

Faith On the rise

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072
Volume XXVI Issue VIII Monthly August 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pages 2 & 3

A Word from the Pastor

Page 3

Message from Council
President

Page 4

Visitation Team
RWBC Quilts Auction

Page 5

ELCA Youth Gathering

Page 6

WELCA News
Mission News

Page 7

Men's Group News

Page 8

August Birthdays
& Anniversaries
August Service & Care
July Transitions

Page 9

Christian Nationalism
VC Community Closet
July Memorials

Noisy Offering
Team Meetings

Page 10

Sunday School News
Blessing of Backpacks
SS Teachers Wanted
Kids Club

Page 11

Confirmation Info
Castaway Club Retreat
Jr/Sr High RedHawk Game

Page 12

Staff Info

Inserts

Calendar/Youth Gathering

14th Annual Back to School Luau!

Our Evangelism Team will be holding their 14th Annual Luau meal on Wednesday, August 21, 5-7pm in the Fellowship Hall! This has become a great community event to celebrate the beginning of the school year and is an important fundraiser for our Faith Lutheran Ministries.

Volunteers are an important part of making this such a success each year. We will need volunteers with serving food and ticket taking. A sign up sheet will be on the table in the gathering area. We also rely on our 7th-9th grade youth and parents to assist with this event. Thank you for your help!



Each member's household of our congregation should receive a letter and 5 tickets in the mail the beginning of August. We are asking you to sell these tickets and/or purchase them yourself. Invite a neighbor or friend to join you at the meal. Please turn in the ticket money to Julie in the church office either by mail or dropping it off before Friday, August 16. Tickets may be bought the evening the event also.



We Welcome You to Join Us for Worship!

Sunday mornings at 9:30am we join together to worship our Lord! If you are unable to attend in person please join us online. During the summer we will livestream the services at least twice a month on our Facebook page:

Faith Lutheran Valley City. Services may also be found on our YouTube channel: [vcfaithlutheran](https://www.youtube.com/channel/vcfaithlutheran). If we don't have anyone available to run the camera we won't be able to livestream that Sunday. We thank you for your understanding.

During the summer months many of you are out of town on the weekends. Remember you can set up your giving online on our website: www.faithlutheranvc.org. The QR Code will take you to our website to the online giving. This is a way you will be able to continue to give your offering to support Faith Lutheran and our ministries. Thank you for supporting Faith Lutheran Church through your time, talents and giving!





The most significant event of my summer happened a couple weeks ago when I attended the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. Nineteen of us from the three ELCA churches in Valley City joined some fifty-plus youth from across North Dakota as we set out on a thirty-two-hour bus ride to the Gulf of Mexico. This would be the fifth National Youth Gathering I have attended with youth over my years as a pastor so you would think I would know just what to expect. But each trip is unique because the people are different and so am I. I knew the girls who were attending from Faith Lutheran well, but I did not know many of the other youth from Trinity and Our Savior's, but after thirty some hours on a bus together you get to know each other a little bit better.

A highlight for me was when we stopped at the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. The museum was built around the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed. The motel remains exactly like it was in 1968 including vintage vehicles in the parking lot. As I walked through the museum, I took in the plight that African Americans went through as they were brought to the United States as slaves and the racism they endured over the centuries. The museum was noticeably quiet with no joking or laughter, I could feel the weight and seriousness of the institution of injustice. I was able to sit next to a statue of Rosa Parks on the bus and when I entered the room resembling the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., I watched Dr. King deliver his *I Have a Dream Speech*, and was brought to tears. This set the tone for the things I would encounter at the Youth Gathering.



The Gathering itself was a week filled with attending worship, interacting with people from various ministries and missions, attending the three-hour nightly mass gathering with music, dancing and dynamic speakers, all alongside sixteen thousand *Gen Zer's or Zoomers* as they are called. What impressed me the most about these young people was how they handled themselves amongst all the programs and events, all the while walking for hours in 107-degree heat index with 100 percent humidity. The young people did not complain but instead were excited about anything and everything. In a culture that discounts this age group for spending too much time on their screen and being disconnected from those around them, I found quite the opposite to be true. No longer am I the young hip pastor I used to be and these *Zer's* included me in their conversations and activities for the entire week like I was just one of them.

