

This Week at Epworth

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

- 9:00 a.m. No Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Meals on Wheels Delivery

Monday, December 26

- Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 27

- 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study

Wednesday, December 28

- 7:00 p.m. No Youth

Thursday, December 22

- 10:00 a.m. No Bible Study

Sunday, January 1, New Year's Day

- 9:00 a.m. No Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 2

- Church Offices Closed



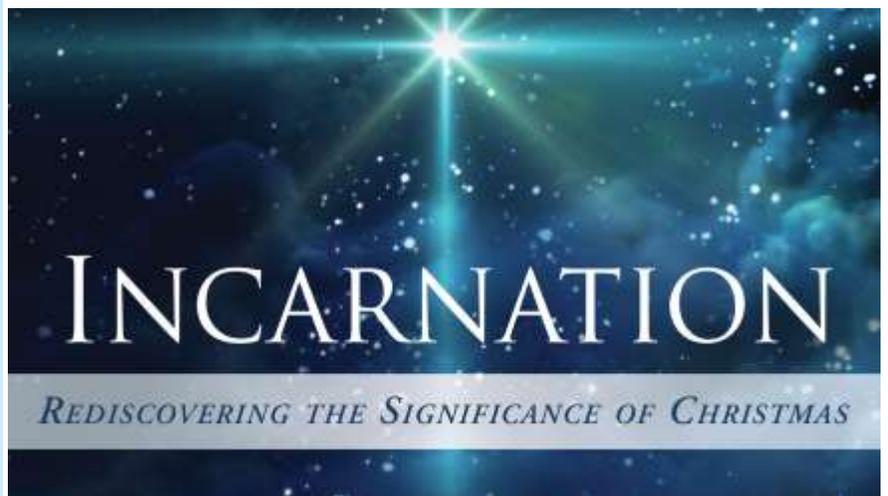
Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

10:30 am Worship



CHRISTMAS
DAY



680 8th Ave. SW
Valley City, ND 58072
Ph: 701-845-0340
epworthvalleycity.com

Sermon Series

Incarnation

Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas

Previous Sundays—

Presidents and Kings

The Savior and Our Need for Saving

Children's Christmas Program

Emmanuel

Today—*Light of the World*

—by Rev. Duane Coates

Next Sunday—*A Very Dakotas Christmas*

Our Mission

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

Living, sharing and growing in God's love by bringing the world to Christ and Christ to the world through open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

Our Strategy

Radical Hospitality
Spiritual Growth
Signature Ministries
Collaborative Leadership

Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m.

—Traditional/Praise Team

Where + is indicated, standing or sitting, we praise God.

You are invited to read aloud the **bold text**.

Large print hymnals are available upon request to an usher

On the screen—Leader=white text, People=yellow text

The Church Gathers to Worship

Connection Builder: *Which of this year's Christmas gifts was really a surprise?*



+Call to Worship—

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

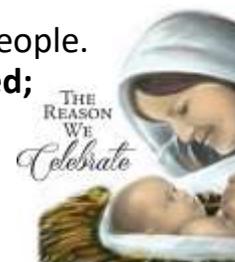
People: Sing to the Lord, bless God's holy name; tell of the Lord's salvation from day to day.

Leader: Declare God's glory among the nations, the Divine's marvelous works among all the people.

People: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; God is to be revered above all gods.

Leader: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before Him, all the earth.

People: Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. God will judge the nations with equity."



Psalm 98:1-5, 9-10

Opening Hymn—No. 246, *Joy to the World*

The Church Lifts Prayers to God

Prayer of the Day in Unison

Almighty God, by the birth of your holy child, Jesus, you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in His light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever-brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

From The Book of Worship © 1965

Call to Prayer—No. 229, *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (v. 1)

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Lifting our Joys and Concerns

Leader: Lord, in your mercy / in our joy

People: Hear our Prayer



A time of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer in Unison

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. Amen.

Prayer Response—No. 229, *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (v. 2)

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil
till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you.

