

# Faith On the rise

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072  
Volume XXVII Issue XII Monthly December 2025

Office will be closed  
December 24-26, 2025  
in observance of  
Christmas.

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

### **Page 2**

A Word from the Pastor  
2026 Daily Texts

### **Page 3**

Message from  
Council President

### **Page 4**

Hiring: Church Treasurer  
2026 Offering Envelopes

### **Page 5**

Merry & Bright Concert  
Christmas Eve Dinner  
"Sounds of the Season"  
Valley Troubadours

### **Page 6**

WELCA News  
Thanksgiving Baskets

### **Page 7**

Mission Team News  
Noisy Offering

### **Page 8**

December Birthdays  
& Anniversaries  
November Transitions  
November Memorials &  
Honorariums  
December Service & Care

### **Page 9**

Celebration of Life Tree  
Christmas Poinsettias  
Salvation Army Ringing  
Annual Meeting  
Team Meetings

### **Page 10**

Sunday School  
Christmas Program  
Kids Club

### **Page 11**

Confirmation News  
Jr High Christmas Party  
Community Closet  
Library Market Day

### **Page 12**

Staff Info

### **Inserts**

Calendar/Nov Pictures

## Bible Presentation

Sunday, November 16, our Third Graders received their first read Bibles and a blessing during the worship service. When they met with Pastor Jamie the third graders learned how to look up the Books of the Bible, chapters and verses in the Bible. God bless they young people as they read God's Word and grow in their faith.



Pictured (l-r) Ryan & Jessica, Lincoln, Oakleigh Johnson; Brad & Megan, Taylor McKay; Tiffany & Zoey Greenley; Kayla & Reagan Holm; Mary Stearns, Em & Eleanor Stearns, Brenda Stearns; Matt & Courtney, Elsie, Quinn, Mila Jorissen; Pastor Jamie; Shay, Lincoln & Amanda Pilgrim.



## Christmas Eve Worship Service

This Christmas Eve we will have 2 Worship Services at 3pm and 5pm on December 24th. These special candlelight services will include special music, favorite hymns, a meaningful message and Holy Communion. The service will be livestreamed from our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Valley City and will also be on our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/vcfaithlutheran](http://www.youtube.com/vcfaithlutheran).

Let us rejoice in the Good News of Jesus Christ together!



Welcome to the season of Advent! Advent is a four-week season in the church where we prepare for the coming of Jesus both as well as his second coming.

We begin advent on the fourth Sunday closest to November 30th (St. Andrew's Day) and it lasts until Christmas Eve. We use this time as an opportunity for spiritual preparation, reflection and anticipation as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth.



When I was a boy, I remember in Sunday School we were always given an Advent calendar to take home and use during Advent. The calendar had little windows we would open, each with a suggestion of one thing we could do to help others. For example, *write a card to someone who made a difference in your life* or *shovel your neighbors walk for free*. The Advent calendar made an impression on me, so much so that each Advent season I look forward to opening my annual Advent calendar every day.

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1949. a Lutheran pastor created it out of a wagon wheel for children. The wheel's circle reminds us of God's unending love and eternal life. Beginning this Sunday, November 30, we will have our Church Advent wreath up in the sanctuary and will light a candle each Sunday as we prepare for Christmas. You can also have your own wreath at home if you like and count down Advent with us. The first week is the Candle of Hope accompanied by the reading of Isaiah 9. Week two is the Peace Candle with Isaiah 40. Week three is the Joy Candle (Shepherd's candle) with Matthew 2 and finally Week four is the Love Candle with John 3.



As we count down the weeks and days until Christmas let us remember that this time is not just about shopping and Hallmark Christmas movies, it is a time for us to remember that Jesus came down from heaven to dwell with us and will one day he will come again. *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him, Immanuel, which means God with us.* Matthew 1:23

Come celebrate the Advent season with us at Faith Lutheran Church as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

God's peace be with you this December.

*Pastor Jamie*



## 2026 Daily Texts Are Here!

The 2026 Daily Texts have arrived! The cost of each book will be \$12. If you are interested in purchasing the Daily Texts, they are located on the table under the mirror in the gathering area. This is the book the Faith's Friendly Friday Note devotion is found. You may go to the [GroundUpGrace.com/podcasts](https://GroundUpGrace.com/podcasts) to listen to their podcasts.

