

This Week at Epworth

Sunday, December 3

- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:00am Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30am Worship
- 4:00pm Troubadours Concert @ VCSU

Tuesday, December 5

- 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study

Wednesday, December 6

- 10:30am UWF

- 7:00pm Choir

- 7:00pm Youth

Thursday, December 7

- 10:00am Bible Study

- 7:00pm Cub Scouts

- 7:00pm Community Band

Concert @ VCSU

Saturday, December 9

- 9:00am Christmas Program Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10

- 10:00am Coffee Fellowship

- 10:30am Worship

- 11:45am Staff Appreciation Potluck


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!



EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS

CHRIST IN THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF ADVENT



Contact Information

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

Sermon Series

Previous Sundays—

Finding Blessing in Mourning

On the Gratitude Path

Giving Thanks in Every Situation

Bring in the Tithes

Today—

Do You See What I See?

by Duane Coates

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

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

+ Call to Worship –

Leader: As the shepherds kept watch over their flock by night, our God sent the angels in heaven to announce, "This is a sign to you."

All: Open our eyes, Lord, to see the signs.

Leader: Fix our eyes upon the symbols of the season. Notice the evergreen represents unending grace and the wreath signifies everlasting life.

All: Open our eyes, Lord, to see the ever-present, ever-living light of Christ.

Leader: As we begin our worship, let us be filled with hope to transform anticipation into expectation.

All: Open our eyes, Lord, to see the coming Messiah.

Based on a call to worship by Matt Rawle in Experiencing Christmas Sermon and Worship Series Download © 2023 by Abingdon Press

+ Opening Hymn – No. 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
v. 1, 4 & 6

The Church Lifts Prayers to God

Prayer of Confession –

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to December and often do not yearn for His coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for our lack of expectation. Prepare our hearts expectantly for Christ's return. Help us to see and rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen.

— Adapted from the Worship Sourcebook, by Jamie Barnes for the Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, KY. Posted on The Open Sourcebook website.

Lifting our Joys and Concerns

Leader: Lord, in your mercy / in our joy

People: Hear our Prayer

Announcements —

Call for Children — No. 2095

Star-Child

Vs. 1,2

Time Mostly for Children —

The Church Hears God's Word

Gospel Reading — Mark 13:24-27, 32-37 (Christ will return)

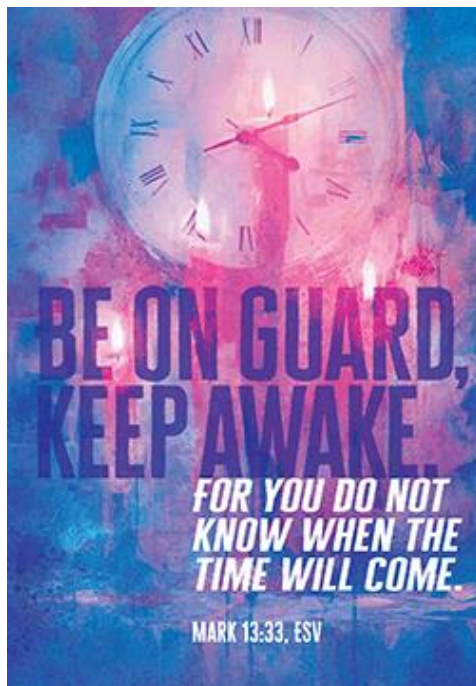
Response—Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

+ Scripture Hymn — No. 202 *People, Look East* vs. 1 & 3

Old Testament Reading — Jeremiah 33:14-16 (Christ's birth predicted)

Response—Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message — *Do You See What I See?* by Rev. Duane Coates



The Church Responds to God's Word

Sacrament of Holy Communion —

In Our Prayers This Week

Fighting Cancer

Jan Barlow
Jo Thorson
Jill Olson
Arin Lutiker
Dale Neuberger
Don Baasch

Prayer Requests

Our 4GoG Ministries
mental health concerns

Lori Glaser
World Leaders
Military
Jaxon Horsager
Kathy Mah
Mark Ziebert
Vivian Ziebert
LeRoy Magnuson
Wayne McKirdy
Erin Reielbach
Wyatt Tulp
Karen Pullen
Gail Pederson
Chesney Thomsen
Ashley Enright
Jerry Hieb
Macy Raven

In Joy

The holiday season
Time with friends &
family

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

Cassidy Fraedrich
Office Administrator
office@epworthvalleycity.com
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 Bishop

Bishop Lanette Plambeck

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

The Great Thanksgiving — page 15

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died; Christ is Risen,
Christ will come again.**

Leader: All honor and glory is yours,
almighty God, now and for ever.

All: Amen

+Closing Song — No. 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Vs. 1, 2 & 4

+Dismissal with Blessing —

Leader: Our God chooses the very least, and raises us up to greatness.

All: For nothing is impossible with God.

Leader: God takes us weak, poor, and blind and raises us out of darkness.