The Church Hears God's Word

Isaiah 52:7-10 (Isaiah rejoices at the restoration)

Response—Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Call for Children—No. 2095, *Star-Child* (v. 4)

Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Time Mostly for Children—

Sermon Scripture—John 1:1-14 (John's poetic prologue)

Response—Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message—*Light of the World*—by Rev. Duane Coates



A Light to the Nations

The Church Responds to God's Word

Presenting our Offerings and Blessing of our Gifts

+Doxology—No. 95, *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



In Our Prayers This Week

In Hospital

Fighting Cancer

Sue Olson
Duane Triebold
Jan Barlow
Pat Malec
Herbert Triebold

In Hospice Care

Prayer Requests

Our 4GoG Ministries
mental health concerns
Pastor Dayne
Lori Glaser
World Leaders
Military
People of Ukraine
Pastor Duane
Jake Steen
Allen & Shirley Storkson
Henry Ranum
Phil Mueller
Ginny Coates
Sally Didier
Family of Larry Jacobson
Family of Rita Beaudry
Family of Marvin Richter

In Joy

Children's Christmas
Program last Sunday
Anticipation of Jesus' birth
Skilled medical professionals
Time with family and friends

If you or a member of your family is going into the hospital or moving from one care center to another and you would like the church to know about this, please call the church office at 701-845-0340 or email office@epworthvalleycity.com. This helps our church family care for one another.

Ministers of the Gospel

All members of the congregation.

Appointed Clergy

Rev. Duane Coates
pastor@epworthvalleycity.com
Phone: 701-845-0156
Cell: 605-695-5561

Program Staff

Anita Tulp
Office Administrator
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701-845-0340

Hayley Winkler
Christian Ed. Director
christianed@epworthvalleycity.com
Cell: 701-840-7073

Paul & Brenda Lint
Youth Ministries
youth@epworthvalleycity.com
Cell: 701-840-0410

VirLyn Hoff
Congregational Care Coordinator
virlynhoff@yahoo.com
Cell: 701-840-9285

Northwest District Superintendent

Rev. Joel Winckler

Dakotas Interim Bishop

Bishop Deborah Kiesey

You can use your smartphone to give electronically today. Just scan the QR code below.



epworthvalleycity.com/giving

Guest wifi: Epworth Guest
Password: epworth@guest

+Prayer of Dedication—

Announcements—

+Breakthrough Prayer—

Dear God, unleash in us your bold, limitless Spirit.
Help us to break free from where we are
and lead us to where you want us to go.
Call us to risk. Call us to change.
Call us to follow your Good News. Amen.



+Closing Song—No. 251, *Go, Tell It on the Mountains*

+Dismissal with Blessing—

Leader: May the Christ who by His Incarnation gathered into One things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
People: We will go forth in peace and joy. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

The Book of Worship, © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House

+Postlude—



We Welcome You!

Welcome! If you're a guest, know that we're glad you're here, and that we'd love to get to know you better. If this is your first visit, welcome. If you are returning, welcome back!

Coffee Fellowship time is at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy coffee, lemonade, water, and a treat. We welcome our visitors to join us!

We Care For Our Community

Please share with the church office if you, a family member, or another in our church family are experiencing illness, hospitalization, or need of pastoral care.

Pastor Duane Coates, Office: 845-0340 Cell: 605-695-5561

December

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 26th Deb & Jim Hegdahl
- 28th Eden Cuypers
Ellen Drevecky
Patricia Triebold
Avis & Dwayne Richter
- 29th Kyle Vareberg
- 30th Abby Rohrbeck
- 31st Wayne Winkler
Celeste Breske



- 2nd Koltyn Grebel
Noreen Smestad
- 3rd Camille Zachrison
Henry Ranum
- 4th Avis Richter
Pastor Duane Coates
- 5th Dottie Werkhoven
Joseph DeMasi
Emma Cook

Rydel Samuelson, our Epworth seminarian and candidate for ordained ministry, is looking forward to graduating from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in May. However, he will need about \$3,000 in financial assistance. If you would like to support Rydel, you may do so through your usual giving method (check, EFT, online, etc.). Please designate your gift to the Rydel Samuelson Ministry Fund, so those funds will be used as intended.



