

This Week at Epworth

Sunday, February 25

—9:00am Men's French Toast
Brunch

—9:00am Sunday School

—10:00am Coffee Fellowship

—10:30am Worship

Monday, February 26

Pastor's Day Off

—2:00pm Prayer Vigil

—7:00pm Troubadours

Tuesday, February 27

—1:30pm Bible Study

—6:00pm Girl Scouts

Wednesday, February 28

—4:30pm Confirmation

—5:30pm Lenten Meal

—6:30pm Lenten Service

—7:15pm Youth

—7:15pm Choir

Thursday, February 29

—10:00am Pastor's Bible Study

—7:00pm Cub Scouts

Sunday, March 3

—9:00am Sunday School

—10:00am Coffee Fellowship

—10:30am Worship



SECOND SUNDAY *in* LENT

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



Sermon Series

Previous Sundays—

Who is in Charge Here?

A New Reality

What Do We Do in the Meantime?

At the Well

Today—

For the Sake of the Gospel

By Pastor 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 and bulletins 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: Lenten travelers, who is this Jesus that we follow?

All: He is the Messiah.

Leader: What kind of Messiah is Jesus?

All: He is the Messiah who teaches that He will lose His life and who calls us to lose our lives in order to save our lives.

Leader: How does it feel to follow a Messiah whose teachings and call are so hard and uncomfortable?

All: Some feel fear and anger, while others feel uncertain and anxious, and still others feel resolute and ready to follow.

Leader: Lenten travelers, we are not alone in our feelings about following Jesus as our Messiah. It is a hard road. The blessing is that we do not travel it alone.

All: Thanks be to God that we share this journey with Jesus and one another as we lose our lives for the sake of the gospel to save our lives through Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2023

+ Opening Song – No. 2129 *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

The Church Lifts Prayers to God

Unison Prayer –

Holy Friend, our God and Savior, we have talked much about faith, yet have been slow to take its risks. We have lauded forgiveness, yet have been miserly in giving it. We have praised truth, yet have fudged our own integrity. We have extolled love, yet have placed conditions on our loving. We have honored Christ's cross yet have avoided our own. Most faithful God, by your Spirit enter the secret caverns of the soul and there cleanse and reform us. Forgive us repeatedly, we pray, until forgiveness is such a part of us that it may become a way of life as we deal with those around us. In the name of Christ our Redeemer. Amen!

Based on a prayer by Bruce Prewer, posted at <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocB/BLENT2.htm>

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. 277 *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus vs. 1*

Time Mostly for Children —

Choir Anthem — *"Come Be the Light"* Directed by Lance Drevecky
Words and music by Mark Patterson

First Reading — Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16 (God establishes covenant with Abraham)

Response — Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Scripture Hymn — No. 2080 *All I Need is You*

The Church Hears God's Word

Sermon Scripture — Mark 8:27-38 (Jesus rebukes Peter)

Response — Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Message — *For the Sake of the Gospel* 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
Ashley Enright
Jerry & LaWanna Hieb
Macy Raven
Jackie Owen
Mike Watterson
Phil Lint
Lint Family
Dakotas Camping
Appointive Cabinet

In Joy

Warmer weather

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
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Phone: 701-845-0156
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Program Staff

Cassidy Fraedrich
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VirLyn Hoff
Congregational Care Coordinator
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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 Church Responds to God's Word

Offertory –

+ **Doxology No. 95**

+ **Prayer of Dedication**

+**Closing Song** — No. 438 *Forth in Thy Name, O Lord*

+**Dismissal with Blessing** —

Leader: Beloved, go from this place in the love and power of the Triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: We go to meet our neighbors and ourselves with an open heart as we take up our cross and follow Jesus for the sake of the gospel. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2023.

+**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

FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Christopher Glaser
Jenna Elston
Jada Zahn
Kael Grebel
Paul Lint
Griffin Kvilvang
Holly Neuberger
Todd Clark
Hilde van Gijssel
Ana Duffy
Sheila Cummings
Steven Nielson
Jennifer Elston
Noah Tulp
Grace Lint
Lauren Hoganson



Epworth Ministry Review

Attendance: Sun. February 18
In-person— 74 Online—24

Attendance: Wed. February 21
Lenten Service— 26
Youth— 15

Stewardship: February 18—February 24, 2024

General Fund Giving— \$4,191.00
Glory of God's House— \$475.00
Building & Maintenance— \$115.00
Parking Lot— \$50.00
Youth— \$20.00



In Ministry Today

Pianist— Marian Drevecky
Tech Team—
Lector— Dave Hanson
Ushers—

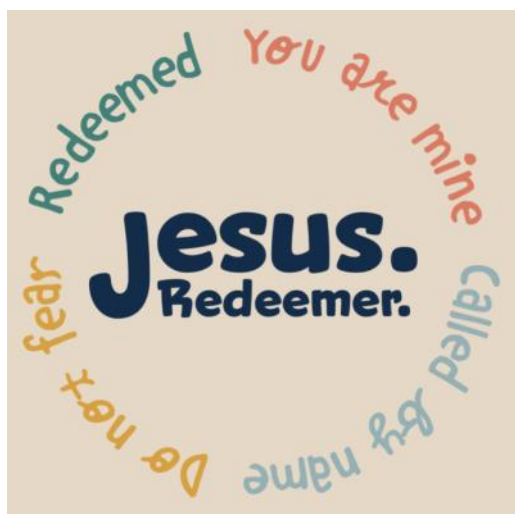
Address Change?

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.



Annual Conference Legislation Due March 22— All proposals for petitions and resolutions for the Dakotas Annual Conference 31st Session must be submitted electronically, by 5:00 p.m. CDT, on March 22, 2024. Items should be created using the form found at <https://www.dakotasumc.org/annualconference/legislation>. If you have questions about resolutions and petitions, you may contact Rev. Rebecca Trefz by email at rebecca.trefz@dakotasumc.org.

Annual Conference Award Nominations Due March 22— Several awards will be announced at annual conference. Some are chosen by the cabinet, some by the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, and some via open nominations. Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards: Denman Award for Evangelism, Francis Asbury Award, Streams of Justice, Youthworker Hall of Fame Award, and Youthworker of the Year. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. CDT, March 22, 2024. To learn more about the awards, go to <https://www.dakotasumc.org/annual-conference/award-nominations>



UMCOR Sunday Offering Set for March 1 *(With help from United Methodist News Service)*
— When disaster strikes around the globe, so many outside the disaster zone feel helpless as they watch the drama unfold on television. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is prepared to act, and they multiply the efforts of each person who contributes. So, don't be fooled by the word "committee." This isn't just a group that talks. It's an agency that acts.

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, UMCOR has continued to respond to those in desperate need – today in more than 80 countries around the world.

We will take a special offering on March 10 to help support the administration of the work that is so vital in restoring hope for people and their communities all around the world.

In 2023, United Methodists gave \$1.5 million, which provided hope and safety for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement, and climate change. The special offering underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business" making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance. It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100 percent of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative costs.

So, to grease the skids of our work throughout the year, we will take this special offering, one of the eight we take during the year set by the United Methodist connectional system.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today. So, please come to worship March 10 prepared to give generously.