

ISAIAH 9:2

The people that
walked in darkness
have seen a

great light.



God's Invitation Gathers Us

Welcome

Advent Reading and Candle-Lighting

Isaiah 61:1-3a | Slinkman Family

God's Greeting

"Christmas Offering"

"Angels from the Realms of Glory (Emmanuel)"

God's Grace Claims Us

Psalms of Praise

Psalms 80:1-7; 85:1-3,10-13; 98

"Who is He in Yonder Stall"

#195 (WC)

Congregational Prayer

Children's Blessing

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#157 (WC)

Offering: World Renew

God's Word Speaks to Us

Prayer

Luke 1:39-58

pg. 1013

Rejoice in the Lord's Mercy and Might!

Prayer

God's Blessing Equips Us

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

#171:1,2 (WC)

Benediction

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

#171:3 (WC)

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leader & Sermon:

Matthew Lanser

Praise Team:

Children's Church, Faith Praise Team,

Chris Tang, Clement Tang, Dan Roelofs

(PH-Psalter Hymnal | WC-Worshiping Church | LH-Lift Up Your Hearts Hymnal)

Prelude

*Willow Anderson, Julia Feenstra, Jon Flikkema, Elaina Slinkman,
Colin Speelman, Eva Speelman, Mabel Kinnas, Nora Kinnas, Olivia Kinnas,
Alex Koopmans, Finn Koopmans, Max Koopmans*

Welcome

"Come, Oh Redeemer, Come"

*God's Greeting

*Luke 1:1-4, 68-75 p.1012

Know and Rejoice!

Prayer

Offering: Resonate Global Mission

1st Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

**"Once in Royal David's City" | #161:1,2,4 (WC)*

2nd Reading: Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" | #331:1-3 (PH)

3rd Reading: Luke 1:26-38

"Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem"

4th Reading: Luke 1:39-56

"The First Noel"

5th Reading: Luke 2:1-7

"What Child is This" | #150 (WC)

6th Reading: Matthew 2:8-14

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" | #338:1,3,4,6 (PH)

7th Reading: Luke 2:15-20

"Peace, Peace / Silent Night"

**"Silent Night" | #164:3 (WC)*

*Blessing

"O Holy Night" | #160 (WC)

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leader & Sermon:

Pastor Matthew Lanser

Worship Team:

Faith Men's Ensemble, Dawn Feenstra, Julia Feenstra,
Olivia Kinnas, Mo Pacheco, Avery Rauwerda, Mary Reitsma, Dan Roelofs,
Sandy Roelofs, Jan Slinkman, Eva Speelman, Chris Tang, Kristen Voss

Scripture Readers:

Mary Baas, Rachel Kinnas, Laura Lanser, Jay Lumkes,
Susan Slinkman, Steve Van Kampen, Brad Wieringa

This Week at Faith

The Advent Season: In the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, the church has traditionally focused on the coming of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We anticipate celebrating His birth at Christmas, and we look forward to His second coming at the end of time. Our Advent Sunday morning and Christmas services will begin with a Scripture Reading from Isaiah 61 and a Candle Lighting.

Sunday Morning: we'll read Luke 1:39-58 for our "Rejoice" series.

Sunday Evening: we'll have our annual Candlelight service as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. We'll have a number of Scripture readings, mostly from Luke 1-2, and several Advent and Christmas songs as we worship in anticipation and celebration of Christmas.

Christmas Morning we'll gather at 10:00 AM to rejoice in Christ's birth through Christmas songs and by reading the Christmas story from Luke 2.

Next week: we'll read Matthew 5:1-10 on this last Sunday of the year.

Upcoming Worship

| Sunday | Morning | Evening |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| December 25 | Matthew Lanser | No Service |
| December 28 | Mac Wiener | No Service |
| January 4 | Mo Pacheco | No Service |
| January 11 | Matthew Lanser | Mo Pacheco |

Prayer Requests

After a brief time at home, **Beth Cunningham** is back at Elmhurst Hospital dealing with a number of health issues.

Eileen Rauglas is at Bella Terra of Elmhurst for rehab following surgeries for a broken leg and wrist.

Please pray for **Lois Rusthoven** as she recovers after a couple days in the hospital due to flu pneumonia.

Marion Van Dyke has permanently moved to Sunrise at Fountain Square in Lombard. Her new address is: 2210 Fountain Square, Ste. 218, Lombard, IL. 60148. Her phone number remains the same.

Need prayer? If you have prayer needs, please contact your district elder, one of the pastors, or fill out a prayer card from the welcome counter and place it in the prayer box. Send prayer requests at any time to prayer@faithelmhurst.org.

Praise and Thanksgiving

Linda Decker would like to say "Thank You" to Pastor Matthew and the congregation for the support through prayers, visits, and cards! **Linda also moved** this past Friday to Lacey Creek, a supportive living facility, at 4200 Lacey Rd. in Downers Grove. She is excited to see God's plan for her future. "God is Good! Merry Christmas!!"

Holiday Office Hours

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Wednesday, December 24: | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM |
| Thursday, December 25: | Closed |
| Friday, December 26: | Closed |
| Monday, December 29: | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM |
| Tuesday, December 30: | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM |
| Wednesday, December 31: | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM |
| Thursday, January 1: | Closed |
| Friday, January 2: | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM |

Offering Schedule

Need support? If you're facing financial hardship, contact your district deacon (the office can connect you). They're ready and eager to do what they can.

| Sunday | Morning | Evening |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------|
| December 25 | All God's Children | No Service |
| December 28 | Elim Christian Services | No Service |



Online giving is available for the following funds: General, Benevolence, Building, Christian Education, and Faith Promise Missions. Scan this QR code to give online.

November Offering Report

The Deacons gratefully acknowledge the following offerings made in November, 2025 (the below offerings are in addition to the Thanksgiving offerings):

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------|
| Budget | \$58,002 | Elim | \$ 50 |
| Benevolence Fund | \$ 2,455 | Elmhurst Walk-In | \$ 467 |
| Building Fund | \$ 728 | Grace in Garfield | \$ 500 |
| Christian Education Fund | | PADS | \$ 879 |
| (formerly "Timothy") | \$ 6,462 | Prayer Shepherd | \$ 100 |
| Education Fund | \$ 195 | ReFrame | \$ 402 |
| Faith Promise | \$ 5,061 | Rehoboth | \$ 619 |
| Bethshan | \$ 1,172 | Zuni CRC | \$ 299 |

Actual General Fund receipts for June 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025, total approximately \$365,000 compared to budgeted receipts of \$354,400, which is a \$10,600 surplus to budget. Actual expenses for the same period total approximately \$329,800, a cash surplus versus collections of \$35,200.

As of November 30th, the Christian Education Fund obligation for the 2025-2026 academic year is \$86,000.

Thanksgiving Offering Report

The Deacons gratefully acknowledge the tremendously generous offerings made by the Congregation on Thanksgiving Day of 2025, which totaled \$107,130. Those funds were earmarked for distribution thusly:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| Faith General Fund (Budget) | \$20,035 | Faith Building Fund | \$ 2,220 |
| Christian Education Fund | | Faith Promise | \$ 2,860 |
| (formerly "Timothy") | \$11,010 | Gideons | \$ 25 |
| Faith Benevolence Fund | \$ 7,030 | Helping Hands, | |
| All God's Children | \$ 975 | Helping Hearts | \$10,950 |
| Bethshan | \$ 6,325 | Kristi Tazelaar | |
| Bible League International | \$ 50 | Memorial Fund | \$ 50 |
| Bright Promise | \$ 2,600 | Lampstand | \$ 1,925 |
| Cadets (Faith) | \$ 100 | Mission India | \$ 1,775 |
| Caring Network | \$ 4,600 | Partners Worldwide | \$ 2,380 |
| Chicago West Side | | ReFrame | \$ 600 |
| Christian School | \$ 2,405 | Resonate Mission | \$ 925 |
| Crossroad | \$ 510 | Roseland Christian | |
| Donna Venhousen | | Ministries | \$ 8,385 |
| Scholarship | \$ 225 | Serve the Global Church | \$ 250 |
| Ebenezer Community | | Tapestries of Life | \$ 2,075 |
| Care Center | \$ 4,800 | World Relief Chicagoland | \$ 250 |
| Ebenezer CRC | \$ 3,075 | World Renew | \$ 2,050 |
| Elim | \$ 6,320 | World Renew | |
| Elmhurst Walk-In | \$ 300 | (Brenda Caderberg) | \$ 50 |

Announcements

Pray on Wednesday: will *not* meet the next few weeks; we'll pick up again in January.

Pastor Matthew will be on vacation from this Friday, December 26, through Sunday, January 4. For pastoral care needs during this time, please contact Dirk.

Our next **All Church Game Night** is Friday, January 9 at 7:00 PM. Bring a friend and join us for Dominos and Dessert! Please sign up at the registration counter or faithelmhurst.org/resources if you are able to come and let us know if you are able to bring a dessert.

The Discipleship Team will be hosting the second ***Practicing the Way*** small group study from 10:45-11:30 AM on January 4, 11, 18 & 25. Register to join us in learning more about the **Practice of Sabbath**. Sabbath is a 24-hour time period set aside to stop, rest, delight and worship. It is the best day of the week! In our era of chronic exhaustion, emotional unhealth, and spiritual stagnation, few things are more necessary than the recovery of this ancient practice. Sign up today at the Registration Counter or faithelmhurst.org/resources

The **Faith book club** has selected *"Green Street in Black and White: A Chicago Story"* by Dave Larsen has the book to read for January. Larsen's historical fiction captures a pivotal moment in American history for millions, as seen through the eyes of a young boy yearning to make sense of his changing world. It is a coming-of-age tale that poignantly examines community, courage, and the enduring need to face what we cannot ignore. We will meet on **Tuesday, January 13th at 7PM.**

Looking for a Christmas themed read this season? The Faith **library** has grouped Christmas themed books in their "Feature Book" section. There is nonfiction, adult and youth fiction, and activity books. Come to the library and take a look!

Hymn Requests! Please send us hymns you'd like to hear in the first prelude of the month. Place them in the box at the registration counter or send requests to office@faithelmhurst.org so we can include music that's most meaningful to you.



Scan this QR code for faithelmhurst.org/resources for Faith's links and registrations.

Youth Announcements

Sunday School does not meet today or next week.

Faith Foundations does not meet today or next week.

The Forge meets tonight for our Christmas party! Questions? Email theforge@faithelmhurst.org.

The Gathering meets next on January 11. Have a great Christmas break! Questions? Email thegathering@faithelmhurst.org.

GEMS (1st-8th grade girls) will meet next on Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30PM. Questions? Email gems@faithelmhurst.org.

Cadets (4th-8th grade boys) will meet next on January 7. Questions? Email cadets@faithelmhurst.org.

Jr. Cadets (1st-3rd grade boys) will meet next on January 6. Questions? Email cadets@faithelmhurst.org.

This Week at Faith

Sunday, December 21

Men's Bible Reading Fellowship | 8:30 AM | Room 4/5

Pre-Worship Prayer Time | 9:10 AM | Room 1

Morning Worship | 9:30 AM | Sanctuary

Christmas Choir Practice | 10:45 AM | Choir Room

Candlelight Service | 5:00 PM | Sanctuary

The Forge | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 24

Office Hours 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Thursday, December 25

