

# Faith On the rise

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072  
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## **15th Annual Back to School Luau!**

Our Evangelism Team will be holding their 15th Annual Luau meal on Wednesday, August 20, 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 for 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 15. Tickets may be bought the evening of the event also.

The youth will again be doing a cakewalk during the luau. Please consider bringing a baked good to support our youth. This has been a fun event enjoyed by all ages.



## **Join Us for Worship and Coffee Fellowship!**

We come together Sunday mornings at 9:30am to worship together. We look forward to worshipping with each other as we praise God through Scripture, Message, Music and Holy Communion. We continue to livestream the service from our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Valley City. Click on the link to join us. If we don't have anyone available to run the camera we are unable to livestream that Sunday. We thank you for your understanding.

After worship enjoy a cup of coffee, juice or water and a treat. Enjoy a time of conversation and fellowship. We thank our Service and Care groups for providing the treats we enjoy Sunday mornings!



It's August! And you know what that means? Summer is coming to a close. Ugh! My summer has been pretty ordinary apart from the colossal storm. But ordinary is not necessarily a bad thing. Robert Wicks wrote an article entitled *Embracing the Ordinary, the spirit of ordinariness invites each of us to follow the will of God by trying to find out what our inner motivations and talents are and then to express them without reserve our self-consciousness. This is true ordinariness.* In a world measured by how productive and effective we can be we do not often value the ordinary. Yet it is in the ordinariness of life that God speaks to us. Vincent Van Gogh once said, *the best way to know God is to love many things.* That begins with accepting ourselves for who we are. If we are to love others, we ought to simultaneously love ourselves and allow ourselves to be deeply loved by God. Remember Jesus said, *the kingdom of God is within you.* Luke 17:21. We do not appreciate the beautiful ordinariness of our lives. We have all been given gifts that we often discount because we compare ourselves to others. When we believe that Jesus has proclaimed to us that we are accepted, forgiven and loved children of God it gives us the self-confidence to grow and be more resistant to the assaults of failure and criticism. It's not that we forget or deny our faults, rather we are better able to put them in perspective instead of being crushed by them. when we appreciate the presence of God in our own ordinariness, we become more open to finding God in the ordinariness of others. When we are grateful to God for how God created ourselves, we find the confidence, desire and ability to embrace others especially during the most difficult and conflictual times.

We are living in a time of conflict and mistrust. Jesus calls us to live in the image of God. God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

This August, how about we look for the presence of God in the everyday ordinariness of our lives. We do not need to be extraordinary for God to love us or for us to be loved by others. We worry about whether or not we are liked, respected, or as good as other people why can't we just embrace our ordinariness and accept ourselves and others for the way God created us. Wick wrote, *true ordinariness is tangible holiness.* Let's take some time for ourselves with what is left of our summer and trust that in our ordinariness God is truly present.

Have a blessed August,

Pastor Jamie



## Online Giving

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 would like to set up your giving electronically go to our website: [www.faithlutheranvc.org](http://www.faithlutheranvc.org), The QR Code will take you to the sight. This is a great way to support Faith Lutheran especially when you are unable to attend worship.



## Message from Our Council President

I would like to begin by thanking all the individuals who contributed items for the bake sale, as well as those who gave their time to make this event happen for our Faith Family—kudos to you! Also, thank you to everyone who purchased items at the sale.

Summer has flown by, and soon school and college will be starting up again. The Mission Team has **been busy collecting school supplies. If you have any items you'd like to donate, please bring them to** the church by the first week of August. THANK YOU to the Mission Team for helping provide much-needed supplies right here in our community. A special thank you to Elise Miller and Scott Johnson for representing Faith Lutheran on the Bridges Backpack board and for helping with the Summer Grocery Store on Wednesday evenings. Wednesday nights Summer Grocery Store will wrap up on August 6th.

The next big event at Faith Lutheran is the **Back-to-School Luau on August 20th. If you're able to help, please let Julie in the office know. We're always looking for volunteers.**

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer with family and friends, but please don't forget about your Faith Family at Faith Lutheran, whether it's through financial support, helping out in the kitchen, ushering, or simply attending Sunday services. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about anything related to the church, feel free to reach out to any of our council members.

I leave you with this verse:

**"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."**  
— Romans 12:2

With gratitude,

Amy Pederson

Your Council President



## Invite Someone to Church Today!



Think about when you were new in town and you didn't know where to go to meet people or to find a place to worship. How did you find a church that you felt welcomed and excited to become a part of? It can be a bit unnerving to **enter into a church building especially when you are by yourself and don't know** many people. We want to welcome ALL to Faith Lutheran and have everyone

feel a part of a Christian family. Invite your friends, family, co-workers and acquaintances to a worship service or a church event. All children and youth are welcome to attend Sunday School, **Confirmation, Kids Club, Youth Events, etc. They don't have to be an "official" Faith Lutheran** member to participate. All of our activities are open to all who would like to be a part of them. Remember to always smile and greet those around you especially if you notice they are new to Faith or are alone. **Share God's love and His Word with all today!**

## Visitation Team

It's been my experience that spending time with some very special people is nothing short of a weekly blessing. I encourage you to consider joining us in making a difference in the lives of those not able to worship with us in person.