Continued on page 3

I think my highlight was witnessing 16,000 youth get excited about their faith. The energy they put into singing and dancing, the seriousness and contemplation they showed for the speakers and the kindness they showed each other and strangers on the streets of New Orleans was something I will carry with me for a long time.

I'd like to thank the church council for supporting this trip, for all those who gave toward the fund raisers and for Wendi's hard work in planning and leading the trip. But most of all I'd like to thank the young people for sharing a week of their lives with me giving me the assurance that the future of the Church and our faith is in good hands. We are planning a presentation to share with the congregations sometime soon, but until then, when you run into our young people who attended the National Youth Gathering, take a moment to ask them, not just about their trip but also how they see God working in their lives and in the world, you will get a glimpse into the future of our faith.

God bless you this August and may you see the Lord working in your life and the world bring new life into dark places of our lives.

Pastor Jamie

Message from Our Council President

Dear Faith Family,

The Council will meet on Wednesday, August 14 for our monthly meeting. If anyone has any questions, comments or concerns about anything with the church, feel free to reach out to any one of our council members and we can address it at that time.

I would like to personally thank Sarah Wangrud, Kirstin Gerhardt, Pastor Jamie, Ellen Anderson and Wendi Wilmes for taking the time out of their schedules to help chaperone the trip to New Orleans, Thank you every one of you.

I got to hear all about the trip to New Orleans when my daughter, Lauren, got home, and it sounds like everyone enjoyed the ELCA Youth Gathering, and meeting other people from different states. I asked my daughter what she thought about the lifestyle and housing in New Orleans compared to Valley City. She said it was kind of shocking, overcrowded and sketchy. She said the houses are tall and narrow and there are so many on a city block. She also told me about how big the cemeteries are, and how they bury their dead above ground. She said it was a life experience and she was very glad she got to go.

I hope everyone is having a great summer with your family and friends, but please don't forget about your other family and Faith Lutheran, whether it's financial, helping out in the kitchen, ushering or just attending Sunday services.

Stay Safe and God Bless.

Mike May, Council President

Faith Visitation Team

We are fortunate to spend time weekly with some of our members in their homes and would welcome the opportunity to include others. If you or someone you know would enjoy an in-home visit, please call Val at 840-1652 or Julie at 845-4390.

God bless!

Faith Visitation Team: Val, Cheryl,
Nancy and Elise

Pictured: Clara Bredeson and Marlys Freadhoff
enjoying a visit with Cheryl Foell outside at
SMP-St Raphael. The ladies look forward to
their visits with our Visitation Team each week.



Red Willow Ministries—37th Annual Quilts & More Auction

New this year is an Online Auction! You can bid August 17-22 on their website:
redwillowministries.com/quilts-auction. Along with quilts, some special items will be available
for your bids. **Keep your eye on the camp's website for everything you would need to know.**

Live and Silent Auctions will be Saturday, August 24 at Red Willow Bible Camp, 1651 Jacob Drive,
Binford, ND. Phone number: 701-676-2681.

The schedule is as follows:

Viewing—10am-11:45am

Lunch—11am-12pm

Live Auction Starts—12:30pm in the Chapel

Raffle Drawing—1:45pm

Silent Auction 10am-2:15pm

Live Music by Triplicity

Raffle Quilt—Tickets: \$5 each.

We do have some here at Faith.

Queen-sized Quilt “Friendship Rings”
quilted by Kim Kollar



ELCA National Youth Gathering

The kids and adult leaders will be sharing their experiences on Sunday, August 11th during the 9:30am worship service. Please come listen to them talk about how much they learned and had fun on this trip!



WELCA News



WELCA ladies did not meet the month of July.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 14 at 3:30pm.

We look forward to getting together again and will be discussing our Fall Festival. The Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th. Any ladies of Faith Lutheran that would like to find out more about WELCA and the Fall Festival, please feel free to join us at this time.

