

Following Faith Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church, Reno NV

January 2026

Friends in Faith, Happy New year!

This Second Sunday of Christmas, our gathering hymn is "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"—and it carries a lesson for the year beginning after the gift of Christmas.

The hymn comes to us from the 14th century, originally sung as "In dulci jubilo," a macaronic carol that mixed Latin and German in the same verses. Medieval Christians would sing phrases like "Our heart's delight / *leit in praesepio*"—switching mid-thought from their everyday German to the Latin, what was considered “sacred” for the Church.

And this duality/complexity to the hymn wasn't just linguistic creativity. It was theological instinct.

This Christmas, notice with me that the form of the carol mirrors the mystery of the Incarnation itself. Latin, the church's (at the time) language of heaven, liturgy, and eternity, collides with German, the language of home, work, and daily bread. The sacred and the earthly refuse to stay separated—just as in the manger, the Word becomes Flesh.

Christmas gives us a gift that is both/and: fully divine, fully human. Eternal Word, crying infant. Sacred mystery, tangible reality. And this gift doesn't end when we pack away the decorations. The Incarnation is perpetual—God-with-us, now and always.

As we step into a new year, "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" reminds us that we don't have to choose between the spiritual and the ordinary, between heaven's call and earth's demands. The whole Christian life is macaronic—heaven's language spoken in earthly words, divine love enacted in human gestures, the eternal Word continually becoming flesh in us and through us.

In dulci jubilo—in sweet rejoicing—we begin again this year, and together.

Rejoice, friends of this mystery and reality!,

+Pastor Shaun

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH



Sunday, Jan. 4th — Second Sunday of Christmas

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Sunday, Jan. 11th — Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.



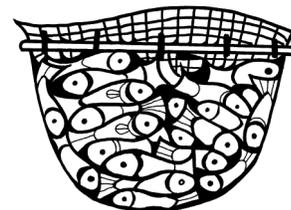
Sunday, Jan. 18th — Second Sunday after Epiphany

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

FLC Choir sings this day!

Sunday, Jan. 25th — Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God's grace and mercy.



Fellowship

Annual Church Meeting will be January 25th.

Following Worship at 10:50AM

Spaghetti will be provided.

Faith's Supper Club - January 22nd

Location - **TBD**

Time: **11:30am to 2pm**

We are a group of believers meeting together for Fellowship and a meal.

Enjoying each other's company. For more information please contact Jean C.



Tuesday Bible Readers by Eileen W.

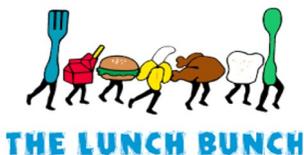
This group meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 in the back of the sanctuary. We read and discuss the lectionary for the following Sunday. You can also join this group on zoom. This is a good way to read the Bible daily and prepare yourself for Sunday.

To find the Lectionary passages Augsburg Fortress puts them in a book Bread for the Day 2026. It is a daily Bible Reading and Prayer Book. You can purchase it from Augsburg Fortress or from Amazon.

Fellowship Team by Eileen W.

The Fellowship Team meets as needed. Our main functions are: Easter Breakfast before the Easter service, a Taco/Bingo evening, Ice Cream Social on Father's Day, The annual BBQ or picnic in August, the Oktoberfest, December Christmas cookie Palooza. We also do funeral receptions. We need to set up and decorate for these events then clean up after the event.

We can always use helping hands to accomplish these events if you would like to help-out let the Fellowship Team know.



The Lunch Bunch Group

meets on the first Wednesday of the month at noon to

share a meal and engage in fellowship. We will meet January 7th. Bring a dish to share. It can be a main entrée, salad, desert, bread, or a snack. The program is going to be a video "No Longer in Service", a documentary on the United States Postal Service, depicting a rural Nevada small town that relies on the USPS for its needs. See Eileen W. for questions.

Birthday Sundays by Eileen W.

Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated on the First Sundays of the month. We like to celebrate this event with a cake. If you sign up to be the coffee host for after worship fellowship on the First Sunday of the month, we would appreciate it if you would bring a cake to celebrate this occasion.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year! <hr/> Scouts 7pm	2	3
4 9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	5 ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm	6 Bible Study 1:30pm 	7 Lunch Bunch 12pm	8 Grief Support Group 10:30am Finance Meeting 12pm Scouts 7pm	9	10 Worship Team Meeting 10am
11 9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	12 ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm	13 Bible Study 1:30pm	14 Memory Care Support 1:30 pm 4-H WhipStirs 6:30 pm	15 Scouts 7pm	16	17
18 9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	19 ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm Council Meeting 6pm	20 NARFE 11am Bible Study 1:30pm	21	22 Grief Support Group 10:30 am Faith's Supper Club 11:30am - 2pm Scouts 7pm	23	24
25 9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum Annual Meeting 10:50am	26 ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm	27 Bible Study 1:30pm	28	29 Scouts 7pm	30 	31

Council Officers 2026

President: Sonja Dresbach

Vice President: Matthew Rhiley

Secretary: Ben Pesis

Treasurer: Erica Wilfred

Pastor Shaun O'Reilly

Sharon Scagliotti

Eric Weldon

Committee Chairs

Communications: Amy Zimmerman

Fellowship: Eileen Way

Finance: Erica Wilfred

Personnel: Linda Zimmerman

Property: Eric Weldon

Stewardship: Unfilled

Outreach: Judi Hein

Worship: Sharon Scagliotti



Happy New Year 2026!

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Please send any prayer requests to the Prayer Team at:

prayers@faithlutheranreno.org