Faith On the rise

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072Volume XXVII Issue IV MonthlyApril 2025

Office will be closed Friday, April 18 at noon & Monday, April 21 in observance of Easter.

IN THIS ISSUE: Pages 2 & 3 A Word from the Pastor Page 3 Message from

Council President <u>Page 4</u> Red Willow Bible Camps

Page 5

1st Communion Session Easter Egg Hunt Noisy Offering

Page 6

WELCA News

Quilt for Sale

Page 7

Mission Team News Easter Lilies

Page 8

April Birthdays

& Anniversaries March Memorials

April Service & Care

Page 9

Men's Group News April Team Meetings

Page 10

Sunday School News Kids Club Early Dismissal Day

<u>Page 11</u>

Confirmation Info Lent Info JH/SH Youth

<u>Page 12</u>

Staff Info

<u>Inserts</u>

Calendar/March Fun Congregational Meeting/ WELCA Spring Roundup Special Congregational Meeting—April 6, 2025 The Pastoral Call Committee has completed its work and is excited to announce we have a candidate for our new pastor.

We invite you to attend a special Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 6 at 10;30am or immediately following the church service in the Sanctuary.

We will present Pastor James Desai as the candidate to the congregation, provide an opportunity for questions, and then proceed with a vote on whether to extend a call to the candidate to become our new pastor.



Lenten Services

Lenten services continue Wednesdays at 6:30pm. The theme for this Lenten season is *"Majoring in the Minor Prophets"*. We have been enjoying listening to the different pastors share their insights of the Minor Prophets in the Bible. The pastors participating are Rev. Jamie

Desai (Faith), Rev. Nicholas Rohde (Our Savior's), Rev. Diane Krumm (Trinity), Rev. Rich Kramer (Our Savior's).

Here is the rotation schedule for Faith Lutheran for the rest of Lent. April 2—Pastor Nicholas from Our Savior's Lutheran April 9—Pastor Jamie at Faith Lutheran

A meal will be served 5:30-6:15pm during Lent prior to worship. This is a freewill offering. We thank all the groups/committees who signed up to make and serve the meals! Thank you also to the confirmation youth for helping with the cleanup.



Holy Week Schedule

April 13—Palm Sunday—The Sunday School children will process in with palms and will sing at the 9:30am service.

Easter Egg Hunt at the end of Sunday School.

April 17—Maundy Thursday—1st Communion students received Holy Communion at the 6:30pm service.

April 18—Good Friday—Tenabrae Service will be at 6:30pm.

Good Friday Community Service will be at Our Savior's at 12pm.

April 20—Easter Sunday—Worship Service will be at 9:30am.

What if?



As I contemplate the decision of Faith's Call Committee to submit my name to the congregation for consideration to be your next pastor, I just wonder how much of

a hand God had in putting together all the pieces to make this possible. When I first began as your Interim Pastor nearly three years ago my expectation was, I'd only be with you for a few months or a year at most helping you prepare to call your next pastor. I did not consider the possibility that your new pastor might be me. As the months passed, I began to feel like I just *fit in* here. I began to consider myself part of the Faith family. How did that happen? I didn't plan or expect that, it just happened. Each month I meet with an Interim Pastor's group from the Eastern North Dakota synod. Each pastor takes turns presenting their challenges, obstacles and struggles for the group to discuss and offer advice. Each month when my turn came around, I would reply Everything is just fine! I couldn't find anything to complain about like the other pastors and began to wonder if I wasn't doing my job as an Interim Pastor. I imagined what it might be like to be Faith's permanent pastor. But the words of Bishop Tessa kept haunting me, Jamie vou are Faith's Interim Pastor and nothing else. And so, I gave up on the possibility of the option of becoming your pastor. When the Call Committee interviewed a potential candidate this winter and shared with me that they really liked him, I pouted. I was sad about the reality that I would someday have to leave Fatih. But then something unusual happened, the candidate had asked the Call Committee What if I did not live in Valley City. The committee instantly balked at that possibility, but then they asked What if? When I heard this, I went back to my Interim Pastors and asked them what they thought of this What if? Their advice was to have a conversation with Faith's leadership asking What if? I called Mike May, the council president at the time and I asked him, What if? Mike immediately called Tyler Van Bruggen and asked him, What if? Tyler then brought the question to the Call Committee. The committee considered the What *if*? and proceeded to bring that to the church council who entertained the question *What if*?