Epworth Ministry Review

Attendance: Sun., Dec. 18, In-person—72
Online views—21

Sunday School—10 Adult SS—5

Youth—Dec. 21—N/A

Stewardship: Dec. 18-22, 2022

Daily Expenses—\$8,593.00

Building/ Trustees—\$50.00

Glory of God’s House—\$5,225.00

Bathroom Door Openers—\$500.00,
Memorials—\$200.00, Parking Lot—\$50.00,
Rydel Samuelson Ministry Fund—\$1,700.00



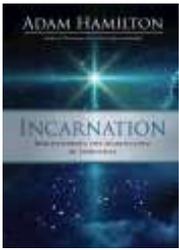
*Worship
Team*

In Ministry Today

Pianist—Marian Drevecky
Music—Epworth Praise Team
Music Director—Lance Drevecky
Tech Team—Matt Nielson, Skye Nielson,
Garrett Hoff, Colin Hoff, Emily Hoff
Greeters—Don & Bev Enger
Ushers—Bruce & Susan Larson
Lector—Cindy Heidelberger

Gift Opportunities—At year’s end, many people receive required annual distributions from their retirement accounts and want to shelter at least a portion of those from taxes by transferring funds to a non-profit. One good place to receive such a transfer would be Epworth’s current-expense fund. Such donations sustain our ongoing and daily ministries.

However, sometimes people want to go the second mile and give to major projects, knowing such gifts hasten project completions. Also, there may be donors wanting to avoid supporting the connectional structure through apportionments. So, for that reason, we have put together a gift-opportunities list of major projects. The list was published in the December newsletter.



Advent Study 2022—Our Advent study this year is Adam Hamilton’s “Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas.”

Incarnation is the word we use for the claim that God came to earth in

the flesh of Jesus. In this four-week study, Hamilton explores not only the purpose of the incarnation, but also how we can respond to it.

All are welcome to join either of the adult studies of this book. During the week we will meet at the church on Thursdays at 10 a.m. The library adult Sunday school class began the study on Nov. 20.

Those interested may purchase the small book on which the study is based. You may either order from the church or from Cokesbury at

www.cokesbury.com.



Christmas Love Gifts—We have a great staff here at Epworth. They are truly the unsung heroes of our progress as a parish. Therefore, at least once a year, we give you an opportunity to show your appreciation for them through love gifts.

So, the Servant Leadership Team encourages you to consider a love gift for each of our staff members. You can send them directly to each person, or you could drop off gifts at the office for staff to deliver to their fellow staff members.

Staff members are: Pastor Duane Coates, Lance Drevecky (Music Director), VirLyn Hoff (Congregational Care), Pastor Paul & Brenda Lint (Youth Directors), Dawn Thomsen (Epworth Holy Grounds Manager), Anita Tulp (Office Administrator), and Hayley Winkler (Christian Education).

Please remember the office will be closed the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 23, and Pastor Duane will be out of the office Dec. 26 through Jan. 2.



Christmas Eve—Thank you to those who volunteered during our Early and Christmas Eve Worship services.



December Open Table—We have cancelled our Open Table Community Meal for Dec. 27th to allow everyone to stay home, safe, and warm.

Office Administrator Job Opening—

Epworth has a rare opening for an office administrator starting Jan. 3, 2023. Anita Tulp, the office administrator since 2013, has accepted a position as the Valley City/Barnes County Public Library Director.

The Servant Leadership Team (SLT), through the Staff-Parish Work Group and in consultation with Pastor Duane will be hiring for this 7/8-time salaried position soon. The benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, and nine annual paid holidays. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Duane, Bill Bertram, Dave Hanson, or Bonnie Ranum.

In addition to the duties of office administrator, this position also performs the functions of the financial secretary (with a seat on the SLT) and membership secretary. Preferably the successful candidate would also have skills as the newsletter editor.

For a full job description, see the church office or visit www.epworthvalleycity.com. The position reports to the pastor and is evaluated by the Staff-Parish Work Group in consultation with the pastor.

Qualifications and aptitudes include following the rules of The United Methodist Church, keeping confidences, excellent written and verbal communications skills, good technical/computer skills, cooperating with others, and contributing to a positive work environment. News/graphic design, and web editing skills are a plus.



Larry Jacobson—June 9, 1938- Dec. 9, 2022

Sincere sympathy to the family of Larry. Larry often stopped at the church for a visit in the office or with Pastor Dayne. He was a faithful *Upper Room* reader and always left a gift for the church. His service was on Mon., Dec. 19, at Lerud-Mathias Funeral Home Chapel.

Rita Beaudry—Sincere sympathy to the Thomsen family for the loss of Brent’s aunt.

Marvin Richter—Sincere sympathy to the Richter family for the loss of Dwayne’s brother.