

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY AT FAITH

**Description:** If you've ever felt like you just can't get in control of your money or you're not handling your finances well, you're not alone. You'd be surprised how many people you know are struggling just like you. But it's time for that struggle to end – starting when you take a Financial Peace University class. In just nine lessons, you'll learn biblical and commonsense ways of handling money. Invite a friend, classes are open to the community and start on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

**Dates:** 1/13/26 – 3/10/26 (9 classes on Tuesdays 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10)

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Faith

**Cost:** \$39 per household (individual or couple)  
(total is \$69 but Faith is covering \$30 for each household!)



**Interested in learning more or want to sign up?** Scan the QR code (or head to the church website) and sign up your name and email and we will reach out with more information!

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - SUN, DEC 21 @ 6:30pm

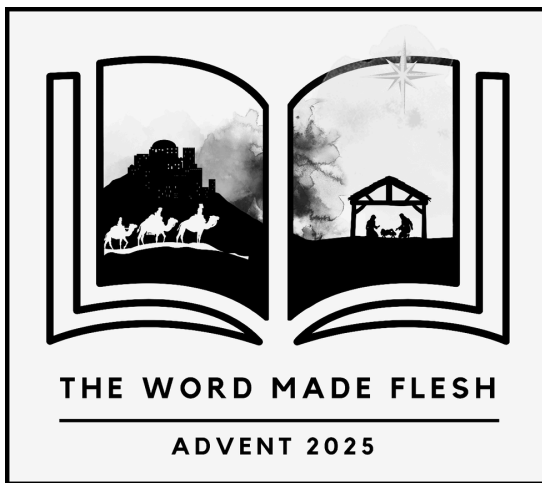
If this season feels heavy, if you're grieving, overwhelmed, missing someone, or just not feeling very joyful right now, you're not alone. This service is a quiet space with prayer, music, and scripture. A place to breathe, to be honest, and to hear words of comfort and hope.

Come as you are. Everyone is welcome.

**Hosted by First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake** (6338 County Rd. 40 NW, New London) with support from Peace Lutheran (New London), Faith Lutheran (Spicer), Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish (Belgrade), and the Norway Lake Lutheran Parish.

## A WORD ABOUT THIS YEAR'S ADVENT JOURNEY:

In the context of the Bible, the "power of the spoken word" refers to the significant spiritual force words possess, impacting both the speaker and the listener, and even affecting spiritual realities. Key scriptural themes include: God's creative power in his spoken Word, the incarnation of God in human flesh, and the gift of God's own breath empowering the words of ordinary people to make Christ known in time and space throughout the ages. As a people in Advent journeying toward the manger in Bethlehem, may we hear and receive our God anew!



### Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm:

- 12/3: "Sharing God's Breath"
- 12/10: "The Word Was God"
- 12/17: "Sharing God's Word"

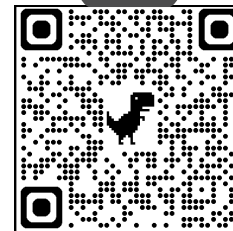
*We lift up in prayer...*

- Lila Burmeister
- Bev Valentine
- Ron Lunz
- Orval Gubrud, father of Tracy Ost
- Jerrod Quade, grandson of Pastor Katherine and Les Rood
- Sue Dallmann and family on the death of her husband, Paul Dallmann



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - ORDER NOW!

If you would like to purchase one in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill-out an order form (found in the Welcome Center, online on our website or by scanning the QR code) and it will be included in the Christmas Bulletin. **The cost per plant is \$15 and orders are due by Sunday, December 14.**



**Nursery care is available.** Our nursery is staffed on Sundays from 8:30am to 11:00am and on Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

**For our nursing mothers,** there is a private nursing room in the back of the nursery available for use.

## THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY!

Faith Lutheran Church of Spicer, Minnesota is delighted to have you join us for today's worship service. We are a congregation of the Southwest Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. Faith Lutheran seeks to live out this mission:

*God gathers us as a family of Faith to nurture, inspire, and share the love of Jesus with all people*

**Lead Pastor:** Tim Routh

**Pastor:** Katherine Rood

**Joint Youth Ministry for Faith & Peace:** Deacon Amanda Randall-Nelson

**Education Coordinator:** Joy White

**Seeds + Sprouts Leader:** Libbie Anderson

**Office Administrator:** Tina Magner

**Music Director:** Katherine Ragan

**Feast Worship Director:** Todd Anderson

**Property Manager:** Tim Renner

**Address:** 310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288

**Website:** [www.faithspicer.org](http://www.faithspicer.org)

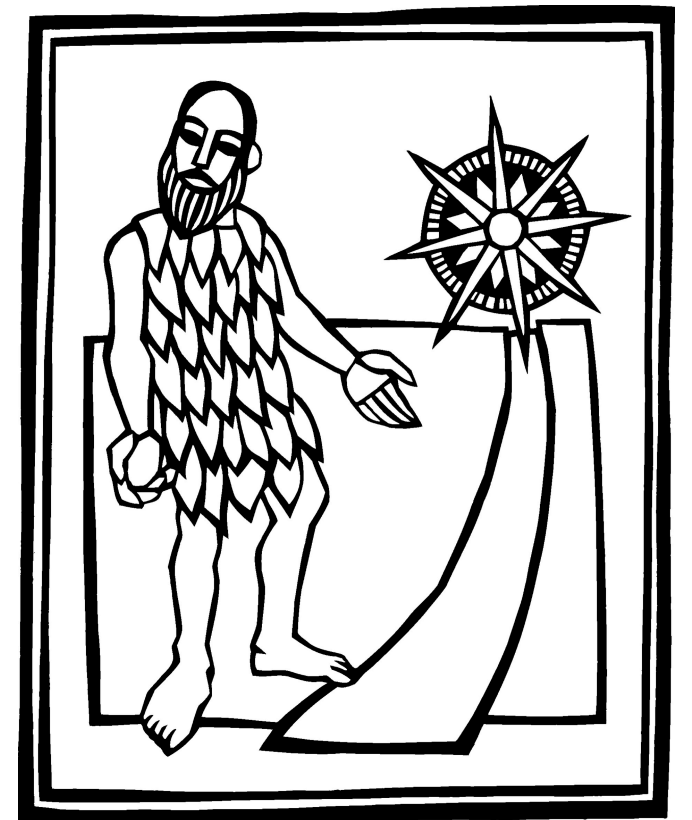
**Email:** [office@faithspicer.org](mailto:office@faithspicer.org)

**Phone:** 320.796.2522

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Sunday, December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent



**FAITH**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*nurture | inspire | share*

## WELCOME

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Let us pray. **Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts to receive this gift. Bless our worship, and guide us in all we say and do. This we ask in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

ELW 242

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Faith Chancel Choir  
*Abide with Me, Evermore* arr. Katherine Ragan and Carol Meier, with Lorie Skaro-Johnson on Flute and Bob Whitney on Oboe

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 35:1-10

**PSALM (read responsively):** Psalm 146:5-10

**SECOND READING:** James 5:7-10

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*Christ Be Our Light*

ELW 715

### APOSTLE'S CREED

Together we confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, hear our prayer.

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING -** (Online giving with QR Code)

**OFFERING MUSIC:** Faith Chancel Choir

### OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

*(Gluten free wafers & grape juice are available - simply ask your server)*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

*He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

ELW 737

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Keep awake! **Thanks be to God!**

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 2025

**Wednesday, December 24**

**Services at 3:00 & 5:00pm**



**310 Medayto Dr. Spicer**  
**320-796-2522**



#### Copyright Information

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Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

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