

## **This Week at Epworth**

### Sunday, December 17

- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:00am Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30am Worship

### Monday, December 18

- 10:00am Cookie Tray Assembly

### Tuesday, December 19

- 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study
- 6:00pm Girl Scouts

### Wednesday, December 20

- 7:00pm Youth

### Thursday, December 21

- 10:00am Bible Study
- 4:00pm Owens Retirement Party

### Friday, December 22

Church Office Closed @ Noon

### Sunday, December 24

#### **Christmas Eve**

- 10:00am Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30am Worship
- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

**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](http://epworthvalleycity.com)

## Sermon Series

### Previous Sundays—

*Giving Thanks in Every Situation*

*Bring in the Tithes*

*Do You See What I See?*

*Children's Christmas Program*

### Today—

## Do You Taste What I Taste?

### 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: Come let us worship together knowing that God's people have been dining on divine providence since the Israelites ate mana in the wilderness.

**People: We taste and see God's provision for us as we expand our table to include more of God's people.**

Leader: Let us make room at the table for family and outcasts, friends, and enemies.

**People: So that our banquet may be filled.**

Leader: In worship we light the candle of joy, knowing that God offers to satisfy our longing.

**People: We taste and see that the Lord is good.**

*Based on a ritual by the Rev. Matt Rawle in Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and sounds of Advent © 2023*

**Opening Hymn –** No. 272 *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*  
(to the tune on 196)

## The Church Lifts Prayers to God

### Unison Prayer –

**O God, who came to earth so long ago, our senses are leading us back to you. Help us to experience you anew this season. We have seen your past glory, we have heard your voice, and we long for you to nourish us with your word, so that we might be energized to feed others. Be born again in our hearts this season and enlighten us to the path you seek for us to choose; and then walk with us through all the phases and stages of our lives and bring us at last with you and our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, One God, now and forever. Amen.**

### 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.

## Announcements —

Call for Children — No. 2095

*Star Child v. 1 & 5*

## Time Mostly for Children —

Choir — "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. By Cristi Cary Miller  
Directed by Lance Drevecky

Reception of New Members — No. 46

Marlys Christ  
Annette Nielson  
Anne Osborne  
Jo Thorson  
Marvin Thorson

## The Church Hears God's Word

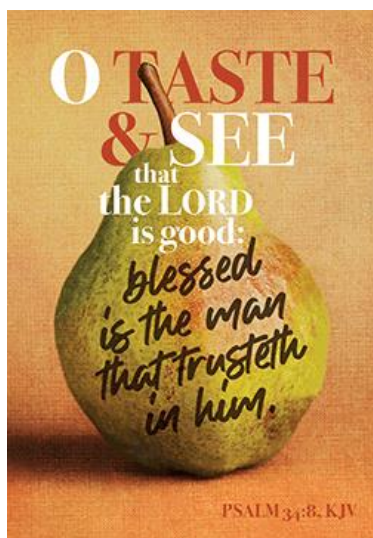
Scripture — Psalm 34:1-8 (Taste and see that the Lord is good)

Sermon Scripture — Luke 14:12-24 (Parable of the banquet)

*Response — Leader: The Word of the Lord.*

*People: Thanks be to God*

Sermon — *Do You Taste What I Taste?* Pastor Duane Coates



## 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 & LaWanna Hieb  
Macy Raven  
Pat Nielson  
Family of Matt Bernard  
Christine Hermanson  
Family of Jim Leadbetter  
Sr.

### 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](mailto: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](http://epworthvalleycity.com/giving)

Guest wifi: Epworth Guest  
Password: epworth@guest

# The Church Responds to God's Word

Offertory –

+ **Doxology No. 95**

+ **Prayer of Dedication**

+**Closing Hymn** — No. 249 *There's a Song in the Air*  
vs. 1-2

+**Dismissal with Blessing** —

Leader: Go forth to taste and see the Lord is good.

