

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nicodemus

Welcome to Worship

We are an intentionally inclusive community, proclaiming a warm welcome to people of every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, and ability into all aspects of our church life.

~ Faith Lutheran Church

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Coast Salish people, including the Duwamish People past and present. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.



WE ARE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Welcome to worship at Faith Lutheran Church. Everything you need to **follow the service** is in this bulletin.

Please take a moment to fill out the **information card** found in the pew rack. Place the card in the offering plate so we can be in touch with you.

Prayer requests to be offered during worship can be written on the prayer request card in the pew rack and passed toward the center aisle where it will be collected by an usher during the first hymn.

There are **coffee and treats** in the Library after the service. We would like to welcome you to continued fellowship. **Restrooms** are located on the far side of the Library or down the main stairs. Should an emergency occur an **AED unit** is located in the narthex on the wall by the main entrance. **Masks and sanitizer** are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary.

The **elevator** is located at the top of the stairs in the Narthex. Feel free to **explore** the building and ask questions of the pastors, ushers, or anyone you see!

We encourage you to introduce yourselves and hope you feel **comfortable** here.

Children are welcome and highly encouraged to be in worship. We understand that children have the need to move and make sound; which we find to be a joyful and important part of worship. **Blessing Bags** are found near both entrances of the sanctuary filled with activities for children. A **cry room** is available at the back of the sanctuary should you need a brief respite.

Faith Lutheran Church is a **lively, caring, and energetic** community.
We are so glad you are here!

Overview of Scripture

The encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus may be the beating heart of irony in John's gospel. Here, many of the themes introduced in the prologue resurface, Jesus gives his first "passion prediction," and the author sets up a dramatic contrast that will lead us into the story of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus will encounter shortly at Jacob's well next week. Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the dead of night, asking questions, wondering, and doubting. Nicodemus, a religious leader and teacher of the law, a public figure in his community, recognized something significant and noteworthy about Jesus and was willing to question his own belief and his own belonging. He entered in thoughtfully, without argument, but with questions, and was comfortable sitting in the questions. Jesus, too, was comfortable sitting with Nicodemus in the questions.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

A Morning Sunbeam

FLORENCE B. PRICE*

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.



OPENING HYMN 732

Borning Cry

WATERLIFE



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

As followers of Christ, we learn to love and live to serve.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

JOHN STAINER+

*God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world, through him, might be saved.*

~ John 3:16-17

CHILDREN'S SERMON

READING Psalm 139:13-18

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL John 3:1-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Word of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 323

God Loved the World

ROCKINGHAM OLD

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was - made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

PRAYERS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Adoration

FLORENCE B. PRICE*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

As we gather for communion, all are invited to come forward to the bottom step near the baptismal font. You will receive the bread (host) and the wine or grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available and the baked bread is gluten free. If you are communing from another location, we trust that Christ is present through the Holy Spirit in the bread and the wine/grape juice. Please note the importance of the words of institution and the invitation to communion, holding holy worshipful space within this sacrament.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Let us pray the prayer our Lord has taught us:

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.

COMMUNION INVITATION

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. Come, all is ready, all are welcome.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION *Prayer of the Children* KURT BESTOR, ARR. MARK HAYES*

*Can you hear the prayer of the children on bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room?
Empty eyes with no more tears to cry turning heavenward toward the light.
Crying, "Jesus, help me to see the morning light of one more day,
But if I should die before I wake, I pray my soul to take."*

*Can you feel the hearts of the children aching for home, for something of their very own?
Reaching hands with nothing to hold onto but hope for a better day, a better day.
Crying, "Jesus, help me to feel the love again in my own land,
But if unknown roads lead away from home, give me loving arms, away from harm."*

*Can you hear the voice of the children softly pleading for silence in their shattered world?
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate, blood of the innocent on their hands.
Crying, "Jesus, help me to feel the sun again upon my face.
For when darkness clears, I know you're near, bringing peace again."*

*Can you hear the prayer of the children?
Can you hear the prayer of your children?*

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever, Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - times
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and never live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor,
 and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, [☩] Son, and Holy Spirit,
Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

+++

***WORSHIP NOTES:** **Florence Price** was born in 1887, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Price's mother, a music teacher and real estate agent, supported her daughter's musical interests, leading eventually to studies in organ performance, piano pedagogy, and composition; Price graduated from the New England Conservatory in 1906.