All: For nothing is impossible with God.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

All: God's love endures forever.

Based on a benediction by John Birch © John Birch

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/benediction-revelation-7.html>

+Postlude —



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

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | Matt Thorson | 8 th | Kim & Joel |
| 2 nd | Don Enger | | Owen |
| 4 th | Annette Nielson | 14 th | Amy & Carl |
| 5 th | Mike Watterson | | Martineck |
| 9 th | Marty Rohrbeck | 15 th | Jennifer & |
| 12 th | Paul Owen | | Dan Elston |
| 17 th | Jim Burchill | 20 th | Liz & Dennis |
| | Katie Clark | | Fick |
| | Katy Van Dyke | 23 rd | Susan & |
| 18 th | Austin Shape | | Bruce Larson |
| | Michelle Grebel | 26 th | Deb & Jim |
| 19 th | Todd Burchill | | Hegdahl |
| | Kevin Tulp | 28 th | Avis & |
| | Wally Otteson | | Dwayne Richter |
| 21 st | Meredith Cummings | | |
| 24 th | Carol Peterson | | |
| 28 th | Eden Cuypers | | |
| | Ellen Drevecky | | |
| | Patricia Triebold | | |
| 29 th | Kyle Vareberg | | |
| 30 th | Abby Rohrbeck | | |
| 31 st | Wayne Winkler | | |
| | Celeste Breske | | |



Epworth Ministry Review

Attendance: Sun. November 26

In-person— 81 Online—1
 Sunday School— 14 Adults— 10

Attendance: Wed. November 29

Youth— 19

Stewardship: November 26—December 2, 2023

Daily Expenses— \$2,980.45
 Matthew 25— \$412.00
 Backpack Program— \$300.00
 Student Day— \$238.00
 Glory of God's House— \$187.00
 Memorial— \$75.00
 Building & Maintenance— \$37.00
 Choir Music— \$31.50



In Ministry Today

Pianist— Marian Drevecky
 Tech Team—
 Lector— Derek Woehl
 Ushers— Michelle Grebel & Friends

Address Change?

If your address has changed, please notify the church office @ 845-0340 or e-mail: office@epworthvalleycity.com

Please help us keep our postage costs down by notifying the church of your address change.

Ushers Needed



Christmas Love Gift and Staff Appreciation Potluck—

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift!” 2 Corinthians 9:15. Where would Epworth Church be without the caring gifts of our hardworking staff? Please join the Spiritual Leadership Team by showing your appreciation at a potluck dinner after the children’s Christmas program on Sunday, December 10. The staff will all be there so you can meet our new Office Administrator, Cassidy Fraedrich, if you haven’t already done so. Plus we would like to recognize all of our staff: Pastor Duane Coates; Virlyn Hoff, (Congregational Care), Lance Drevecky (choir director), Marion Drevecky (pianist), Pastor Paul and Brenda Lint (Youth Directors), Dawn Thomsen (Epworth Holy Grounds Manager), and Hayley Winkler (Christian Education).

We also would like to encourage you to consider a Love Gift for each of our staff members. You can send them directly to each person, bring them to the potluck, or drop off your gifts at the church office. We will make sure they are delivered.

May all the gifts of this wonderful Christmas season be yours! Hope to see everyone at the Staff Appreciation Potluck on Sunday, December 10 right after worship.

—Bev Enger, Chair of Staff/Parish Relations

Poinsettias— We love to see Poinsettias decorating the chancel at Epworth. Many of these are given in honor or memory of someone. So, you are invited to bring a Poinsettia to share as part of the sanctuary decorations. Please provide the names to Cassidy in the office by Dec. 17.



17th Annual “Sounds of the Season” Brown Bagger Series—

If you like to listen to Christmas music during the holiday season, you now have another opportunity to listen to Christmas Holiday music the Wednesdays in Advent beginning on Dec. 6th during the noon hour. These listening opportunities will be held in the sanctuary of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church from 12:10pm to 12:50pm, giving listeners time to pick up a sandwich or other type lunch and make their way to the church.

Wednesday, Dec. 6th, featured performer is Judy Karch. Wednesday, Dec. 13th, will feature Faye Bubach, and Wednesday, Dec. 20th will feature Beth Quick Berge.

So bring your lunch or just come listen to the music of the holiday season and enjoy provided refreshments.

The public is invited to attend any or all of the sessions in this Christmas Holiday music series.



We’re in The Christmas Mood Show—

The EBC Fraternity Alumni invite you to the 27th annual “We’re in The Christmas Mood” show. This family-oriented musical Christmas variety show has two performances at the Nome Schoolhouse in Nome; and reservations are required for both. The dinner performance is on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. for \$60 per plate. The dessert performance on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. for \$35 per plate. To reserve your tickets, go to www.nomeschoolhouse.com or call 701-850-7764.

The show features an 18-piece orchestra and various vocal solos and ensembles, all under the direction of Epworth’s own John Monilaws.