



“But I say to you that listen,

*Love*

your enemies,

*do good*

to those who hate you,

*bless*

those who curse you,

*pray*

for those who abuse you.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA**

309 Fourth Street Northeast

Valley City, North Dakota

*Interim Pastor: Jamie Desai*

*Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith*

Seventh Sunday of Epiphany      February 23, 2025

9:30am worship service

## WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME!

It is good to encounter Christ together. At Faith Lutheran we rise up to:

**Worship Christ, Welcome All, and Serve Others** because of Jesus.

A special welcome to visitors and guests! May God bless our time together as we celebrate Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the Word of God, and the community we share. Please fill out a welcome card if you have changes: address, phone number, prayer request. Break off the bottom half to place in the offering plate; keep the top as a bookmark and a reminder of worship times.

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\*Indicates those who are able, please stand. (ELW - Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal)

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, join the journey of Jesus today!

**We come in our different ways, walking in our own styles, at our own speeds. But we come to join the journey.**

Come, walk into the truth of who you are and who God is. Walk the way with Jesus into real life, as he listens and learns, tells and teaches, as he laughs and cries, as he lives and dies. Come, walk with the God who is the Way, the Truth, the Life.

**We have come to join the journey of Jesus today!**

\*GATHERING SONG      **"All Creatures Worship God"** vs 1,4      ELW 835

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*Gracious Lord God, your life and death hold up a mirror to our own weakness and sin. This morning we have gathered here together as people who have messed up and turned away from you.*

**Forgive us, O Lord.**

*Gracious Lord God, we want to be your followers, but just like your first disciples we fall asleep or fall away. We deny you or betray you or abandon you. We are afraid of what taking up your cross to follow you may mean for our lives. Forgive us, O Lord.*

SONG OF MERCY

**"Lord Have Mercy"**

see screen

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have been transformed and adopted into the family of God. You are an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God.

**I am an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God!**

\*SONG OF PRAISE   **“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”** vs 1                      ELW 535

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus, **make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

**Genesis 45:3-11, 15** (PB pg. 46 - Old Testament)

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

**Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40** (please read responsively)

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50** (PB pg. 185 - New Testament)

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

\*Gospel Acclamation   **“Blessed Be God, Who Forgives”**                      ELW 221

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

**Luke 6:27-38** (PB pg. 66 - New Testament)

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

## SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

\*HYMN OF THE DAY                      **“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**                      ELW 656

## INSTALLATION OF 2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

\*OFFERTORY

**“This Little Light of Mine”** vs 1

ELW 677

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

\*GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 129

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*(singing)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ELW pg. 130

\*THE LORD’S PRAYER

ELW pg. 134

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION - We welcome all the baptized to the meal celebrating the new life we have in Christ Jesus. Come forward as the ushers direct. Please take a cup for communion from the center boxes as you come forward. Start at the middle and fill to the sides. Gluten-free wafers are available. Young children will receive a grape and a blessing. Place your empty cups in the boxes. If you wish to refrain from communion, God knows your heart.

Communion Music

**“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”**

ELW 708

**“What Feast of Love”**

ELW 487

**“Eat This Bread”**

ELW 472

**“You Are My All in All”** (chorus)

see screen

\*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

\*SENDING SONG

**“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

ELW 543

\*DISMISSAL Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Okay we will!**

POSTLUDE

*We depart to serve the Lord*

Serving Today

**Greeters:** Warren & Brenda Ventsch  
**Ushers:** Scott & Deb Beilke  
**Lector:** Marsha Saylor  
**Acolyte:** Gavin Welken  
**Coffee:** Rick & Audrey Bredeson,  
 Pat Seiner, Cheryl Storhoff  
**Keyboard & Vocals:** Cyndi Hill

Attendance & Offering

Attendance: 2/16 86 no live-stream

Offering: 2/2 \$3,010.00  
 2/9 \$5,053.00  
 2/16 \$3,195.00

Mission Plan monthly  
 \$23,577.58

The Week Ahead: February 24-March 2, 2025

Monday, February 24

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, February 25

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

1:30pm - Text Study

Wednesday, February 26

1:00pm - Quilters

3:15pm - Kids Club

6:30pm - Confirmation at Trinity

Thursday, February 27

1:00pm-3:00pm - Sheyenne Valley  
Memory Cafe

Friday, February 28

Jr/Sr High Youth—Fargo Force

Sunday, March 2

9:30am - Worship Service

10:30am - Coffee Fellowship

10:45am - Sunday School

Announcements

Stop in the fellowship hall for a cup of coffee or juice and a treat served at 10:30am following worship. It is good to enjoy each other's company and conversation.



