



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

309 Fourth Street Northeast
Valley City, North Dakota

Pastor: Jamie Desai

Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith

Second Sunday in Lent March 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, 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 **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"** ELW 631

CONFESSION OF SIN

The story of Christ's passion and death holds up a mirror to our own weakness and sin. We come together as children of God knowing that we have messed up and turned our backs on God; we all struggle with loving our neighbors and even ourselves. It is together that we admit our sins.

Gracious Lord God, **we want to follow you with our whole hearts, but like your disciples we fall away or fall asleep. We doubt you or betray you or abandon you. We are afraid of what the cross means for our lives. Have mercy and forgive us. Open our hearts and minds to hear your story in a new way and receive your gracious forgiveness again.**

SONG OF MERCY

“Mercy”

see screen

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus was denied, betrayed and abandoned. Jesus suffered and died on a cross so that we might be reunited with God. Because of Christ’s love and forgiveness you have been made a child of the Most High. Here these words of forgiveness and grace for you: You are an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God.

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

*SONG OF PRAISE **“The Church’s One Foundation”** vs 1,3,5

ELW 654

LITANY OF BOLDNESS

Leona McPherson

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, **our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS (**PB**- Pew Bible)

Genesis 12:1-4a (PB pg. 10 - Old Testament)

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

Psalms 121 (please read responsively)

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (PB pg. 161 - New Testament)

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

*Gospel Acclamation **“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”**

ELW 512

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

John 3:1-17 (PB pg. 96 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY **“What Wondrous Love Is This”** vs 1,2,4

ELW 666

*APOSTLES’ CREED

ELW pg. 127

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

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

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

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW 471

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

ELW 320

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW 335

“You Are My All in All” (chorus)

see screen

*BLESSING

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

*SENDING SONG

“Lift High the Cross” vs 1,2,3

ELW 660

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

POSTLUDE

We depart to serve the Lord

Serving Today

Greeters: Mikkal & Wanda Auka
Ushers: Dean & Amy Pederson Family
Lector: Mary Johnson
Acolyte: Brooke Bopp
Kitchen: Dean & Amy Pederson Family
Keyboard: Amy Johnson

Attendance

Attendance: 2/22 112 70+ online
2/25 (Lent) 90 32+ online

Offering: 2/1 \$5,524.00
2/8 \$11,719.00
2/15 \$3,060.00
2/22 \$7,743.00

Mission Plan monthly
\$24,295.67

The Week Ahead: March 2-8, 2026

Monday, March 2

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, March 3

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

5:15pm - Handbell Practice

Wednesday, March 4

1:00pm - Quilters

1:30pm - FLC Staff Meeting

3:15pm - Kids Club

5:30pm - Meal Served

6:30pm - Lenten Service

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time Begins

No Sunday School

9:30am - Worship Service

10:30am - Coffee Fellowship

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.



Today we celebrate **Bold Women's Day**.

As Women of the ELCA we're all about acting boldly on our faith in Jesus

Christ. And at least once a year we celebrate that boldness, whether it's a quiet and persistent bold or a loud and brash bold.

Lenten Services—Lenten services will be at **6:30pm**. This year's theme is **"Unbound: Longing for Wholeness"**. The local 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. Pastors participating are Pr. Jamie, Pr Jared (Our Savior's), Pr Diane (Trinity), Pr Nicholas (Nome-Fingal-Kathryn), Pr Bryce (Epworth UMC), We look forward to worshipping together. We will be live-streaming the Lenten services on our Facebook page.

WELCA has been collecting Thankofferings throughout the month of February. 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. If you haven't given your Thankoffering there is still time. Please return the first week of March. Thank you.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to bring 78 pairs of pajamas and 26 fleece tied blankets to Project Ignite Light! Thank you for your donations of pajamas and fleece. Thank you to everyone who helped with the preparation and tying of the blankets last Sunday! It was a fun event that all ages enjoyed doing together.

We do have ear buds available for people who are hard of hearing and would like to use them to hear the service better. Talk to the sound person and they will set you up.



Don't forget to change your clocks 1 hour ahead Saturday, March 7. Daylight savings time begins!



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" & 52"x27"), dark
- 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.



French Toast Brunch Fundraiser—Sunday March 23. Faith Lutheran Men's Group will be serving their annual French Toast and Sausage Brunch. They will be serving 9:30am-12:30pm.

This is Freewill Offering with the proceeds, after expenses, given to the General Fund at Faith Lutheran to be used for church expenses. We invite the members of our congregation and the community to enjoy the meal and help support Faith Lutheran.

Thank you for your continued financial support of Faith Lutheran. Your contributions support the missions and ministries of Faith Lutheran as well as monthly expenses of the church. If you have set up your giving electronically on our website:

www.faithlutheranvc.org, we do have cards that you may place in the offering plates that say you give electronically.



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:—Marlys Kunze; Karla Ranisate; Maureen Walch (Karen Nitschke's sister); Doug Kratz; Verlynn Christianson; Lee Ann Peterson; Angela Rohde (Jake Rohde's mother); JoAn Nelleremoe; Don & Kathy Burke; Amanda Spencer (Karen Nitschke's granddaughter); Scott & Kay Stanford; Bob Green; Mackenzie Schram (Becky Kratz' niece); Nancy Knutson; Jake Archambeau (Karen Nitschke's nephew); Linda Moser; Mary Buringrud; Bea Faust; Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill's grandson); Doug Altringer; Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

Contact Info

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On Bold Women's Sunday, a message to Faith Lutheran women: In the scripture men always go un into the mountains to meet God—but women rarely do. And we know why: women were too busy keeping life alive. They couldn't abandon babies, meals, garden, or a thousand daily responsibilities. A friend told me, "Men climb the mountain to meet God, but God comes to women wherever they are." I've been thinking about that ever since, and it's true. God met women at wells, in kitchens, in homes, beside sickbeds, in labor, in grief, even at the empty tomb. Mary saw the risen Christ because she was doing the sacred work of caring for His body. In the ordinary, they found divinity. So if you ever feel too busy to "go to the mountain," remember this: God comes to women. He knows your burdens, your place, your heart—and He meets you there. ~ Author Unknown