

JOY  
LOVE  
PEACE  
BELIEVE  
CHRISTMAS

**FAITH IN FOCUS**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**308 2nd St NW, PO Box 358**  
**Dodge Center MN 55927**  
**507-374-2174**  
**faithdcmn@gmail.com**  
**www.faithdc.org**

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
308 2ND STREET NW  
DODGE CENTER, MN 55927  
507-374-2174 | CALL WITH QUESTIONS

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR PARKING LOT WORSHIP ON

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## 12/24 | 4:30PM | 91.5FM

ARRIVE BETWEEN 4:00-4:30 TO GET SET-UP ON YOUR FM DIAL, MEET SANTA, AND RECEIVE YOUR GIFTS!

**EACH CAR** WILL RECEIVE: COMMUNION SUPPLIES, BULLETIN AND A GOODIE BAG OF TREATS. COME AND PICK-UP YOUR BAG!

ALL **KIDS** WILL RECEIVE A GIFT FROM SANTA TO OPEN DURING THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE.

PLEASE BRING SOMETHING TO **LIGHT YOUR CANDLE**

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

#### **Wednesday, December 23**

No confirmation this evening

#### **Thursday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Outdoor Service 4:30 pm

Park in the east or west parking lot.

More information on the back

#### **Friday, December 25** **Christmas Day**

**Sunday, December 27** 9:00 am

*The worship service will be livestreamed at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie through Facebook:*

<https://www.facebook.com/faithdodgecenter>

Worship on December 27 can be listened to at 9 am on Sunday on KOWZ 100.9 FM | [kowzfm.com](http://kowzfm.com)

### **Christmas Message from Bishop Hassanally**

*“she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger...” (Luke 2:7)*

To the People of God in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,

I often see, on social media, pictures and pontifications with the same basic message, you are enough. Whether it is convincing an exhausted parent, a self-conscious teen, an essential worker, an adult who feels all alone – no matter the audience, the message is the same, you are enough.

I'll admit these messages sometimes serve as a catalyst for little wells of tears to pool in my eyes.

It feels so good to be seen. There is some piece of the message that touches on our human longing to know we matter and that all of our toil and work is not in vain.

*Continued on back page*

## PRAYER MINISTRY

## BISHOP HASSANALLY

Faith has an active prayer ministry. If you desire prayer, please contact the church office at (507) 374 -2174 or stop into the church office. Names will be listed here for two weeks, after which time they will be removed unless we hear from you to keep prayers active.

### **Please pray for:**

Sandy Lee, Diana Vang, Wayne McColley, Intern Pastor Kira Anderson, Castillo Fuerte and Bishop Ata in Bogotá, Colombia, Bishop Regina Hassanally and the SEMN Synod.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### December 20-31 Birthdays

20. Charlie Asprey, Aubree Morrow, Cory Utech
21. Wayne McColley
22. Devery Denter, Stephen Knutson, Jim Yanke
23. Dan Blaisdell, Shaun Hall, Lisa Wolf
24. Rylan Peterson
25. Cory Woxland
26. Mackenzie Milner, Carol Mundy, Zowie Short
27. Glenn Engelken, Mason Koehler
28. Greta Gielser
31. Harl Burzlaff

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### December 14-26 Anniversaries

26. Steve and Sandy Lee

Kira Anderson, Intern Pastor  
Carol Johnson, Secretary  
Nadine Langworthy, Music Coordinator  
Mindy Schaefer, Financial Comptroller  
Ray Spaulding, Maintenance Supervisor

But these messages, especially as of late, often ring hollow. There are so many things we do, so much time and energy and investment we pour into people, relationships, institutions, often without any guarantee of how things will turn out. We could give of ourselves completely, and it might never be enough. What then? It can be easy to fall into a perpetual cycle of trying and investing and trying again until we finally collapse, exhausted. All of the social media messages in the world cannot guarantee that what we do will ever be enough. You know what? The truth is I am not enough, and neither are you. On our own, we are not enough. But there is someone who is.

His name is Jesus.

It has long been a mystery of the faith to me how a newborn wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger could be enough to meet the aching of the whole world. How could a child meet all of our needs? How could this One be enough to make us whole? It is because (as you know) this child is the Son of God. This child is Emmanuel, God with us. God with us. And it is enough.

Dear church, I don't know how you are feeling as we come to the close of this calendar year. I know some of you are dragging. I know plenty of you are weary. Some of you are frustrated, and some of you are bone tired. And I know this: I know the baby in the manger is enough to hold all of this and more. I know Jesus is enough to meet us in this moment and bring us a life of abundance. I know on Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ, the one who has come to save this weary world. He is the fulfillment of all our hopes and longings, and he is the one who walks with us in all things. We may never be enough. That's okay. We don't have to be - because Jesus is. Jesus is enough for you. Jesus is enough for me. Jesus is enough for this whole, weary and wonderful world.

Jesus is enough.

Dear church, I pray this Christmas season you would know the fullness of the life of Jesus in you. I pray your weariness would be exchanged for abundance. I pray your tiredness would be exchanged for rest. I pray your tireless efforts to be enough would be exchanged for a quiet confidence in the fullness of Jesus the Christ.

This Christmas, may Christ appear in you and me, and may our hearts know the sweet joy of Jesus Christ. He is more than enough.

In Christ,  
Bishop Regina Hassanally  
Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA