

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRISTOL, CT

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
February 8, 2026 9:30 a.m.

For Micah, the blessed are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, the wise are the spiritual ones taught by the Spirit. For Jesus, the called are those who hunger for righteousness. Through baptism we find our blessed identity of salt and light and we find our calling in a countercultural way of living and serving with righteousness.

Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.



+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW p. 148

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading:

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

A reading from Micah, Chapter 6.

¹ Hear what the **LORD** says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the **LORD**, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the **LORD** has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the **LORD**.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the **LORD** and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the **LORD** be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the **LORD** require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15 (read responsively)

¹ **LORD**, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the **LORD**. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God’s hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God’s revelation in the cross.

A reading from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2.

⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”— ¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.
¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 2: 9-16

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 5. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Jesus said: ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

Matthew 5: 1-20

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (aimed toward Grades K thru 6th, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715 (vs. 1-3)

L: APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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.

(Please be seated)

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...(*time is allowed for additions*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...(*time is allowed for responses*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

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

Remain Standing

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

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OFFERTORY**We Are an Offering****ELW 692****L: OFFERING PRAYER**

For all that we have received from God let us pray for what we return.

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**ELW p. 152****HOLY, HOLY, HOLY****p. 153****EUCARISTIC PRAYER****LORD'S PRAYER****p. 154 (right column)****COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.*

(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)

LAMB OF GOD**pg. 154****COMMUNION HYMN****This Little Light of Mine****ELW 677****L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise [☩] bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

REMINDERS

(If you are giving a reminder, come to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared).

SENDING HYMN**Christ, Be Our Light****ELW 715 (vs. 4-5)****DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, February 8, 2026**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Chris Dion**Musician:** Helen Hamel

Assisting Minister: Valerie Holcomb

Lector: Heather Johnson

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Jon Fitzgerald, Roy Tessman, Bob Cummiskey

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

Communion Assistants: Heather Johnson and Cheryl Davis

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets

Monday, February 9, 2026

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Thursday, February 12, 2026

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Saturday, February 14, 2026

10:00 a.m. Fitness Class with Nancy Plourde

Sunday, February 15, 2026

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Congregational Conversation and Donut Sunday

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT 06010

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507