Sincerely,
Carol Smith, WELCA President

Mission Team News



The Mission Committee will meet Tuesday, August 6 at 5:30pm and we will gather the school supplies on that night. See the lists and the bulletins and July newsletter of supplies needs and please continue to bring your school supplies to the church until August 6. Thank you for the supplies and monetary contributions you have provided. We provide these to the teachers who use them for their classrooms.

The Summer Grocery Store is in the final week, and we are still collecting food for the shelves. We thank you for the food already donated as the store has been used weekly. Since we do receive food from Great Plains Food Bank, their process of recording the food distribution is to record household numbers and then we weigh the food and record the pounds of food given out each Wednesday.

I thought it might be interesting to share some of those average numbers. The store has been open for seven weeks and we have had from 17 households in an early week to 31 households in a recent week, with average of 25 households each week over the 7 weeks and an average of 106 total people each week. We have also distributed over 5,000 pounds of food for the 7 weeks, which is an average of 725 pounds of food each week. depending on the number of people in the household and the items available each week, my experience when I was there, is that they left with a large box or two boxes for a larger family for the week. With the Great Plains Food Bank, food donations and monetary donations the grocery store was well stocked each week by volunteers and Backpack board members.

Again, thank you for all of your continued support for this Summer program and the Bridges Backpack program that supports feeding our children throughout the school year. Stay tuned for more information to come as that program continues for the upcoming school year.

As our Mission group brings these hunger awareness needs to Faith members and as I brought the **good donations to the grocery store, I couldn't help but think of all the Bible verses and stories we** have heard of Jesus feeding the hungry and teaching us to take care of others. This statement came up on some of reading about hunger. *When you feed others, you are feeding Christ!* Thank you all as you continue to support the Faith missions.

Elise Miller, Faith Lutheran Mission Committee

Men's Group News

Wow! GOD sure Blessed us with a wonderful evening! Faith Lutheran Men's Group had our annual July Bar-B-Que at Mark Brandvold's cabin at the crossing on Wednesday evening, July 17th. The weather was perfect, 72 degrees with a light breeze and clear skies. There were no bugs, more than plenty of delicious food, some Great Fellowship and overall just a perfect evening.

Our attendance was a little light with only 8 men there, but we had Fun. Those that were unable to attend sure missed out. A Big Thank You is extended to Mark Brandvold for hosting our July event and being such a great Grill Master. The Pork Chops and Potatoes were grilled to perfection. We so look forward to this event again next year.



Pictured (left) Ron Peterson, Larry H. Sayler, Gary Sommerfeld, Duane Larson.
(right) Larry E. Sayler, Al Sorensen, Virgil Kratz, Mark Brandvold.



The next event for Men's Group will be to attend a RedHawks Baseball game in Fargo. We are planning on attending a game on Thursday evening, August 22nd. The RedHawks will be playing the Winnipeg Golden Eyes. Please let

Duane know by Sunday, August 18th if you are interested in attending so he can order the tickets. It looks like the cost will be around \$15 per ticket. More details will be sent out in an email from Julie in the office.



We invite any of the Men from Faith Lutheran to come join us—check out all of the FUN that we have. we like to live by our Motto, 'FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP'!

May GOD Bless all of our Family of Faith!
Duane Larson

Find the Flowers!

Congratulations Jessica Jenrich on your name being drawn from the Find the Flowers Fun! There were 101 flowers throughout the newsletter. Jessica's name was drawn from the names with the correct count. Thank you all who participated!





