Hoxeng.

We pray for our friends and family members with recent or chronic illnesses or who are recovering from surgery:
Terry Altena (Karen Habeck), Jonathon Green (Trudie Jones), Ron & Janet Jentsch (Karen Habeck), Dan Brown, Brian & Elena Resch, Sharon Crissey (Nancy Steffen), Raymond Habeck, Matt Sarringar, Annette Fuson, Brian Hoxeng, Cole Stevens (Judy Brock), Gary & Pat Lien, Carol Mickelson, Cianna Olson, Sharon Jolley, Deb Marlow (Ariel Pederson), Carol Sue Roozen, Carrie Heine (Kathleen Gorsett), Linda Nickles.

OUR MISSION:

To be a SOLDIER of the cross,
Serving **O**ur **L**ord **D**aily **I**n **E**very **R**espect



We would love having you worship with us!
Please come and hear our Vicar Brent Ashby.
Sundays 10:30 am
605-267-2277