Sunday, April 5th following the worship service the leadership of Faith Lutheran Church is going to come before the congregation and ask you, *What if*?

Jesus asked a lot of questions, 337 to be exact in the Gospels. He never asked *What if*, per se, it was just inferred. Jesus asked the disciples, the pharisees, the woman at the well, the lepers, the blind man, Nicodemus and many others *What if*? Life is filled with a lot of *What ifs*? The question is, can we find the wisdom and the courage to entertain the *What ifs* in our lives? What if the call committee had never asked *What if*? I'd probably be on my way to becoming the next Interim Pastor at Kathryn/ Nome/Fingal churches. I want to thank the Call Committee for beginning to ask the question *What if*? Let us give thanks to all the *What ifs* God presents in oru lives.

On Sunday April 6th I hope you will find it in yoru hearts to join with us in asking the question *What if*?

God bless,

Pastor Jamie





Message from Our Council President I would like to start by thanking Scott Johnson for stepping in and leading us in worship while Pastor was away this past month. Kudos to you!

March has flown by quickly, and Lenten services are in full swing. Please take a moment to read about the upcoming events scheduled during Lent. On Wednesdays, there will be a meal from 5:30 to 6:15 PM, followed by the church service at 6:30 PM. Other important events include Maundy Thursday on April 17th

at 6:30 PM, Palm Sunday at 9:30 AM, and Easter Sunday service. Easter Sunday will be held at our regular time, 9:30 AM. Please note, there will be no coffee or snacks after the service. We would love for all of you to join us!

Your council has been meeting monthly and working closely with the call committee. We will be holding a congregational meeting on April 6th, immediately following the service. During this meeting, we will vote on a call for a full-time pastor (Pastor Jamie Desai) and on a compensation package. Your attendance is important to this process. Please be patient, respectful, and have faith in our call committee and church council. I would also like to express my gratitude to the call committee for the time they have dedicated throughout this lengthy process. Additionally, I want to give special thanks to Erin Metcalf for her help in preparing documents for this call process and for keeping me on task.

I leave you with this quote:

"Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." – Mark 15:32

Your Council President,

Amy Pederson

Holy Humor Sunday!

April 27, the Second Sunday of Easter we will celebrate the joy we have in the risen Lord! Wear a silly, fun hat or brightly colored shirt or both! We will tell some jokes and sing Christmas tunes with Easter words. This has become an annual tradition heart at Faith. Every Sunday there are smiles and laughter at Faith, but this Sunday is a special day to be intentional about having fun together and celebrating life.





Red Willow Bible Camp—2025 Summer Registration Open Scholarships Available



Red Willow Ministries, located near Binford, ND has officially opened registrations for their amazing list of 2025 Bible Camps. Please scan the QR Code to visit their website, review camp details and register your children for a wonderful opportunity to grow in their faith and meet new friends. This year, Faith Lutheran is offering a limited number of \$100 scholarships for youth attending any 2025 Red Willow camp. Contact Julie in the office for a special scholarship code. If you have any additional questions about Red Willow registration, contact Erin Metcalf. Thanks!

Special Note: June 26 and August 7 are "Seekers Day" for kids entering grades K-6. This is a FREE activity and spots fill up fast so register today if you are interested.

Summer 2025 Schedule

June 22-June 27—Taste of Camp—Kids entering Grades K-2. Taste of Camp is the perfect camp if you have a young child that is excited to try camp but isn't ready to stay in the cabins by themselves. At T.O.C. campers get to attend camp with an adult! You will stay in the Retreat Center from Sunday-Wednesday joining in all the fun activities as your camper's spirit allows. Which is perfect if naps and rest times are still an essential part of your day!