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

1. Jan Anderson; 2. Mike Morehouse;
 3. Gavin Wiebe; 5. Adam Larson,
 Penelope Shape; 7. Greg Burchill,
 Reagan Gray, Lauren May; 9. Lance
 Lukes; 10. Eliza Johnson, Michael Kratz, Kaleb
 McClafllin, Alexis Hanson; 11. Aubrey Becker, JoAnn
 Hooper, Lincoln Johnson, Levi Nix; 13. Val Bolstad;
 14. Madison Anderson, Marsha Anderson, Carlos
 Blueshield, Karter Blueshield, Karen Crooks;
 17. Darrell Holm, Jazmine Schmidt; 18. Robin Idland,
 Adam Pilgrim, Bob Thibeault; 19. Austin Tompt;
 20. Faith Schmidt, Lewis Stearns; 21. Kirstin
 Gerhardt, Bryson Zins; 23. Kamryn Rausch;
 24. Kaitlyn Bergner, Elissa Hovland, Jayden Hovland;
 26. Audrey Jacobson, Jeremy Wiebe; 27. Sydni Smith,
 Cindy Waagen; 28. Kim Gray, Erin Heide, Laura
 Limesand; 29. Dennis Hoye, Jack Moritz, Christian
 Pilgrim, Kenzington Pilgrim; 30. LeeAnn Peterson;
 31. Ruth Geinert, Seth Hanson, Alan Larson.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

2. Jeremy & Kara Wiebe; 3. Chris & Kalyn Botz;
 4. Dean & Brenda Klein, Brandon & Nikki Moen;
 9. Derick & Kelly Mallette; 11. Brad & Megan McKay;
 18. Justin & Brianne Foell; 20. Jason & Kirstin
 Gerhardt; 25. Gary & Janeen Anderson; 29. Shane &
 Jeriann Everson; 30. Bill & Rhonda Friestad, Kent &
 Patty Gronlie.

July Transitions

WEDDINGS: Congratulations Seth & Lexi
 (Ondracek) Hanson. They were married here at
 Faith on July 20, 2024 with Pastor Diane Krumm
 officiating. God bless this couple as they begin their
 married life together.

DEATHS: Our sympathies to Brenda Stearns &
 family & friends of her brother, Dave Brendmoen.
 Dave died May 22, 2024 in Bullhead City, AZ.
 His graveside service was held on Tuesday, July 23,
 2024 at Woodbine Cemetery with Pastor Jamie
 officiating.

August Service & Care

**Damon & Brenda Bong
 Don & Kathy Burke
 Merl & Tiffany Greenley
 Nancy Knutson
 Jeremy & Stephanie Ness
 Mary Johnson
 Brenda Stearns
 Mary Stearns

*Thank you for serving!

July Attendance

July 7	58
July 14	53
July 21	51
July 28	82

*We had technical issues with live
 streaming throughout the month of July.

Offering

January	\$16,113.00
February	\$22,023.00
March	\$24,553.00
April	\$14,355.00
May	\$16,831.00
June	\$19,084.00
July	\$13,346.00

Needed monthly to meet Mission Plan:
 \$22,752.25

Contact Information

Please let the office know if you have moved
 or have new phone numbers. We try to
 keep our system up to date as much as we
 can. Also if a birthday or anniversary is
 wrong please let Julie know so she can
 correct that.



“Introduction to Christian Nationalism” Presentation

You are welcome and invited to a presentation entitled “Introduction to Christian Nationalism”, hosted by Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, on Thursday, August 15th from 6:30-7:30pm. This event is free and open to the public. Presented by Rev. Robert Franek, ordained Lutheran pastor and member of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Action and Advocacy Team. This presentation will explore what Christian Nationalism is by looking at various definitions and how these frameworks can help us identify how Christian Nationalism poses a threat to the gospel and our civic life together. Participants will have the opportunity to discern together how and to what degree they see Christian Nationalism present in their congregations and communities.

Valley City Community Closet

The Community Closet will be open on Monday, August 19, 5-7pm in the basement of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. This is a source the community has for free clothing of all genders and sizes as well as other items.

At this time, donations of household and children’s clothing are all that is needed.

Volunteers needed times: Sunday, August 18, 8-9pm; Monday, August 19, 5-8pm. If volunteers would only like to pack up then please join us from 7-8pm on Monday.



July Memorials

In memory of Leah Green given by Margie Lima (General Fund).

In memory of Monica Lubbers given by Margie Lima (General Fund).

In memory of Jerome Miller given by Margie Lima (General Fund).

In memory of Gary Speich given by John & Elise Miller (Foundation); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated).

In memory of Jeanne Speich given by Margie Lima (General Fund).



