



*The
kingdom
of heaven
is like
treasure
hidden
in a field...*

MATTHEW 13:44



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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 30, 2023

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, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Search my heart Oh Lord and know me.

All things work together for good for those who love God.

Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Intercede into our lives Oh Lord and teach us your ways.

Intercede into my life Oh Lord and teach me your ways.

*GATHERING SONG **"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"** vs 1-3 ELW 533

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious Lord God, we have come together this morning as your children who have messed up and turned away from you and away from your ways. We admit we struggle with loving You, our neighbors and even ourselves.

Gracious Lord God, we desire to be your faithful followers, but we continue to deny you, betray you and abandon you. Have mercy open us, forgive us and free us from sin.

Gracious Lord God, open our ears, hearts and minds to hear your stories in new ways and help us to receive your acceptance, forgiveness and love once again.

Forgive us Oh Lord and make us the people you created us to be.

SONG OF MERCY

"Holy Holy" vs 1,3,4

see screen

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

The good news is that Jesus was crucified for our forgiveness, and He was raised from the dead so that we can live a new life. Therefore, I declare to you that you are an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God!

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

SONG OF PRAISE **“Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”** see screen

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God, **through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

1 Kings 3:5-12 (PB pg. 340 - Old Testament)

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

Psalms 119:129-136 (please read responsively)

Romans 8:26-39 (PB pg. 165 - New Testament)

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

*Gospel Acclamation **“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”** vs 5 ELW 533

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (PB pg. 15 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY **“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”** see screen

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God created us and all the earth in love, and that the same love of God gives life to us and our world today. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth, our human brother, is God’s son. It is in Jesus’ life and death and resurrection that we see most clearly God’s will for our lives and God’s unconditional love for us. We believe that God, the Holy Spirit, connects us to Christ, gives us faith, strengthens us to be Christ’s witnesses, calls us to live a servant life, and fills us with God’s peace. We entrust our lives to God, our Creator, our Savior, and Counselor. Amen.

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

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY

“Holy Holy” vs 2

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 Hymns: **“Sweet Hour of Prayer Medley”**

see screen

“Majesty/He Is Exalted”

see screen

“You Are My All in All” (chorus)

see screen

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW 547

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

POSTLUDE

We depart to serve the Lord

Serving Today

Greeters: Julie Moritz, Cindy Waagen
Lector: Paula Thomsen
Kitchen: Ron & LeeAnn Peterson, Cheryl Peterson
Keyboard & Vocals: Cyndi Hill

Attendance & Offering

Attendance: 7/23 81 89+ online views

Offering: 7/2 \$3,910.00
7/9 \$7,221.00
7/16 \$3,310.00
7/23 \$3,295.00

Mission Plan monthly
\$21,265.25

The Week Ahead: July 31-August 6, 2023

Monday, July 31

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, August 1

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

1:30pm - Text Study

Wednesday, August 2

1:00pm - Quilters

5:00pm - Bible Study

5:00pm-7:00pm - Summer

Grocery Store (last day)

5:30pm - Castaway Club Retreat

Information Meeting

7:15pm - Music in the Park

Thursday, August 3

Quilting Class

Friday, August 4

Quilting Class

Saturday, August 5

8:00am-2:00pm - Valley Quilters

Flea Market at FLC

Sunday, August 6

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.



The Mission Team School Supplies Drive—

Please drop by your school supplies donations anytime before **August 8th**. A container will be in the gathering area. Monetary donations should be placed in the donation envelopes and marked "School Supplies" or you can drop your donation by the office.

We appreciate all the support this congregation gives to this project each year!

Items Needed:

Crayola Crayons (box of 24); Crayola Fine Line Markers (8ct); Crayola Broad Line Markers (box of 10 classic colors); Elmer's School Glue; Black Sharpie Markers; Pink Erasers; Plastic Pencil Boxes; #2 Lead Pencils; Glue Sticks; Two-Pocket Folders; Fiskar Scissors; Wide-lined Notebooks; College-lined Notebooks; Colored Pencils (24 ct); Highlighters; 12" Rulers; Pens; Loose Leaf Wide-lines Paper; Large Size Boxes of Tissues; Clorox Wipes.

We are in need of Sunday School teachers for the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking for kids who are in Confirmation all the way up to adults to help with teaching our kids! We are hoping to have 2-3 teachers per group, so the teachers don't have to commit to every Sunday! Please contact Wendi if you are interested in helping! Sunday School resumes on **Sunday, September 10th!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS



LEAD THE LITTLE ONES TO JESUS

Parent/Student Informational Meeting—Castaway Club Retreat. The meeting will be **Wednesday, August 2nd at 5:30pm** for any 6th-10th grade youth interested in attending Castaway Club Retreat on **September 15-17.**



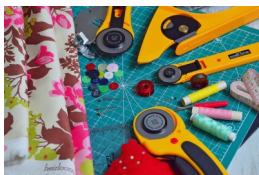
Epworth United Methodist Men's 16th Annual Corn Feed—Sunday, July 30.

They will be serving **4:30-7pm.**

The menu is Pulled Pork Sandwich, Fresh Sweet Corn, Condiments & Ice Cream. Cost is Adults - \$10; Grades 1-6 (ages 6-12) - \$6; Preschool - Free. Proceeds will be used to support Epworth's Youth Ministries. United Women in Faith will have a **Garden Produce & Bake Sale 4-7pm** with proceeds supporting UWF Missions.

Music in the Park! Wednesday, August 2 The Imperials will be performing at 7:15pm. Bring your lawn chairs. A free will offering is taken each week to support Music in the Park. Due to inclement weather or if the City Park Bandshell isn't ready, programs will be moved to the VCSU Center for the Arts Performance Hall.

This Wednesday, August 2nd will be the last day for the Summer Grocery Store to be open for this summer. It is open 5-7pm at the FACs Room at VCHS. Thank you to all who have donated food items and monetary donations for this program. It is greatly appreciated.



Valley Quilters Flea Market—Saturday, August 5, 8am-2pm here at Faith Lutheran.

To name a few of the items that will be for sale are sewing tools, fabric, kits, patterns/books, magazines and quilts.



LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

SMP Health - St. Raphael:—Clara Bredeson; Marlys Freadhoff; Mark Hill; Mavis Johnson; Diane Kohn; Laurette Zachrison.

General Prayer List:—Paul & Doreen Vangerud; Dave Heley (Shawn Ranisate's stepfather); Craig Speich

(Cheryl Foell's brother); Rick Anderson (Bud & Verna Anderson's son); Curt Tufty (Sue Olson's brother-in-law); Dan & Bea Faust; Sandy Mulvaney; Doug Altringer; Sue Olson; Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill's grandson); Lori Hill (Tami Kratz's sister); Arleen Retzlaff; Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

Contact Info

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Wendi Wilmes - Coordinator of Youth and Sunday School Ministry

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Facebook Page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City

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

If you missed a worship service you can go to our YouTube Channel: [vcfaithlutheran](https://www.youtube.com/channel/vcfaithlutheran) to find the service you would like to watch. The services are put on YouTube after they are through being livestreamed on Facebook. Our Facebook page is Faith Lutheran Church Valley City.

Online Giving—Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. Get started today. Visit our church website: www.faithlutheranvc.org and click on Give Online. We thank you for your continued financial support of Faith Lutheran. Your contributions support the missions and ministries of FLC as well as monthly expenses of the church.