Please contact Val Moritz at 840-1652.

## Valley City Community Closet

The Community Closet will be open on Monday, August 25th, 5-7pm at **Our Savior's**. This is a source the community has for anyone who is in need of clothing, children and adult sizes as well as other household items. These items are free.



Volunteers are needed to help with set up on Sunday, August 24, 6-8pm and Monday, August 25, 7-8pm to help with clean up. This is a great opportunity to help our community.

## Sheyenne Valley Memory Café



The Sheyenne Valley Memory Café will begin their third season Thursday, August 28th at Faith Lutheran Church. Doors open at 1pm with a program beginning at 1:30pm. The program for August will be "Driving Safety for Seniors." Each month will have a different topic and speaker.

The Memory Care is a free and supportive space for individuals with memory loss and their care partners to connect, enjoy social activities, and learn practical tips. For more information, call City-County Health District at 845-8518 or follow @SheyenneValleyMemoryCafe on Facebook.

## Red Willow Ministries—38th Annual Quilts & More Auction

Online Auction is open August 8th-15th ([Link on Camp's Website:](http://www.redwillowministries.com)

[www.redwillowministries.com](http://www.redwillowministries.com)) Bidding will open at 8am, August 8 and closes at 8pm, August 15.

Live & Silent Auction—Saturday, August 23 at Red Willow Bible Camp, 1651 Jacob Drive, Binford, ND. Phone number 701-676-2681.

- Quilt Viewing—10am-11:45am
- Food Trucks Open—11am
- Silent Auction—10am-2:15pm
- Live Auction—12:30pm

New this year! Food Trucks and Kids' Games & Activities.

Raffle Tickets for the raffle quilt are \$10 each.



**RAFFLE QUILT - "Zoe"**  
Donated by Bette Nelson

## Men's Group News

**Men's Group July Activity**—Take 2: after a rainout and mix up, our July 16th picnic schedule at Mark Brandvold's cabin at the crossing, was re-scheduled for Wednesday evening July 23rd. Apologies to Gary, Larry H., Larry E. and Brent who didn't get the message that the outing was postponed. But it sounds like they improvised and had a very enjoyable time anyway.

On Wednesday evening July 23rd, we had **10 members** gather at Mark's cabin for our annual potluck picnic. The weather was Beautiful, the Fellowship was Great and food was Delicious. Mark, the Grill Master, did a wonderful job making the Pork Chops and Potatoes. The rest of us filled in with a nice variety of salads which teamed up to make a very enjoyable meal. We extend our Thanks to Mark for being such a Gracious Host. Hopefully we are able to keep this Fun Tradition going again next year.



Pictured (above, l-r): Larry H. Sayler, Virgil Kratz, Al Sorensen, Mark Brandvold, Pastor Jamie, Ron Peterson.

Pictured (to left, l-r): Mark Brandvold, Chuck Shape, Doug Kratz, Larry E. Sayler, Duane Larson.

In August, our Men's Group outing will be to attend a RedHawks Baseball game in Fargo. The date will be August 20th and we will plan to leave from Faith Lutheran Church by 5:15pm. If anyone is interested attending, Please contact Duane (840-8857) by August 13th so that tickets can be purchased so we all can be seated as a group. Ticket price will also be available at that time.



from Faith Lutheran Church by 5:15pm. If anyone is interested attending, Please contact Duane (840-8857) by August 13th so that tickets can be purchased so we all can be seated as a group. Ticket price will also be available at that time.

We would like to invite all of the Men of Faith to come check out our Men's Group and share in all of our Fun Activities.

GOD's Blessings to all,  
Duane Larson



## WELCA News

Greetings from Faith WELCA,

We did not meet in July but will meet this month Wednesday, August 13 at Faith Lutheran. Come join us in the Fellowship Hall at 3:30pm.

Summer is slipping by, and I hope you are enjoying every day and all the busyness of the season. Fall is my favorite season as I prefer cooler temps and I always hope for a l-o-n-g fall season.

I hope some of you have found this website since last month: Women of the ELCA [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) and maybe started enjoying the Daily Grace devotion. As I write this, the July 22 devotion was the feast day for Mary Magdalene and reminds us of her call and devotion to Jesus. **Mary Magdalene's story affirms the voice and important work of women in the church.** Our Bible study group did a Bible study on her that was very interesting and there are many Bible studies on women of the Bible if you are looking for a Bible study.