Noisy Offering—Bridges Backpack Program

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, August 18. The offering received will be going to the Bridges Backpack Program. The kids will come around during the Children’s Word with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills.

In July we received \$126.05 for the School Supplies Drive! Thank you for your generous giving.

AUGUST TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Aug. 14
at 5:30pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Aug 14
at 1:30pm

Men’s Group—No August Meeting



Mission Team—Meets Tue, Aug 6 at 5:30pm

September Service & Care— Meets Sun,
Aug 18 after worship & by emails texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets Wednesday, Aug 14 at 3:30pm

Sunday School News



Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 8th! We welcome any child who is 4 years old or close to being 4 up to kids who are going to be 6th graders to come on Sunday mornings to Sunday School from 10:45-11:45am. Parents please watch for an email soon to sign your child up!



Blessing of the Backpack

Blessing of the Backpacks—August 18

If your child is attending Preschool up to 12th grade this coming school year, please have your children come to church on **Sunday, August 18th** with their backpacks to receive a special blessing for the upcoming school year!

Help Wanted— Sunday School Teachers

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS



LEAD THE LITTLE ONES TO JESUS

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!

Kids Club!

We welcome all kids going into **4th-6th grade** to come to our Wednesday Afterschool program called **Kids Club!** You will receive a letter in the mail soon to sign up! Kids Club meets **Wednesdays** from **3:15-5pm** here at Faith or we go do a service project around the community. The kids are picked up by Wendi with the church van from Washington School and parents then pick them up from Faith.

Kids Club will be starting Wednesday, September 4th!



everyone is
welcome

Youth News

Confirmation Information

This year, we will be joining together again with Our Savior's and Trinity Lutheran Churches for our Confirmation sessions on Wednesday evenings! **We will be having a Parent and Student Meeting on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30pm at Faith to talk about the year.** Confirmation is for students 7th-9th grade. The 10th graders who have completed confirmation will be confirmed on Sunday, October 27, 2024.

Confirmation will resume for the students on Wednesday, September 18. **We are looking for Small Group Leaders for Confirmation again this year!** We are hoping to have 2 adults per group, so the adults can take turns being there on Wednesdays. Please contact Wendi if you are interested in helping out!



Castaway Club Retreat

Wendi will be taking a group of kids going into 6th grade up to kids going into 10th grade to Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes the weekend of September 20-22! This truly is a wonderful experience for our youth at a beautiful resort. The kids that have come with on this trip in the past have truly LOVED it!



There will be an Informational Meeting soon for a parent and students interested in possibly coming on this trip! Parents please be watching your emails as we will have a meeting when all the details are released.

Jr/Sr High Youth—RedHawks Game

On **Thursday, August 15th** we will be going to a RedHawks game! Game starts at 7:02pm, so we will leave from Faith at **5:15pm**. The RedHawks will be playing the Lincoln Saltdogs. Parents please watch your emails for more info soon! Cost per ticket is \$10, and please also bring money for food!



Nancy Ost

Erin Metcalf, Amy Pederson,

Rick Bredeson, Justin Foell,

Council: Matt Brandvold,

Phone: (701)320-4299

Council President: Michael May

Sandy's E-Mail: sandy.brandvold@gmail.com

Wendi's E-Mail: wendi.wilmes@gmail.com

Jessica's E-Mail: treasurer@faithlutheranvc.org

Cyndi's E-Mail: cyndi.r.hill@gmail.com

Pastor's E-Mail: pastor@faithlutheranvc.org

E-Mail Address: office@faithlutheranvc.org



Custodians: Mark & Sandy Brandvold

Accompanist/ Worship Coordinator: Cyndi Hill

Sunday School: Wendi Wilmes

Coordinator of Youth Ministry and

Treasurer: Jessica Jenrich

Administrative Assistant: Julie Moritz

Interim Pastor: Pastor Jamie Desai

Website: www.faithlutheranvc.org

Fax Number: (701) 845-5887

Church Office: (701) 845-4390

Church Staff

Return Service Requested

Valley City, ND 58072-0606

309 4th St N

PO Box 606

Faith Lutheran Church



**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Valley City, ND
Permit No. 13**