Pathfinders—Kids entering Grades 2-3

Explorers—Kids entering Grades 3-4

June 26—Seekers Day—Kids entering Grades K-6—Free Activity

July 6-11—Genesis—Kids entering Grades 5-6

Disciples—Youth entering Grades 7-9

July 27-August 1—Amp Camp—Youth entering Grades 9-12

August 3-8—Taste of Camp—Kids entering Grades K-2

Pathfinders—Kids entering Grades 2-3

Explorers—Kids entering Grades 3-4

August 7—Seekers Day—Kids entering Grades K-6—Free Activity

August 10-15—Genesis—Kids entering Grades 5-6

Disciples—Youth entering Grades 7-9

Summer Volunteers Needed

Red Willow Ministries is looking for the following weekly volunteers:

- Camp Nurse Team—Someone who is licensed in the state of North Dakota , able to pass meds, and care for minor injuries/illnesses
- Lawn Care Team—Red Willow has hundred of acres to care for and many hands make for light work! They would like to build a lawn care team to help the staff keep up with the weekly lawn care.
- Cleaning Team—The staff work around the clock Sunday-Friday each week and they would love to help their summer team get to their weekends a little sooner. Red Will is looking for people who can volunteer Friday mornings in the summer to help with the end of week cleaning.

Get more information and volunteer by emailing office@redwillowministries.com.



First Communion Class



We invite children 2nd-5th grade whose parents feel they are ready and would like them to receive Holy Communion to attend the session that is to welcome them to Christ's table and begin to understand the gifts and meaning of Holy Communion. A letter has been sent out to 2nd-5th grade families with children who have not yet received Holy Communion.

The 1st Communion session will be **Sunday**, **April 6th at 10:45am** in the Fireside Room. Pastor Jamie will be leading this session. An adult must attend the session with each child. **If you plan to attend**, **please email office@faithlutheranvc.org or contact the office at 845-4390 so we can be sure we have enough learning material**.

Chalices will be painted by your children on **Wednesday**, **April 9 at 3:30pm** at Pederson Pottery. The chalices are made and glazed by Dennis & Gail Pederson for the student to use and keep for their 1st Communion.

The students will be blessed and celebrate their 1st Communion of Maundy Thursday, April 17 at the 6:30pm worship service.

Easter Egg Hunt—Palm Sunday, April 13 We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt for the children 6th Grade and under on Palm Sunday, April 13 after Sunday School. If you would like to donate wrapped candy for the eggs, you can drop it by Julie's office or in the workroom by Wednesday, April 9th so the eggs can be filled.





Noisy Offering—Public School Lunch Program We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, April 13 for the Public School Lunch Program. This will help with the families with school lunch debt and the school lunch program. The kids will come around with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills during the Children's Message. Your caring and generosity makes a difference in people's lives.

In March we received \$216.36 for the Bridges Backpack Program. Thank you for your generous giving! It is greatly appreciated!

Red is for the Blood He Gave Yellow is for the Sun so Bright Black is for the Sins We Made Purple is for His Hour of Sorrow

JELLY BEAN PRAYER

Green is for the Grass He Made Orange is for the Edge of Night White is for the Grace He Gave Pink is for Our New Tomorrow

A bag full of Jelly Beans so Colorful and so Sweet is a Prayer and a Promise and also an Easter Treat.

WELCA News



WELCA Ladies met Wednesday, March 12th at Faith Lutheran.

During the month of March, we celebrated Women of ELCA living boldly in Jesus Christ. We opened our meeting reading from the Women of ELCA website about Boldness~~

Boldness comes in many forms; its basis, in whatever form, is right action by an individual or group. some boldness is bright and loud, some is firm and quiet. Women of ELCA celebrates this range of voices, knowing that the avenues for bold self-expression are limitless. Do you have a definition of BOLD? What do you believe is your best BOLD?