The Mission Team will be collecting 2-piece pajamas for Project Ignite Light throughout February. All sizes are needed. You may buy sleep pants and a top especially for the older youth since pajamas may be harder to find in the larger sizes. Please note: Project Ignite doesn't take one piece pajamas/sleepers. **We will have a fleece blanket tying event today, February 23rd after worship.**



**WELCA will be collecting Thankofferings throughout the month of February.** Thankoffering

Envelopes were mailed out with the February newsletter. We have Thankoffering envelopes on the gathering table as well. If you would like to give your Thankoffering online you may also go to our website: [www.faithlutheranvc.org](http://www.faithlutheranvc.org) and donate to WELCA there. We give in thanks of blessings receive—and we do receive so many blessings. Your generous Thankofferings help support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization.



**Lenten Meals—Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday.** We are asking groups or families to sign up to make and serve a simple meal for one of the Wednesdays. We will serve

5:30-6:15pm each Wednesday during Lent and Maundy Thursday. You should plan for between 50-60 people. A sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering area. Thank you for your willingness to serve.



**Lenten Services**—Throughout Lent we will serve a freewill offering meal **5:30-6:15pm**. Lenten services will be at **6:30pm**. This year's theme is ***“Majoring in the Minor Prophets”***. The local ELCA pastors are leading the services in a round robin style. Each week the

pastors will rotate to a different church. Holy Week each of the pastors will be at their home church. The pastors participating are Pr. Jamie, Pr Nicholas (Our Savior's), Pr Diane (Trinity) and Pr Rich (Our Savior's), We look forward to worshiping together. We will be live-streaming the Lenten services on our Facebook page.

**Community Closet will be open Monday, February 24, 5-7pm** in the basement of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. This is a source the community has for free clothing for all gender and sizes. Volunteers are needed on Sunday, February 23, 6-8pm for set up and Monday, February 24, 7-8pm for closing.

**Epworth UMM French Toast Brunch—Sunday, February 23.** They will be serving French Toast, Sausage, Fruits, Assorted Syrups and Beverage from 9am-12:30pm. Adults: \$8, Grades 1-6: \$4, Preschool: Free. Proceeds will be used to support Epworth's Youth Ministries.

**Sheyenne Valley Memory Café—Thursday, February 27, 1-3pm** here at Faith Lutheran. The topic will be Medication Management. This is a helpful group for those dealing with memory loss for themselves or a family member.



**LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**SMP Health - St. Raphael:**—Clara Bredeson; Marlys Freadhoff; Mark Hill; Diane Kohn; Paula Krall; Laurette Zachrison.

**General Prayer List:**—Sandy Mulvaney; Scott Stanford; Mike Schmidt; Bob Green; Mackenzie Schram (Becky Kratz' niece); Jan Leuer (Bernie Mortenson's sister); Alan Scherling (Elaine Wall's nephew); Nancy Knutson; Jesse Archambeau (Karen Nitschke's nephew); Sandi Pollock; Kay Stanford; Linda Moser; Mary Buringrud (Nikki Moen's mother); Bea Faust; Verna Anderson; Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill's grandson); Sue Olson; Rick Anderson (Bud & Verna Anderson's son); Curt Tufty (Sue Olson's brother-in-law); Doug Altringer; Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

**Contact Info**

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Facebook Page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City

YouTube Channel: [vcfaithlutheran](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvfaithlutheran)



**Thrivent Choice Dollars ®** —Thrivent Financial members the deadline to direct your 2024 Choice Dollars expires on **March 31st**. Go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836 to make your choices for your Choice Dollars. Thank you everyone who designates their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran! In 2024 Faith Lutheran received \$1,336.

We do have Equal Exchange candy bars available for you to purchase for \$5 each. We have 55% Cacao Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch w/Sea Salt; 65% Cacao Dark Chocolate Infused Orange; 55% Cacao Dark Chocolate Almond & Sea Salt; 43% Cacao Classic Milk Chocolate. They are located on the table under the mirror. You can give your money to Julie in the office.