

## **This Week at Epworth**

### Sunday, January 7

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

### Tuesday, January 9

- 9:00am Ministerial Association
- 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study

### Wednesday, January 10

- 7:00pm Youth
- 7:00pm Choir

### Thursday, January 11

- 7:00pm Cub Scouts

### Saturday, January 13

- 11:00am 4-H

### Sunday, January 14

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

**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!

**This service is livestreamed at**  
[epworthvalleycity.com](http://epworthvalleycity.com)



**ARISE,  
SHINE;  
FOR YOUR LIGHT  
HAS COME,  
AND THE GLORY  
OF THE LORD  
HAS RISEN  
UPON YOU.**

ISAIAH 60:1, NRSV

### **Contact Information**

680 8th Ave. SW  
Valley City, ND 58072  
Ph: 701-845-0340  
[epworthvalleycity.com](http://epworthvalleycity.com)

## Sermon Series

### Previous Sundays—

*Children's Christmas Program*

*Do You Taste What I Taste?*

*Do You Feel What I Feel?*

*A Very Dakotas Christmas*

### Today—

## Led by the Light

### 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: Let us all come to worship, including those who, like the Magi, have waited long and are wearied.

**All: We will sit side by side as we worship our God.**

Leader: Let us share the same bread drawn from the same source.

**All: May it satisfy our spiritual hunger for the One whom the Magi seek.**

Leader: Then let us stand together to share the same spirit.

**All: We will come together in friendship, unity, and peace.**

*Based on a greeting by Prieres D'Ozawamick, a Canadian First-Nation person, and published in *With All God's People: The New Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, p. 223, 1989, WCC Publications, Geneva, Switzerland*

+ Opening Hymn — No. 254      *We Three Kings*      vs. 1-4

## The Church Lifts Prayers to God

### Prayer of Confession —

**Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you in true repentance for the brokenness in our lives. We pray that your healing grace would forgive our hardened hearts and consume the pride and prejudice that separate us. We pray that your perfect love would cast out our fear and bind us together in that unity which you share with the Creator and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*— Based on a prayer by Cecil Kerr, of the Christian Renewal Centre in Northern Ireland.*

### Lifting our Joys and Concerns

Leader: Lord, in your mercy / in our joy

**People: Hear our Prayer**

### Announcements —

Call for Children — No. 2233

*Where Children Belong*

Time Mostly for Children —

# The Church Hears God's Word

**Old Testament Reading** – Isaiah 60:1-6 (Light restores the Israelites)

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**+ Scripture Song** – No. 2173

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

**Gospel Reading** – Matthew 2:1-12 (Magi arrive to see Jesus)

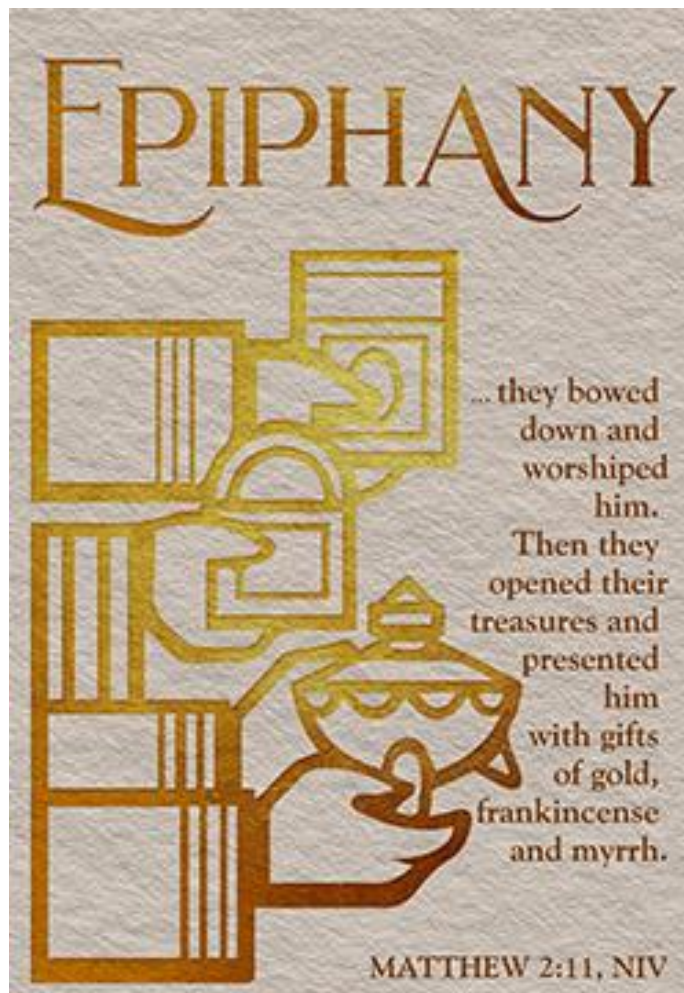
Response—Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Message** —

*Led by the Light*

by Rev. 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  
Wyatt Tulp  
Gail Pederson  
Ashley Enright  
Jerry & LaWanna Hieb  
Macy Raven

### In Joy

The holiday season  
A new year

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

## Sacrament of Holy Communion —

### 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. 251

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
vs. 1 & 3

## +Dismissal with Blessing —

Leader: The Light of the Star, the light of God's love, shines before you as you leave this place.