Exciting honor received at the EaND Synod Assembly mentioned in **last month's newsletter was receiving the Care of Creation Award.**

As WELCA President when the Award was presented to the congregation, I did mention we had a great planning opportunity for our kitchen when the new church was built. With the plan including the large dishwasher (in its own room), members knew we could make the commitment to **go green and protect God's creation. A large supply of dinnerware and glassware was purchased to avoid the use of plastic and Styrofoam as much as possible in our new kitchen.** With the honor of receiving the Care of Creation Award, let us take this opportunity to recommit to limited use of non-recyclables in the kitchen, when possible, to continue to care for **God's great Creation!**



As we look forward, we will begin the planning for the Fall Festival at our upcoming meeting as that will be here before we know it. So, we encourage everyone to start your creative juices flowing and making your plans to complete your projects in time for the October Fall Festival.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and hope see you at our meeting on August 13.

God's Peace to all,  
Elise Miller, WELCA President



## More Lectors Wanted

The office will be working on the new lector list soon and would like to add more readers to this list if possible. When it is your scheduled Sunday you would read the scriptures for that Sunday. The lector notes are emailed out by Wednesday prior to your Sunday so you have time to read them over. They will also be placed up front on the ambo each Sunday. Generally our lectors read about twice a year.

Please contact Julie in the office by August 11 if you are interested in being added to the list. We are grateful and appreciative of all those who share the scripture readings each week.



## Mission Team News

The Annual School Supply Drive for the public elementary schools continues through Monday, August 11th. The items collected help the schools and the teachers provide for the students who do not have the supplies that are needed for the classroom. The schools have told us it is nice to have this stock supply for teachers to use when their own supplies, or they run out during the year. We have collection boxers in the gathering area until August 11 and will pack them for the schools at our next meeting, August 12. Monetary donations

should be placed in the donation envelopes and marked “School Supplies.” We appreciate all the support this congregation has given to this project in the past, and we know we will have it again this year!

Reminder: Please stick to the items on the following lists.

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Jefferson Elementary (Grades K-3) - Crayons (24 Count); Regular Markers (10 Count-Classic Colors); **Thin Markers (10 Count); Colored Pencils (12 Count); Plastic Pencil Box; Elmer’s School Glue; Glue Sticks; Pink Erasers; #2 Pencils; Scissors; Two Pocket Folders; Wide-Ruled (Single Subject) Notebook; Highlighters; Black Sharpie Marker.**

Washington Elementary (Grades 4-6) - #2 Pencils; Mechanical Pencils; Large Eraser; Crayons (24 Count); Crayola Broad Line Markers (10 Count); Crayola Fine Point Markers (10 Count); **Colored Pencils; Highlighters; Elmer’s School Glue; Scissors; 12" Ruler (both inches & centimeters); 1 Inch 3 Ring Binder; Two Pocket Folders; Zippered Pencil Case; Pencil Box; Spiral Notebooks (College or Wide-Lined); 2 Inch 3 Ring Binder; Loose Leaf Wide-Lined Paper; Pens (blue or black ink).**

Both Schools—Boxes of Kleenex (175 count or more); Clorox Wipes.

The next meeting for the Mission Team will be Tuesday, August 12 at 5:30pm. If you would like to join the Mission Team, you are always welcome!

Faith Mission Team



## Noisy Offering—Bridges Backpack Program

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, August 24 for the Bridges Backpack Program. The kids will come around with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills during the Children’s Word. Your caring and generosity makes a difference in people’s lives.

In July we received \$238.67 for the School Supplies Drive!  
Thank you for your generous giving!



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

1. Jan Anderson; 2. Mike Morehouse; 3. Gavin Wiebe; 5. Adam Larson; 6. MaKayla Frieze; 7. Greg Burchill, Reagan Gray, Alice Mallette, Lauren May; 9. Lance Lukes; 10. Lexie Hanson, Eliza Johnson, Michael Kratz, Kaleb McClafin; 11. JoAnn Hooper, Lincoln Johnson, Axel Lunn, Aubrey Mark, Levi Nix; 13. Val Bolstad; 14. Marsha Anderson, Madison Frieze, 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. Kirsten Gerhardt; 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 Hoyer, Jack Moritz, Christian Pilgrim, Kenzington Pilgrim; 30. Lee Ann Peterson; 31. Ruth Geinert, Seth Hanson, Alan Larson, Abby Walker.

## 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

**BAPTISMS:** We celebrated God's promise in Holy Baptism for Alice Josephine Mallette, born August 7, 2023 and baptized on Sunday, July 27, 2025. Her parents are Derick & Kelly Mallette & siblings are Conner, Sophie & Olive. God bless Alice & her family.