## Message from Council President

Dear Faith Family,

The holidays are here! What a wonderful time of year. Faith Lutheran teamed up with Trinity Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran to provide Thanksgiving baskets. Kudos to Krista Johnson and Erin Metcalf for planning and organizing this effort with Trinity and Our Savior's. Together, they were able to give out 175 baskets to individuals and families in need. This mission is a blessing to our community and surrounding area, offering a little extra help during the holiday season.

I'd like to share a brief update about what was discussed at our most recent council meeting.

If you're considering year-end giving, please keep Faith Lutheran Church in your plans. The council is currently working on the church 2026 budget and anticipates having a final draft ready by the next council meeting.



A special thank-you goes to Tami Kratz for her twenty-two years of service on the Nominating Committee. Then Nominating Committee met with the council to discuss the Audit, Nominating, Council, Cemetery, and Foundation Committees.

They have done an outstanding job finding individuals willing to serve. While they have names for all committees, nominations may still be made at the Annual Meeting. All names will be presented for voting at that time.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Jessica Jenrich for her faithful service as church treasurer over the past few years. She has decided to step away due to work and family commitments. Thank you, Jess! We are currently seeking someone to fill this position.



We also discussed our Snow/Storm Cancellation Plan for Sunday worship. Pastor and the Council President will communicate and determine whether worship will be held during severe weather. Any cancellations will be announced to the congregation and community via Facebook, radio, and other social media outlets as soon as possible.

Don't forget about the Sunday School Christmas Program, scheduled for Sunday, December 14th during the 9:30am worship service. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck following the program.

Finally, please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026, following the worship service. We hope to see everyone there.

I leave you with this quote:

*"Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all."* - James 1:17

Your Council President,

*Amy Pederson*

## Now Hiring: Church Treasurer

Faith Lutheran is seeking a faithful, trustworthy, and detail-oriented individual to serve as Church Treasurer. This vital role support our mission by ensuring our financial resources are managed with integrity and care.

### Details:

- Hours: Approximately 15-20 hours per month
- Compensation: \$2,500 per year

### Key Responsibilities:

- Manage bills and payroll
- Maintain accurate financial records and report
- Support church leadership in financial stewardship
- Attend monthly Council meetings

### Requirements

- Strong attention to detail and basic accounting knowledge
- A heart for serve and faithful financial management
- Reliable access to Wi-Fi and a printer
- Knowledge of QuickBooks software is helpful, but not required



If you feel called serve God and our congregation through this important ministry, please contact Amy Pederson, our Council President: email - [amypederson43@yahoo.com](mailto:amypederson43@yahoo.com) or cell phone - 701-840-1328, for more information or to apply. Applications are located on the table in the gathering area if you would like to fill one out.

*We extend our sincere gratitude to Jessica Jenrich for her faithful and dedicated service as our Treasurer. Her commitment and diligence has been a blessing to our congregation!*

## 2026 Offering Envelopes



The office will be preparing the 2026 offering envelopes for household to pick up. If you do not use the offering envelopes or would like to have offering envelopes, please let the office know as soon as possible. The envelopes will be available by December 24th so you have them to use on January 4, 2026. A reminder: your contributions are recorded whether you use an envelope, place a check in the offering place, drop it by the office, mail it or give online.

Thank you to all who have set up online giving. This is a simple way to give to the church even when you are unable to attend in person. To set up online giving go to our website: [www.faithlutheranvc.org](http://www.faithlutheranvc.org) and click on the give online button on the upper right side. Then follow the prompts. If you scan the QR code with your **QR Reader on your phone it will also take you to our website's online giving.**



Your contributions support the ministries and missions of Faith Lutheran as well as the monthly expenses. Your generous giving is greatly appreciated.