**All: We will go in joy and in love to meet God's people in the world. Amen.**

*Based on a benediction by Nancy C. Townley and published at [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com) © 2018 by Abingdon Press*

## +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

# JANUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Darlene Bloom  
Heather Kvilvang  
Rob Marshall  
Gordon Hoff  
VirLyn Hoff  
Dennis Pederson  
Andrew Bruns  
Anika Nielson  
Darlene Mueller  
Casper Jacobson  
Dee Ranum  
Tanner Clark  
Jill Rischmiller  
Ben Northridge  
Trevor Breske  
Lane Nielson  
Ellen Lint  
Abigail Martineck  
Judy Nicholson  
Neil Skarloken  
Scott Cummings  
Anita Tulp  
Phil Mueller  
Mae Ranum  
Grace Michele Olauson  
Liz Fick  
Brittney Torbenson  
Dennis Fick



### Address Change?

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

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

## Epworth Ministry Review

### Attendance: Sun. December 24

In-person— 58 Online—36

### Attendance: Christmas Eve Service

In-person— 121 Online—32

### Attendance: Sun. December 31

In-person— 42 Online—26

### Attendance: Wed. January 6

Youth— 15

### Stewardship: December 24—December 30, 2023

Daily Expenses— \$12,317.00

Glory of God's House— \$12,390.00

UMCOR— \$1,500.00

Staff Appreciation Gifts— \$660.00

UWF— \$650.00

Building & Maintenance— \$500.00

Matthew 25— \$95.00

Choir— \$75.00

Sunday School— \$70.00

Parking Lot— \$50.00

### Stewardship: December 31, 2023—January 6, 2024

Daily Expenses— \$2,750.85

Glory of God's House— \$1,000.00

Parking Lot— \$500.00

Building & Maintenance— \$200.00

Sunday School— \$100.00

Upper Room— \$10.00

## In Ministry Today

Pianist— Marian Drevecky

Tech Team—

Lector— Mary Lee Nielson

Ushers—

### Ushers Needed



## Five New Members Join Epworth—

On Sunday, Dec. 17, the membership of Epworth grew by four professing members and one associate member. Each of the new members had years of affiliations with Epworth, but recently took classes to join. Our membership now stands at 393 professing members.

Joining as full professing members are Annette Nielson, Anne Osborne, and Jo and Marvin Thorson. Marlys Christ joined as an associate member because her professing membership is retained by the Kathryn Lutheran Church.

An associate member is a member of another denomination who wishes to come into official fellowship of a United Methodist Church, expect its pastoral care and oversight and to participate in its activities, including the holding of office, except as a voting member of the local church governing body or a United Methodist structure beyond the local church. Furthermore, associate members do not enjoy the same due-process rights as professing members. Therefore, the associate membership may be terminated at the discretion of the local church or when the member moves from this vicinity.

Nielson joined by transfer of membership from Berthold Baptist Church in Berthold, N.D. Osborne joined by transfer of membership from St. John's United Methodist Church in Wimbledon, N.D. The Thorsons had been members of the now closed Page (North Dakota) United Methodist Church for years, but officially joined on profession of faith because there was no record of their membership being appropriately transferred to an open United Methodist Church at the time of Page's closing.

When you see these persons, please extend an official welcome.



**Human Relations Offering to be Collected Jan. 14—** The 2024 Human Relations Sunday offering will be received on Sunday, Jan. 14. This is one of the eight special offerings each year requested by our connectional structure.

Human Relations Day is observed each year on the Sunday before the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday. The observance of this special Sunday with offering calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their full potential as human beings and in relationship with one another. This special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through community developers, community advocacy and ministry with at-risk teens.

## College Scholarship Applications

**Available—** The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church is now accepting college and graduate-school applications. Any active members of The United Methodist Church may apply.

Each year, \$5.5 million is awarded to help students in the United States and abroad pursue their dreams through higher education.

GBHEM's Scholarships Office administers more than 70 [scholarship programs](#) with one general application. Students are permitted to submit one application per year where it will be screened for all possible eligible programs. Scholarship programs are divided into the following three categories:

[General Scholarships](#)

[HBCU Scholarships](#)

[Ministry as a Career Scholarships](#)

The deadline to complete the application is March 13, 2024.

Please email [umscholar@gbhem.org](mailto:umscholar@gbhem.org) for more information.