**All: We will continue to experience the Advent season with all our senses.**

Leader: May you seek the Lord who delivers us from all fears.

**All: Our souls receive the Lord, and we are saved. Amen and amen.**

+**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

Jim Burchill  
 Katie Clark  
 Katy Van Dyke  
 Austin Shape  
 Michelle Grebel  
 Todd Burchill  
 Kevin Tulp  
 Meredith Cummings  
 Carol Peterson  
 Eden Cuypers  
 Ellen Drevecky  
 Patricia Triebold  
 Kyle Vareberg  
 Abby Rohrbeck  
 Wayne Winkler  
 Celeste Breske

14<sup>th</sup> Amy & Carl Martineck  
 15<sup>th</sup> Jennifer & Dan Elston  
 20<sup>th</sup> Liz & Dennis Fick  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Susan & Bruce Larson  
 26<sup>th</sup> Deb & Jim Hegdahl  
 28<sup>th</sup> Avis & Dwayne Richter



## Epworth Ministry Review

### Attendance: Sun. December 10

In-person— 121 Online—29  
 Sunday School— 16 Adults— 4

### Attendance: Wed. December 13

Youth— 15

### Stewardship: December 10—December 16, 2023

Daily Expenses— \$3,405.75  
 Glory of God's House— \$75.00  
 Memorial— \$60.00  
 Endowment— \$50.00  
 Sunday School— \$50.00  
 Study Books— \$25.00



## In Ministry Today

Pianist— Marian Drevecky  
 Tech Team—  
 Lector— Bev Enger  
 Ushers—

### 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 Eve Service Announced—**

Epworth will host one Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. Pastor Duane is looking for people who would be willing to read certain sections of Scripture for that service, offer special music, usher, and/or greet. Please see Pastor Duane if you are interested. All are welcome to this service. So, please bring your family, neighbors, and friends.

**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 today.



### **Christmas Trays and Visitations—**

Christmas treat trays and visitations will be made throughout the week of December 18. Trays will be prepared Monday morning Dec. 18. Please bring items today or by 10 Monday morning. Suggested items are cookies, treats, sweet breads, crackers and cheese, chex mix, hot chocolate mix, fruit. Visits to both Legacy and Bridgeview and those recovering from recent illness.

Both men and women are invited to participate. If you can make a visit, contact VirLyn Hoff. Sponsored by United Women in Faith.

**Retirement Party—** Epworth family is invited to a retirement party for Barb and Jon Owen on Thursday, Dec. 21 from 4-6 p.m. at the church. The reception is hosted by their children.



### **Christmas Eve Offering to Feed**

**People—**Undesignated offerings received at our Christmas Eve service do not go to current expenses. These offerings are a gift to some other agency or person to accomplish a specific ministry. For instance, in 2022, we raised more than \$3,300 from our three Christmas Eve services and specific gifts. These offerings supported Rydel Samuelson, who was finishing his seminary career. (Rydel is now a licensed local pastor serving the Wagner-Tyndall charge in southcentral South Dakota).

This year, the Servant Leadership Team has decided to split the offering between the Backpack Program and the Barnes County Food Pantry. So, any undesignated gifts given during the Christmas Eve service (at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24 in the Epworth Sanctuary) will be split between these two feeding ministries. Also, as always, we will distribute any gifts given specifically to these causes regardless of when they are given.

The Backpack program currently provides 226 packs of meals each month in the backpacks of children on the last day of school each week. This is to supplement nutrition in homes that may be food-insecure. Some of these homes wouldn't be able to provide adequate nutrition to these students without the backpack meals. When the major benefactor to this program shifted its generosity away from this non-profit, opportunities opened to broaden the donor base for this program.

The Barnes County Food Pantry, a program of the non-profit South Central Adult Services, provides nutritional sustenance and personal items to eligible individuals and families in need. Monetary donations will be used to purchase price-reduced, overstocked items from area grocery food distributors. So, these donations provide the Food Pantry with the flexibility to purchase those needed items in short supply.