

Matthew 5:9, KJV



**“Blessed are the
peacemakers: for they
shall be called the
children of God.”**

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

**309 Fourth Street Northeast
Valley City, North Dakota**

Pastor: Jamie Desai

Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany February 1, 2026

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

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come let us worship the One who blesses the poor in spirit and those who mourn.

Blessed are those.

Come let us worship the One who blesses the meek and those who hunger for righteousness.

Blessed are those.

Come let us worship the One who blesses the merciful and the pure in heart.

Blessed are those.

Come let us worship the One who blesses the Peacemakers and calls them the Children of God.

Blessed are those.

*GATHERING HYMN

"We Are Called"

ELW 720

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious Lord God, we confess that we have not looked for your blessings that have come into our world, but have focused on the darkness that surrounds and overwhelms us, frightens and numbs us.

We admit to you and each other that we have tried to deny the power of the darkness by pretending it isn't there. We have denied the power of your light. Forgive us Oh, Lord.

SONG OF MERCY **"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"** vs 1,2,4 ELW 712

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Gracious Lord God, forgive us and come once again into our darkness, into our shadows with the beauty of your light, recognizing that the darkness cannot overcome it. Bless us oh Lord, for we are your accepted, forgiven and loved children of God. **I am an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God.**

*SONG OF PRAISE **“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”** ELW 708

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, **you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

Micah 6:1-8 (PB pg. 966 - Old Testament)

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

Psalms 15 (please read responsively)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (PB pg. 173 - New Testament)

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

*Gospel Acclamation **“Hear Our Prayer”** ELW 178

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 5:1-12 (PB pg. 4 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY **“Blest Are They”** ELW 728

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

see screen

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

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 182

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 Hymns

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW 656

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW 471

“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

“Canticle of the Turning” vs 1,2,4

ELW 723

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

Serving Today

Greeters: *Brad & Megan McKay Family*
Ushers: *Steve & Karolee Ondracek*
Lector: *Taylor Yanish*
Acolyte: *Braeden Schulz*
Kitchen: *Scott & Deb Beilke, Steve & Karolee Ondracek,
Rick & Audrey Bredeson*
Keyboard: *Amy Johnson*
Vocals: *Julie May*

Attendance

Attendance: 1/25 162 69+ online

Offering: 1/4 \$5,821.00
1/11 \$8,508.00
1/25 \$6,314.00

Mission Plan monthly
\$24,295.67

Announcements

Stop in 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 conservation.



Our sympathies to Rick & Audrey Bredeson and family. Rick's mother, **Clara Bredeson**, died on Friday, January 23rd. A graveside committal service will be in the spring at Dazey Cemetery.

Our sympathies to Kent & Brenda Swanberg and family. Kent's mother, **Jean Swanberg**, died on Friday, January 23rd. Her funeral was held on Thursday, January 29 at Our Savior's.

Noisy Offering—February 8 is Souper Bowl of Caring—because of that we will be receiving a noisy offering during the Children's Message for Barnes County Food Bank. The children will be collecting your loose change and dollar bills in their bucket. Your loose change and dollar bills make a difference! We are thankful for your generous giving. **We are also asking that you donate cans of soup for the Food Pantry if you would like.** We will have a container to put the cans of soup in. Thank you for helping those who are in need of food to eat.

Kindergarten-6th Grade Early Dismissal Info—in the past Wendi has held a special Early Dismissal Kids Club when VCPS has an Early Dismissal Day. Unfortunately, this year will not work for this. We are running the Little League program at Circle of Friends this year, and she can't get over to the church by noon to run this special day. **There will not be Kids Club on Wednesday, February 4th for this reason.** Sorry if this is a problem for anyone!

Great Plains Mobile Food Pantry will be at Epworth UMC this **Tuesday, February 3, 1:30-3pm**. This is free food for all those who are in need of food assistance.

The Week Ahead: February 2-8, 2026

Monday, February 2

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, February 3

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

1:30pm-3:00pm - Mobile Food
Pantry at Epworth UMC

Wednesday, February 4

No Kids Club

1:00pm - Quilters

6:30pm - Confirmation
at Our Savior's

Thursday, February 5

Quilters Class

Friday, February 6

Quilters Class

Sunday, February 8

Souper Bowl of Caring

Noisy Offering—BC Food Pantry

9:30am - Worship Service

10:30am - Coffee Fellowship

10:45am - Sunday School



The Mission Team will be collecting 2-piece pajamas for Project Ignite Light through 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. If you would like to donate fleece, it takes 2 coordinating pieces of fleece (1 1/2 yards each) to make a blanket. We will have a fleece blanket tying event **Sunday, February 22** after worship. If you plan to bring fleece please have it to the church no later than Wednesday, February 18 so the fleece can be prepped for that Sunday. Thank you!

Lenten Meals—Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. We are asking groups or families/individuals to sign up to make and serve a simple meal for one of the Wednesdays. A reminder that the groups/people making and serving the meals aren't required to pay for it out of pocket if they would prefer not to. Receipts can be turned into the church office for reimbursement. 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.



Giving Hearts Day is Thursday, February 12. This is a 24-hour event in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota that provides a platform for charities to fund their missions. To make your donation

to the charities of your choice go to: **www.givingheartsday.org**. You may schedule your donation for Giving Hearts Day anytime now. We encourage you to give to our partners in ministries, the Eastern North Dakota Synod and Red Willow Bible Camp Ministries.



LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

SMP Health - St. Raphael:—Marlys Freadhoff; Ruby Hansen; Mark Hill; Diane Kohn; Paula Krall; Arlene Larson; Laurette Zachrison.

General Prayer List:—Maureen Walch (Karen Nitschke's sister); Doug Kratz; Kathy Burke; Laine Schwehr; Verlynn Christianson; LeeAnn Peterson; Angela Rohde (Jake Rohde's mother); JoAn Neller-moe; Don Burke; Amanda Spencer (Karen Nitschke's granddaughter); Scott Stanford; Bob Green; Mackenzie Schram (Becky Kratz' niece); Nancy Knutson; Jake Archambeau (Karen Nitschke's nephew); Kay Stanford; Linda Moser; Mary Buringrud (Nikki Moen's mother); Bea Faust; Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill's grandson); Doug Altringer; Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

Contact Info

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

2nd Annual Klub Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church—

Saturday, February 14, 4-6:30pm. *What is Klub?* It's a traditional Scandinavian potato & ham dumpling made of potatoes, flour, and butter. All are welcome! This free-will offering meal is to raise funds for Trinity Lutheran Ministries.

Thrivent Choice Dollars® —Thrivent Financial members the deadline to direct your 2025 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! In 2025 Faith Lutheran received \$1,697.