

**If any want to
become my followers,
let them deny themselves
and take up their cross
and follow me.**

Mark 8:34, 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

Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 2024

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 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 “**Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down**” see screen

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

“**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

“We Will Glorify”

see screen

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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 17:1-7, 15-16 (PB pg. 14 - Old Testament)

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

Psalms 22:23-31 (please read responsively)

Romans 4:13-25 (PB pg. 161 - New Testament)

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

*Gospel Acclamation

“The Blessing”

see screen

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

Mark 8:31-38 (PB pg. 44 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY **“Will You Come and Follow Me”**

ELW 798

INSTALLATION OF 2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY **“For the Fruit of All Creation”** vs 1 ELW 679

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 **“Lord, I Offer My Life to You”** Cyndi Hill, Julie May
 “Around You, O Lord Jesus” ELW 468
 “Faith of Our Fathers” ELW 812
 “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. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG **“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”** see screen

*DISMISSAL Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *We depart to serve the Lord*

Serving Today

Greeter: Joan Noeske
Ushers: Scott & Deb Beilke
Lector: Martee Lunde
Acolyte: Joey Saylor
Kitchen: Rick & Audrey Bredeson, Warren & Brenda Ventsch
Keyboard & Vocals: Cyndi Hill
Vocals: Julie May

Attendance & Offering

Attendance: 2/18 83
2/21 (Lent) 56 81+ online
Offering: 2/4 \$4,965.00
2/11 \$6,041.00
2/18 \$7,464.00
Mission Plan monthly
\$22,752.25

The Week Ahead: February 26-March 3, 2024

Monday, February 26

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, February 27

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

10:30am - Family Fun Hour

1:30pm - Text Study

Wednesday, February 28

1:00pm - Quilters

3:15pm - Kids Club

5:30pm - Meal Served

6:30pm - Lenten Service

Sunday, March 3

9:30am-12:30pm - French Toast

Brunch by Men's Group

9:30am - Worship Service

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.



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 "***Turning the World Around: Bible Anti-Heroes and Villains***". The local ELCA

pastors 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 Kyle (Our Savior's), Pr Diane (Trinity) and Pr Sharayah (Parishes in Fingal, Nome & Kathryn), 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 10 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 will be mailed on out on February 26. Please email the office if your child will be attending office@faithlutheranvc.org. If you didn't receive a letter and would like to have your child attend please let the office know.

The Mission Team will be collecting 2 piece pajamas throughout February for Project Ignite Light. All sizes are needed. If you would like to buy a pair of sleep pants and a top you can especially for the older youth since they are harder to find.



We would like to reactivate the **handbell choir** at Faith Lutheran. In order to move forward, we need to know if there are enough people willing to make this a possibility. Rehearsal time will be determined to accommodate the schedule of those participating. All ages are welcome and encouraged! If you read music and are interested in joining the handbell choir, please call or text Val Moritz at 840-1652.

Lenten Meals—We are asking groups or families to sign up to make and serve a simple meal for one of the Wednesdays. You should plan for between 50-60 people. A sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering area. **We have February 28 still open this time.** Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Thrivent Choice Dollars ® —Thrivent Financial members the deadline to direct your 2023 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 2023 Faith Lutheran received \$2,457.

Today, February 25 is the Epworth United Methodist Men's French Toast Brunch. They will be serving **9am-12:30pm**. They will be serving French Toast, Sausage, Fruits, Assorted Syrups & Beverage. The cost is Adults \$8; Grades 1-6 \$4; Preschool Free.



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:—Jeanne Speich (Cheryl Foell's step-mother); Kim Homan (Cheryl Peterson and LeeAnn & Ron Peterson's brother); Karla Ranisate; Mike Kainz (Kirsten Gerhardt's father); Verna Anderson; Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill's grandson); Heath Webber; Sue Olson; Rick Anderson (Bud & Verna Anderson's son); Curt Tufty (Sue Olson's brother-in-law); Sandy Mulvaney; Doug Altringer; Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

Contact Info

Office phone: 701-845-4390

Office Email: office@faithlutheranvc.org

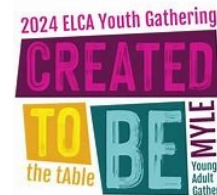
Wendi Wilmes - Coordinator of Youth and Sunday School Ministry

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Website: www.faithlutheranvc.org

Facebook Page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City

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



"A Night in New Orleans"— National Youth Gathering Fundraiser

We will gather at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on **Sunday, March 3rd at 5:30pm** for a night out with friends and family, and enjoy a multi-course New Orleans themed meal to help raise money for Youth from Faith, Trinity, and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches to attend the ELCA Youth Service Trip this July. Because of the anticipated food costs, this will be a ticketed event. The cost of a ticket is \$25 (ages 12 & up) and \$15 (ages 11 & under). Money from ticket purchases should eventually make their way to Faith Lutheran, earmarked for the National Youth Gathering. **The tickets are for sale in church offices and Sundays through Sunday, February 25th.** For those who purchase tickets remember to bring your ticket with you the night of the dinner. The Youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering will be selling tickets today here at Faith.