



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

309 Fourth Street Northeast
Valley City, North Dakota

Pastor: Jamie Desai

Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith

Third Sunday in Lent March 8, 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 **“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”** vs 1,2,5 ELW 533

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW pg. 95

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Gracious God, **have mercy of us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things**

we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*SONG OF PRAISE **“Oh, Sing to the Lord”** vs 1-4

ELW 822

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, **the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

Exodus 17:1-7 (PB pg. 70 - Old Testament)

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

Psalms 95 (please read responsively)

Romans 5:1-11 (PB pg. 162 - New Testament)

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

*Gospel Acclamation **“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”** ELW 676

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

John 18:12-27 (PB pg. 116 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW 793

*APOSTLES’ CREED

ELW pg. 127

*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

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW 335

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW 803

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

ELW 623

“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

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” vs 1,2

ELW 618

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

Serving Today

Greeter: *Braeden Schulz*
Ushers: *Greg & Sarah Friestad*
Lector: *Seth Auka*
Acolyte: *Ivory Erickson*
Kitchen: *Lara Mairs, Mikkal & Wanda Auka,
Seth Auka, Greg & Sarah Friestad*
Keyboard & Vocals: *Cyndi Hill*
Vocals: *Julie May*

Attendance

Attendance: 3/1 112 70+ online
3/4 (Lent) 64 47+ online
Offering: 3/1 \$3,307.00
Mission Plan monthly
\$24,295.67

The Week Ahead: March 9-15, 2026

Monday, March 9

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, March 10

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

5:15pm - Handbell Practice

5:15pm - Mission Team Meets

Wednesday, March 11

1:00pm - Quilters

3:15pm - Kids Club

3:30pm - WELCA

5:15pm - Council Meeting

5:30pm - Meal Served

6:30pm - Lenten Service

Sunday, March 15

9:30am - Worship Service

10:30am - Coffee Fellowship

10:30am - 1st Communion Class

10:30am - April Service & Care
Meeting

10:45am - Sunday School

Snow/Storm Cancellation Plan for Sunday Worship—

Pastor and Council President will communicate and determine whether worship will be held during severe weather. Any cancellations will be announced to the congregation and community via Facebook, radio, and other social media outlets as soon as possible.

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.



Our sympathies to the family & friends of **JoAn Neller-moe**. JoAn died on Monday, March 2, 2026. Her Celebration of Life will be in June here at Faith.

No Sunday School today, March 8th due to long weekend from school.

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.



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 on **Sunday, March 15 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 has been mailed out. **Please let the office know if you & your child will be attending.**



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); 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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Wendi Wilmes - Coordinator of Youth and Sunday School Ministry -

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

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.

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