A career as a composer, performer, teacher and administrator followed, in addition to Price's roles as wife and mother. She was active in the classical music community of Chicago's South Side; a member of the National Association of Negro Musicians, she was also a member of the Musicians Club of Women and the Chicago Club of Women Organists. Legendary vocalist Marian Anderson was a frequent collaborator with Florence Price, programming and recording the composer's art songs and concert spirituals.

Regarding this morning's communion music, ***Prayer of the Children***, composer **Kurt Bestor** has written the following: *Over the years, I've written many songs with melodies more memorable, lyrics more poetic, and harmonies richer. But none of my compositions has had the kind of reach and emotional effect of *Prayer of the Children*. Ironically, I never intended to publish the song at all. I wrote it out of frustration over the horrendous civil war and ethnic cleansing taking place in the former country of Yugoslavia.*

Having lived in this now war-torn country back in the late 1970's, I grew to love the people with whom I lived. It didn't matter to me their ethnic origin – Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian – they were all just happy, fun people to me, and I counted as friends people from each region. Of course, I was always aware of the bigotry and ethnic differences that bubbled just below the surface, but I always hoped that the peace this rich country enjoyed would continue indefinitely. Obviously that didn't happen.

When Yugoslavian President Josip Broz Tito died, different political factions jockeyed for position and the inevitable happened – civil war. Suddenly my friends were pitted against each other. Serbian brother wouldn't talk to Croatian sister-in-law. Bosnian mother disowned Serbian son-in-law and so it went. Meanwhile, all I could do was stay glued to the TV back in the US and sink deeper in a sense of hopelessness.

Finally, one night I began channeling these deep feelings into a wordless melody. Then little by little I added words....Can you hear....? Can you feel.....? I started with these feelings – sensations that the children struggling to live in this difficult time might be feeling. Serbian, Croatian, and Bosnian children all felt the same feelings of confusion and sadness and it was for them that I was writing this song.

The song has been recorded (at last count) by over 100 choirs and used for such special occasions as the annual 9/11 commemoration, a yearly memorial service for the Columbine High School tragedy, and a concert in memory of the Oklahoma City bombing. These philanthropic uses of my song are the most meaningful to me because it was out of a spirit of desperation and frustration that the song was born. The fact that the song is used to console others in similar circumstances is how the song should be used.

Perhaps this small offering of mine can be a catalyst for peaceful change in a very troubled world. I'm thankful every day for the still, small place where this song came from. I go there often and am always soothed.

For more on the composer and his music, see <https://kbestor.blogspot.com/> – Many thanks to choir member **John Hushagen** for discovering and recommending this beautiful music for our worship service!

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Preaching: Pastor Kevin Bebe
Presiding: Pastor Shannyn Fuerst
Music: David Buice, Chancel Choir
Reader: Jean Bergo
Ushers: Jean & John Bergo
Fellowship: Nancy & Jamie Estill
Altar Guild: Suzanne Phillips
Zoom Host: Kathy Brandstetter
Tech Operator: Rick Brandstetter

NEXT WEEK:

Psalm 42:1-3
John 4:1-42



Tea Time in the Office

Mondays 10:00-11:30a

You are invited to stop by for a cup of tea and to say hello to Pastor Shannyn and Emily on Mondays between 10:00-11:30a. Of course, you are welcome other times during the week as well. We will have coffee and teas available. Come and go as you'd like!
In Person or via Zoom

SCAN TO JOIN





Faith Lutheran Blood Drive

Monday, February 23 12-6pm

Spread the word! January is National Blood Donor Month. We're celebrating the amazing impact blood donors have on our local communities. Join us in raising awareness and encouraging others to donate blood.



Join us for the Faith Lutheran Church blood drive on Monday, February 23. Appointments are available between 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Scan QR code or click on the link in the weekly email.



Winter Shelter Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer to provide weekend meals for Lake City Partners Winter Shelter at Faith Lutheran Church. Scan QR code or click on the link in the weekly email.