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who made us **competent to be ministers of a new covenant.....Since then, we have such a hope,** we act with great boldness. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6a, 12

Thank you to all who have donated to Lutheran World Relief personal care kits; the tub 'runneth' over! We will be putting them together and packing them with the Kids Club.

Make plans now to attend the WELCA Spring Roundup Saturday, April 26 at Stump Lake Village south of Lakota, ND. See the information in the newsletter for more detail information. There is not a registration fee but registering that you are going is needed.

They are also planning to take a bus if they get 14 riders between the 3 churches, (Faith, **Our Savior's, Trinity). The cost is \$30 so sign up as soon as you know you would like to ride** on the bus, and we will get the names to Jeanne Wobbema and hopefully they will get 14.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 9 at 3:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church.

Happy Spring,

Elise Miller, WELCA President

Quilt for Sale

This beautiful quilt embroidered by Cindy Knudson and machine quilted is available for you to purchase for \$350. The quilt is 75"x 90". It comes with a free blessing. ☺ The quilt is hanging in the fellowship hall for you to look at. (The picture doesn't do it justice).

Thank you Cindy for creating this beautiful quilt!

You may always purchase quilts year round from our quilters. Quilters are here every Wednesday 1-3pm. Julie can also show you quilts available for purchase during the week.



Mission Team News

Mission Team met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Reviewed Project Ignite Light project. The blankets and pajamas have been delivered. We agreed this was again a fun, successful event. Thank yous were sent to Krista Johnson and Nancy Sorensen for all of their help. Thank yous were also sent to Al & Nancy Sorensen and Jerry & Carol Moritz for delivering the boxes to Project Ignite Light. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this project complete. Just think about the little ones who will have new warm pjs and a blanket to help them feel warm and safe during a scary time in their life.

We finished plans to serve supper for a Lenten Service on March 26 and we also wrote on Birthday cards for April.

We made the decision to make the Celebration Cake Boxes again this spring. This is a great way to make a birthday cake or a cake for any celebration especially since not everyone may have oil or eggs on hand, a can of lemon-lime soda (7-up) will be the substitute. (It really works!) The Barnes County Food Pantry was excited that would do this project again and provide them to the pantry as they were well received last year. So, we are asking again if you would like to be a part of this project again. The Mission Committee with help from WELCA will provide the cakepan so we are asking you to provide the rest of the supplies.



Each Celebrating Cake will need:

- 1 Cake Mix—any flavor
- 1 12 oz Can of Lemon-Lime Pop (not diet)
- 1 Can Ready to Use Frosting (with sprinkles on top of can, if you can find) any flavor

We will ask the Sunday School children to bring a small pack of candles to add to the fun!!

We will collect these during the month of April and put them together the first part of May and deliver them to the BC Food Pantry.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 15 at 5:30pm.

Faith Mission Committee



Easter Lilies

We will be adorning our altar with Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday, April 20. If you would like to contribute a cash donation (suggested \$20) towards the purchase of each plant. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory or in honor of your loved ones. A sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering area. Deadline to sign up is Friday, April 11. We will put the names of your loved ones in the Easter bulletin. Other plants and flowers are very welcome also.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS: 1. Nancy Bjerke, Conner Mallette, Iva Smith; 2. Hunter

Briones, Tyler Kotta, Stacie Larson; 3. Jerry Moritz, Nancy Sorensen; 4. Kathy Burke, Marlys Kunze; 5. Bea Faust, Alec Storhoff; 7. Matt Anderson, Blake Jewett, Nancy Knutson, Reneè Martin; 8. Gordon Reitan; 9. Adam Brandvold, Graysen Foell, Kylie Van Bruggen; 10. Bob Green, John Miller, Abbey Thornton; 11. Lara Mairs, Madison Trzpuc; 12. Riley Smith; 13. Josh Gilbertson, Leah Radke, Chase Tompt, Wendi Wilmes; 15. Brooke Bopp, Andrew Nelson, Janel Richman, Kathy Schlotman; 16. Carter McKay; 17. Karla Ranisate; 19. Stephanie Bopp; 20. Odin Greenley; 21. Kashton Anderson, Kelsey Schulz, Dianne Wood; 23. Andly Carlson, Jan Johnson, Danny Newton; 24. Samantha Nelson, Sydney Nelson; 25. Orlando Anderson; 26. Ben Bullinger, Jordan Lunn; 27. Dallas Gruebele, Dean Klein, Jacksyn Thornton, Maya Van Bruggen, Elaine Walls; 28. Brianne Foell, Liam Greenley; 30. Jodee Ukestad.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