**DEATHS:** Our sympathies to Verlynn Christianson & family & friends of Sue Olson. Sue died Tuesday, July 15, 2025 in Moorhead, MN. Her Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 here at Faith with Pastor Jamie officiating.

## August Service & Care

\*\*Damon & Brenda Bong

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

\*Thank you for serving!

This group could use more people  
if you are interested in helping!

## July Attendance

July 6	71	35+ online
July 13	91	46+ online
July 20	97	54+ online
July 27	89	

## Offering

January	\$19,005.60
February	\$20,335.00
March	\$23,203.07
April	\$21,189.71
May	\$18,830.00
June	\$17,257.50
July	\$18,689.00

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



## Bake Sale Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who baked for our Crazy Days Bake Sale. We had an amazing variety of delicious goodies for everyone to choose from! Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the bake sale: Nancy Sorensen, Anna Metcalf, Diane Busche, Carol Smith, Elise Miller, Val Moritz, Rylee & Reagan Gray. Thank you to Scott Johnson and Mary Johnson for making lefse during the Bake Sale! There was some taste testing done and it was a 5 star rating ☺

This is the first year that we have done a Bake Sale on Crazy Days. A lot of the people that stopped by to purchase baked goods were from the community as well as our congregation members so that was great! It's always fun to visit with each other while shopping for our favorite baked goods. We get to see people we don't see often and that makes us happy. Seeing smiles and hearing laughter is the best!

We don't have a grand total of what was made at the bake sale yet. We will share that when we know. A portion of the total will go to support Faith Lutheran Ministries and a portion will go to the Bridges Backpack Program. We want to support and give back to the community.

Thank you again for your generosity and support!

Julie Moritz



## July Memorials

In memory of Bonnie Burchill given by Joe & Martee Lunde (Solar Panels); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated).

In memory of Illa Glandt given by Illa's Family (Altar Guild); Jackie Heroux (Altar Guild).

In memory of Sue Olson given by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Bruce & Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Jack & Val Moritz (General Fund); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated).

## AUGUST TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Aug 13  
at 5:15pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Aug 13  
at 1:30pm

**Men's Group**—No August Meeting



Mission Team—Meets Tue, Aug 12 at 5:30pm

Sept Service & Care— Meets Sun, Aug 24  
after worship & by emails texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets Wed, Aug 13 at 3:30pm



Blessing  
of the Backpack

## Blessing of the Backpacks—August 24

If your child is attending Preschool up to 12th grade this coming school year, please have your children come to church on **Sunday, August 24th** with their backpacks to receive a special blessing for the upcoming school year!



## Sunday School News

**Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 7th!**

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 what for an email soon to sign your child up!

## 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 3rd!**



## Back to School Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for our students. As they begin this school year, help them to use the talents and gifts you've given them to do their very best.

May they listen to their teachers with respect and open-minds. Help them to be honest and to always seek the truth. Help them to be kind to everyone at school, and to serve others as they would like to be served.

Help them to make good friends and be a good friend to someone in need. Lastly, help them to remember that You're always with them and that You'll never leave their side.

May they love You and follow You with all their hearts, soul, and strength. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen .

HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!



# 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! ***The dates are still being finalized for parent/student meeting and start date!***

**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

Save  
the  
Date

Wendi will be taking a group of kids going into 6th grade up to kids going into 9th grade to Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes the weekend of **September 26-28!** 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, watch your emails as we will have a meeting when all the details are released.**

## Junior High Youth!

Come to the lake on **Sunday, August 10th** for some tubing, games and bonfire. We will leave Faith at 6pm and be back to town around 10pm. Please watch for more information soon!



## Sack Lunch Program for Summer



At Our Savior's Lutheran Church on **Fridays through August 15** sack lunches will be available to anyone who is in need of a meal, at no cost to them. This is an extension of the Senior High Lunch program, which will return in the fall for this school year. Sack lunches will be served in the downstairs dining area beginning at 11am until supplies are gone for the day. If you have questions or would like to help with this call 845-1328 for more info.

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
 PO Box 606  
 309 4th St N  
 Valley City, ND 58072-0606  
 Return Service Requested



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## Church Staff

**Pastor:** *Pastor Jamie Desai*

**Administrative Assistant:** *Julie Moritz*

**Treasurer:** *Jessica Jenrich*

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry and  
 Sunday School:** *Wendi Wilmes*

**Accompanist/ Worship Coordinator:** *Cyndi Hill*

**Custodians:** *Mark & Sandy Brandvold*

**Council President:** *Amy Pederson*  
**Phone:** (701) 840-1328

**Council:** *Kalyn Botz, Matt Brandvold,  
 Rick Bredeson, Cheryl Foell,  
 Erin Metcalf, Jacob Rohde*

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



**Website:** *www.faithlutheranvc.org*

**Fax Number:** (701) 845-5887

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