God's Little Acre Donations

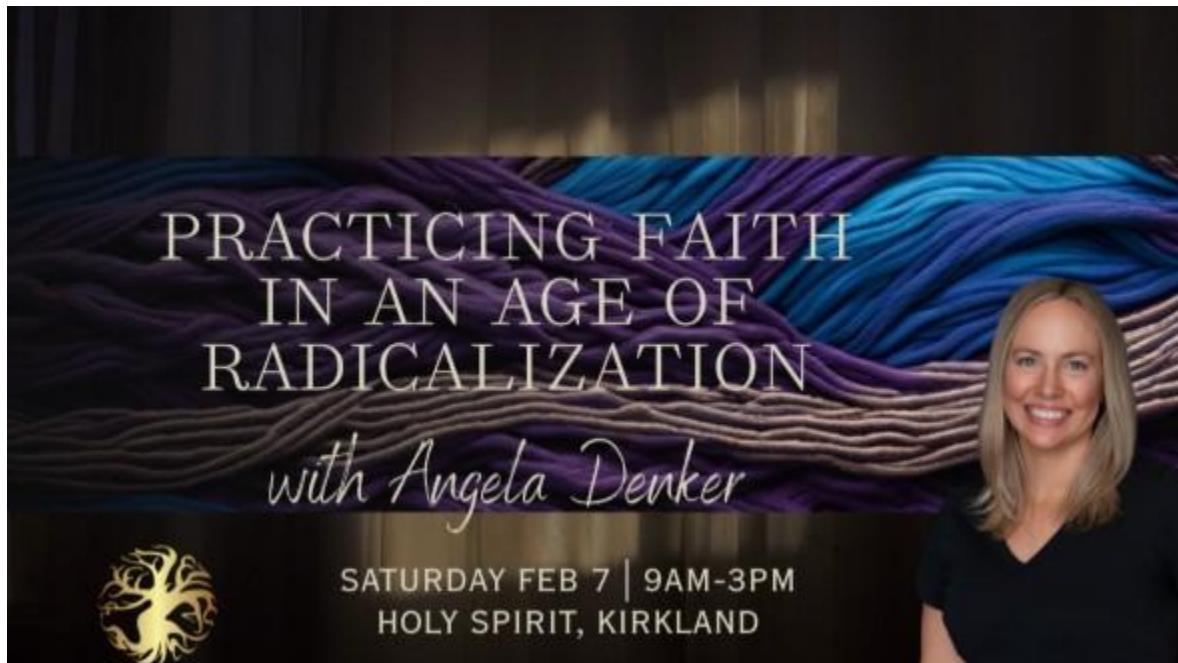
Requests

- Cheater eyeglasses - gently used ok

New or gently used - men or women

- Jackets
- thermal underclothing, gloves, hats
- beanie w/headlamps or headlamps separate

Items can be placed in or next to the GLA box (by Oaks bins.)
Additional items needed listed on the donation box.



LiVE Retreat 3: Practicing Faith in an Age of Radicalization

Join The LiVE Project for a timely Saturday Retreat examining how radicalization and Christian Nationalism are shaping our common life. With author and pastor Angela Denker, we'll explore how Scripture is used to advance ideology, why certain communities are especially targeted, and how people of faith might respond together with wisdom and hope.

Scan QR code or click on the link in the weekly email. Register with code: **LiVE2025**





Global Refuge



HYBRID EVENT

Rebuilding After Repatriation: **The Reality for Children and Youth in Guatemala**

GLOBAL REFUGE: REBUILDING AFTER REPATRIATION

A NW WASHINGTON SYNOD EVENT

Sat. Feb. 14th, 9:30 am to Noon at Our Saviors Lutheran, Everett

Our synod assembly in May approved a resolution supporting Global Refuge's innovative Camino de Casa project. Featuring Andrew Steele from Global Refuge, this hybrid event documents the journeys of unaccompanied minors who have been deported and returned to their country of origin. It highlights how Global Refuge helps them re-enter their communities and be reunited with families, providing mental and physical health screening, job training, and other support that will ensure they have greater success in coming home to stay. Participants will watch a short documentary featuring personal stories of youth and the impact of US immigration policies; and in real time, will ZOOM with staff and a deportee on the ground in Guatemala.

Scan QR code or click on the link in the weekly email **to register** for the in-person OR online ZOOM event.

For more information, contact Dan Clements at 425-418-8755 or dan@e-clements.com

SCAN ME!





Summer Camp for Youth

1st grade-12th grade

August 2-7, 2026 will be the week for all youth to participate in summer camp at Lutherwood Bible Camp in Bellingham, WA.

1st-3rd grade (half week),

3rd-5th grade (half week),

6th-9th grade (full week)

9th-12th grade (full week)

Pastor Shannyn will join the youth at camp. Scholarships are available and the church will offset a portion of the cost of camp.

Scan QR code or click on the link in the weekly email.

Additionally, an elementary retreat is offered March 20-21 for children and parents to experience camp together and get a feel for it before summer.