1. Scott & Amy Johnson; 4. Randy Toppen & Sue Milender; 8. John & Jan Johnson, Virgil & Tami Kratz, David & Lara Mairs; 13. Jasen & Kathy McGough, Clint & Natalie Meyer; 14. Keith & Cindy Hovland; 15. Jerry & Carol Moritz; 18. Ryan & Jessica Johnson, Mark & Paula Thomsen; 22. Doug & Becky Kratz; 25. Shane & Tricia Germann; 28. Dennis Hoye & Linda Lane; 30. Wayne & Deb Eggert.

April Service & Care **John & Elise Miller

Val Bolstad Greg & Karen Burchill Miranda Erickson **Bob** Green Rick & Robin Idland Jody Johnson Dave & Carol Smith Dan & Emily Thompson Elaine Walls Brian & Georgia Welken *Thank you for serving!

March Attendance

March 2 92 36+ online March 5 (Ash Wednesday) 132 March 9 28+ online 81 March 12 (Lent) 66 March 16 46+ online 74 March 19 (Lent) 80 March 23 106 76+ online March 26 (Lent) 68 March 30 (not included)

Offering

\$19,005.60 January February \$20,335.00 March \$18,250.00 (March 30 not included)

Needed monthly to meet Mission Plan: \$23,577.58



March Memorials

MEMORIAL In memory of Betty Bostrom given by Paulette Everson (General Fund). In memory of Russ Hilborn given by Paulette Everson (General Fund). In memory of Donna Jantzen given by Elaine Walls (Altar Guild).

In memory of Don Lemnus given by Paulette Everson (General Fund). In memory of Terry Sorensen given by Paulette Everson (General Fund).

In memory of **O'Neil Oppegaard** given by Paulette Everson (General Fund).

Men's Group News

A big Thank You to all who attended, emptied their pockets, filled up their tummys and helped raise **funds for our Church Treasury by attending our Men's Group French Toast Brunch. We had a good** turnout, in spite of the weather and icy roads. After the expenses are taken out, we should still have a nice amount to give to our church.

Thank You to Mark Brandvold for being in charge of the Brunch and for gathering needed supplies. Thanks to Joe Lunde for distributing pasters. (Also Thanks to Martee for being his assistant). Thank You to Tami Kratz for being our photographer, to Julie Moritz for all the help, all of the time. Thank You to our Faith Family and other congregations for the Great Support. A special Thanks to all of the Great Guys in our Men's Group for all of the help and wonderful Fellowship.

It takes many individuals to make this event a worthwhile success. Hopefully we will be able to do this again next year for our 4th Annual French Toast Feed.

Our next Men's Group Breakfast meeting will be on Saturday morning, April 26 at 8am. Once again we invite any of the men from Faith Lutheran to come have a good time with us. Remember our Motto is 'Food, Fun, Fellowship'!

May GOD Bless all of You! Duane Larson



Pictured: (Back row, I-r) Jake Rohde, Gary Sommerfeld, Ron Peterson, Larry E. Sayler, Larry H. Sayler, Mark Brandvold, Chuck Shape, Matt Brandvold, Randy McClaflin; (Front row, I-r) Joe Lunde, Greg Burchill, Duane Larson, Virgil Kratz, Doug Kratz.