Office Closed

Christmas Day Service | 10:00 AM | Sanctuary

Friday, December 26

Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

Men's Morning Prayer Group | 7:00 AM | Library

Sunday, December 28

Men's Bible Reading Fellowship | 8:30 AM | Room 4/5

Pre-Worship Prayer Time | 9:10 AM | Room 1

Morning Worship | 9:30 AM | Sanctuary

Serving Faith Church

Audio Visual: David Lanser, Michael Speelman, Dirk Glaubke

Christmas Day: Chris Slinkman, Chuck Slinkman, Joy Hoving

Next Week: Brett Harbaugh, Sue Slinkman, Joy Hoving

PM Sound: Chris Slinkman, Matt Huizinga, Mindy Slinkman

Next Week: No Service

Security Host: Bill Hoving

Christmas Day: David Egan

Next Week: Bern Slinkman

December Greeters: Dirk Rauglas, Mike Oldenburger, Scott Folkerts

January Greeters: Bob Loerop, Ray Middel, Len Turnbull

Refreshments: Byron and Cathy Plate

Next Week: No Refreshments

Children's Church: Ivy Tang, Mindy Slinkman, Mabel Kinnas

Next Week: Melissa Biesboer, Chelsea Van Dyk, Grace Tobin

Nursery: Emily Hoving, Kelly Rauwerda, Summer & Maverick Ridder,
Avery Rawerda

Christmas Day: College Sitters™

Next Week: Mary Huizinga, Joy Koopmans, Alex Koopmans

Sunday School: No Sunday School

Next Week: No Sunday School

Faith CRC Supported Missionaries

All God's Children | Honduras | allgodschildrenhonduras.org

Mission India | India | missionindia.org

Roseland Christian Ministries | Chicago | roselandchristianministries.org

Tom & Kristen Buursma | Philippines | us.worldteam.org

Jim & Ruth Padilla De Borst | Costa Rica | resonateglobalmission.org

Rev. Eric & Penny Schering | Papua, New Guinea | piministries.com

Ray & Angie De Lange | United Kingdom | eastwest.org/missionaries

Tapestries of Life Ministries | Mexico | tapestriesoflifeministries.org

Brad & Ruth Eidsen | Camp Forest Springs: Wisconsin | forestsprings.us

Mike & Victoria Van Der Dyke | Nigeria | resonateglobalmission.org

Re. Jeong & Misook Gho | Japan | resonateglobalmission.org

James & Sarah Zwier - Zuni CRC: New Mexico | zunichristianmission.org

Mo & Erin Pacheco | Grace in Garfield: Chicago | graceingarfield.com

2025-2026
Faith CRC Council
Pastor Matthew Lanser

ELDERS:

Dirk Rauglas '26 (President)
Mike Oldenburger '27 (Clerk)
Ray Middel '28 (Vicar)
Steve David '27
Scott Folkerts '28
Bill Hoving '26
Bob Loerop '28
Al Miedema '27
Bern Slinkman '26
Len Turnbull '26

DEACONS:

Corey Van Dyk '26 (Chair)
Matt Sowers '27 (Treasurer)
Dave DeNararie '28
David Egan '26
Cal Hoving '28
Jon Huizinga '27
Jon Kinnas '28
Bill Ridder '27
Chris Slinkman '27
Jonathan Veurink '26

Elder/Deacon Districts

Districts were reassigned in 2022. Email the office for your district.

Districts:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
- Out of Town

Elder/Deacon Team:

Len Turnbull/Chris Slinkman
Bern Slinkman/David Egan
Scott Folkerts/Jonathan Veurink
Bill Hoving/Jon Huizinga
Steve David/Dave DeNazarie
Bob Loerop/Jon Kinnas
Ray Middel/Cal Hoving
Al Miedema/Bill Ridder
Mike Oldenburger/Matt Sowers

Visiting Teams

Elder Visiting Teams:

Len Turnbull/Bern Slinkman
Scott Folkerts/Bill Hoving
Steve David/Bob Loerop
Ray Middel/Al Miedema

Deacon Visiting Teams:

Chris Slinkman/David Egan
Jonathan Veurink/Jon Huizinga
Dave DeNazarie/Jon Kinnas
Cal Hoving/Bill Ridder

elders@faithelmhurst.org

deacons@faithelmhurst.org



Faith Focus of the Week:
Worship with Children and Youth:

This month in our worship services, we are seeing some of our **young families** lead us into our Advent and Christmas service. We've also been blessed to hear the voices of our youngest members as our **1st–5th Sunday School** students helped lead us in singing last week. This morning, **children's church (3yrs-K)** will sing a couple verses at their dismissal, and this evening a number of our **young people** will play for the Candlelight service prelude. After the holidays, we are excited to welcome **The Gathering**, our high school youth group, who will plan and lead our worship service on February 1st. We give heartfelt thanks to all the children and youth of our church for their enthusiastic participation in our ministries and worship, and to the parents and leaders whose support and dedication make these ministries possible!

Sermon Notes:



1070 S. Prospect Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 279-1776
faithelmhurst.org

Sunday Worship Services:
9:30 AM & 5:00 PM