



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 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.

*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 to the cross.

We come to encounter Jesus at the cross.

Come witness the One who welcomes sinners.

We come to see the One who heals the brokenhearted.

Come join the journey of Jesus to the cross.

*GATHERING SONG **"All Are Welcome"** vs 1,2,4 ELW 641

*CONFESSION

Gracious Lord God, we come before you this morning as people who are broken physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

We pray for your healing touch. Restore us to wholeness and may we let go of the sins that have wounded us.

Heal us O Lord and make us the people you created us to be.

SONG OF MERCY **"Bring Your Mercy"** see screen

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Though we fall short of the glory of God in the things we do and in the things we fail to do, God still says to us: You are an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God!

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, **you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Noisy Offering—Bridges Backpack Program

SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

Joshua 5:9-12 (PB pg. 217 - Old Testament)

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

Psalms 32 (please read responsively)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (PB pg. 191 - New Testament)

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

*Gospel Acclamation

“Wait for the Lord”

ELW 262

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (PB pg. 80 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY **“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”**

ELW 608

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the God of promise—the God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel—the God of the past—the God of now—the God who owns the future. I believe in Jesus, God in our flesh—God who seeks us out—God who comes to serve—God who embraces outcasts—God who reigns from a cross—God who conquers death. I believe in the Holy Spirit—God with us forever—God giving us faith—God empowering our witness—God filling us with peace. I Believe! Amen.

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

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY

“Give Thanks”

see screen

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 **“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”**

ELW 779

“Come, Let Us Eat”

ELW 491

“All Who Believe and Are Baptized”

ELW 442

“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: *Auka Family*
Ushers: *Scott & Amy Johnson*
Lector: *Amy Johnson*
Acolyte: *Rylee Gray*
Kitchen: *Troy & Jodi Miller, Nancy Bjerke*
Keyboard & Vocals: *Cyndi Hill*

Attendance & Offering

Attendance: 3/23 106 76+ online
3/26 (Lent) 68

Offering: 3/2 \$5,130.00
3/9 \$5,269.00
3/16 \$4,230.00
3/23 \$3,421.00

Mission Plan monthly
\$23,577.58

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.



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"**. Each week the local ELCA 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 worshipping together. Pr. Nicholas will be here Wednesday, April 2.

The Week Ahead: March 31-April 6, 2025

Monday, March 31

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, April 1

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

1:30pm - Text Study

Wednesday, April 2

12:15pm - Early Dismissal Day

1:00pm - Quilters

5:15pm - Council Meeting

5:30pm - Lenten Meal

6:30pm - Lenten Service

Thursday, April 3

Quilting Class

Friday, April 4

Quilting Class

Sunday, April 6

9:30am - Worship Service

10:30am - Coffee Fellowship

10:30am - Congregation Meeting

—Pastoral Call Vote

10:45am - Sunday School

10:45am - 1st Communion Class



First Communion—We invite children in **2nd grade & up** who have not received communion and whose parents would like them to receive Holy Communion to attend the session, **next Sunday, April 6th at 10:45am** (during Sunday School time) to prepare and welcome them to Christ's table and understand the gifts and meaning of Holy Communion. Parents decide if you would like your child to attend. An adult needs to attend the child to the session. A letter was mailed out to families with information. **Please let us know asap if your child will be attending.**

Last Sunday, March 23 we received \$216.36 from the noisy offering for the Bridges Backpack Program! Thank you for your generosity! Your loose change and dollar bills continue to make a difference in people's lives.



WELCA will be collecting items for **Personal Health Kits** for Lutheran World Relief through Lent.

Items for the health kits are:

- 1 - **light weight bath towel** (between 20"x40" and 52"x27")
- 1 - **adult size toothbrush** in it's original packaging*
- 1 - **metal fingernail clipper**, remove packaging
- 1 - **sturdy comb**, remove packaging
- 2 or 3 **bath-size bars of soap**, 8 or 9 oz in original wrapping

*Multi-pack Toothbrushes may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap. A container is in the gathering area for these items.



We will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt** at the end of Sunday School on **Palm Sunday, April 13**. If you would like to bring bags of **wrapped candy** for the

Easter eggs you can drop them by Julie's office or leave in the workroom. Thank you!



We will be adorning our altar with **Easter Lilies** on Easter Sunday—If you would like to contribute a cash donation (suggested \$20 donation) towards their purchase in memory or

in honor of a loved one, a sign up sheet is in the gathering area. We will put the names of your loved ones in the Easter bulletin. Other plants and flowers are very welcome in our Easter garden.

Thrivent Choice Dollars® —Thrivent Financial members the deadline to direct your 2024 Choice Dollars **expires on March 31st**. Go to 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!



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:—Don Burke; Amanda Spencer (Karen Nitschke's granddaughter); 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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YouTube Channel: [vcfaithlutheran](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfaithlutheran)



Red Willow Ministries—Summer Volunteers Needed

As they prepare, they would love your help. They are looking for the following weekly volunteers:

- **Camp Nurse Team**—Someone who is licensed in the state of North Dakota, is able to pass meds, and care for minor injuries/illnesses.
- **Lawn Care Team**—Red Willow has hundred of acres to care for and many hands make for light work!
- **Cleaning Team**—The staff work around the clock Sunday-Friday each week and they would love to help their summer team get to their weekends a little sooner. They are looking for people who can volunteer Friday mornings in the summer to help with the end of week cleaning.

Get more information and volunteer by emailing office@redwillowministries.com.