APRIL TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, April 2 at 5:15pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, April 9 at 1:30pm

Men's Group-Meets Sat, April 26 at 8am

Mission Team—Meets Tue, April 15 at 5:30pm

May Service & Care— Meets Sun, April 27 after worship & by emails texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets Wed, April 9 at 3:30pm

Sunday School News

After church, you can grab a treat with your family and then we start Sunday School at **10:45am** and finish at **11:45am**. Each week is a blast together with Jesus.

Some Important Dates for Sunday School: *Palm Sunday is Sunday, April 13. Kids will be processing in with palms and singing at the 9:30am service. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt after Sunday School.

*No Sunday School on Easter Sunday (April 20)!

*Sunday, May 4th will be the last day of Sunday School until the fall!

Kids Club!

We welcome all kids going into **4th**-**6th grade** to come to our Wednesday Afterschool program called **Kids Club!** Kids Club meets Wednesday 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.

Schedule for April Wednesday, April 2—at Faith (Early Dismissal Day) Wednesday, April 9—NO KIDS CLUB (Wendi will be gone) Wednesday, April 16—NO KIDS CLUB (Holy Week) Wednesday, April 23—at Faith Wednesday, April 30—Service Project Day *LAST DAY OF KIDS CLUB WILL BE MAY 7th!



Enjoying ice cream cones for snack

Early Dismissal Day

Wednesday, **April 2nd** is another Early Dismissal Day for Valley City Public Schools! We will welcome kids that are in Kindergarten-6th Grade to join us for an extra afternoon of fun!

If your child attends Jefferson School, you will be responsible for getting your child to Faith Lutheran Church after school. If your child attends Washington School, we will be transportation provided for them.

We will start our day at Faith by doing activities and a snack. Then we will head to Valley Twin Cinema from about 3-5pm for a movie and kid pack! Cost will be \$10 for this event.

Parents will pick their child up at 5pm at Valley Twin Cinema! Parents you should have received an email with sign up info.





Confirmation Information for 7th-9th Graders

After the Easter season is over, we will be at TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (April 23 and April 30)

Parents please be watching your emails to see how many sermon notes your child still needs to complete and if he or she needs to still do worship assistance.

Tentatively the Crop Walk will be on Wednesday, May 7th here in Valley City! Parents please watch your emails for more information soon.

Lent Information for Confirmation

We will be having Lent at our own churches during the Lent season, so Faith kids come to Faith during this time. There will be suppers served starting at 5:30-6:15pm these evenings. The actual service will start at 6:30pm. Kids are required to attend the Lent Services just like they would come to "Normal" Confirmation. After the service is over, the kids will meet with a small group leader to discuss some



questions that will be presented at this time. This won't take long (maybe 10 minutes).

The kids are also going to take turns helping clean up after the evening meals:

Here is the schedule: April 2—8th Graders

th Graders April 9—9th Graders

April 17—All Youth

Holy Week Schedule:

April 17—Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30pm. Youth are making and serving meal. April 18—Good Friday Service at 6:30pm. You are encouraged to attend. April 20—Easter Sunday Service at 9:30am.

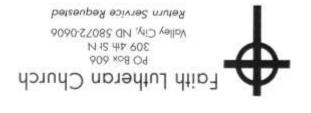
Fargo Force Hockey Game

Our JH/SH youth enjoyed a Fargo Force game on February 28. Fun time together!



Junior High Event Friday, April 25 we will head to Suite Shots in Fargo for some golfing and supper! Please watch for more information soon!





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

Church Staff Interim Pastor: Pastor Jamie Desai Coordinator of Youth Ministry and C

E-Mail Address: office@faithlutheranvc.org Pastor's E-Mail: pastor@faithlutheranvc.org Cyndi's E-Mail: cyndi.r.hill@gmail.com Jessica's E-Mail: treasurer@faithlutheranvc.org Wendi's E-Mail: wendi.wilmes@gmail.com Sandy's E-Mail: sandy.brandvold@gmail.com

Council President: Amy Pederson Phone: (701) 840-1328 Rick Bredeson, Cheryl Foell, Erin Metcalf, Jacob Rohde

"Rejoice! The Lord is near." Philippians 4:5