**Merry & Bright Christmas Carolers**  
**Grande Finale Concert Caroling at Faith Lutheran Church,**  
**Monday, December 22 at 1:30pm. Come and enjoy the music!**

**53rd Annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner**

**St Catherine's Church Dining Hall**—December 24, 5:30-7pm. For those who will be alone this Christmas, come celebrate Jesus' birthday with other members of our community. Desserts are welcome, no salads please. Financial donations appreciated. Financial Donations can be mailed to: St. Catherin Church, Attn: Christmas Eve Dinner, 540 3rd Ave NE, Valley City, ND 58072. For questions or to volunteer please call: Deacon Tom Vanorny at 701-210-0640. If you need transportation: Call 845-0354 by 3pm on Tuesday, December 23rd. Sorry No deliveries except for the love of Jesus to one another!



**19th Annual "Sound of the Season" Brown Bagger Series**

If you like to listen to Christmas music during the holiday season, you now have another opportunity to listen to Christmas Holiday music the Wednesdays in Advent beginning on December 3rd during the noon hour. These listening opportunities will be held in the sanctuary of **Our Savior's Lutheran Church** located at 138 3rd St NW in Valley City from 12:10-12:50pm giving listeners time to pick up a sandwich or other type lunch and make their way to the church. The series will also be live streamed on the Our Savior's FaceBook livestream at Our Savior's Valley City site.

Wednesday, December 3rd, featured performer is Brad Edin. Wednesday, December 10th, will feature Faye Buback, and Wednesday, December 17th will feature Beth Quick Berge.



**The Valley Troubadours 2025 Annual Christmas Concerts**

The Troubadours concert season is just getting started and will span a good chunk of the holiday season with performances kicking off Friday, December 5th at the Lone Oak Venue in Ayr, ND, tickets at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). The group's home concert will be Sunday, December 7 at the Valley City Connect Church at 7pm. A free will offering will be taken at this event. On Monday, December 15 the Troubadours invite the community to join them in sharing the sounds of the Christmas season, at 7pm at the Barnes County Courthouse. Refreshments will be served. Lastly, a special performance will wrap up the Troubadours Holiday Concert Series at SMP-St. Raphael's in Valley City at 6:30pm on Tuesday, December 16.





## WELCA News

WELCA monthly meeting was held Wednesday, November 12. We reviewed the Fall Festival and things that went well and that we will want to again next year. We also received the final financial report from the Festival and dispersed the funds. More than \$7,000 was collected and given out for many causes and charities, which included increases for this year to local food pantries. Again, thanks to our Faith members who help in any way to make our Fall Festival a great success to enable WELCA to make these charitable contributions to help others.

We also discussed some kitchen purchases of small utensil purchases as they are needed.

We decorated for Christmas after service on Sunday, November 23. Thank you Val Moritz for the Christmas decorations in the planters outside. Nature added a touch of snow to enhance their beauty as well.

Our next WELCA meeting will be December 10 at 3:30pm in the Fireside room. All Women of Faith are welcome to join us.

Christmas Blessings to all,

Elise Miller, WELCA President



## Community Thanksgiving Baskets Thank You

A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers and donors who helped make our 2025 Community Thanksgiving Project a success! Thanks to your generous gifts, we were able to fill 175 Thanksgiving baskets this year—an increase from **last year's 125. Members of Faith Lutheran, Our Savior's Lutheran, and Trinity Lutheran** came together over two evenings to pack the baskets, make home deliveries, and assist with pick-ups.

What a joy it was to share this meaningful mission with our fellow local ELCA congregations. The heartfelt appreciation we received from recipients reminded us once again of the purpose and importance of this ministry.



Thank you for offering your time, talents, treasures, thoughts, and prayers. This event simply **wouldn't be possible without each one of you. We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving!**

God bless you all,

*The 2025 Thanksgiving Basket Committee*

Krista Johnson, Mary Rausch, Brenda Rohde, Erin Metcalf

## Mission Team News

We are busy with our SMP Health—St Raphael and Christmas Giving Tree mission projects. The information about these two special projects is below.



**Christmas Family Giving Tree**—The tree will be set up through December 7th for you to pick your gift tag ornament(s) and start shopping. This project is one that is close to our hearts, and the children are so excited to receive their gifts! For those of you that are new members, let me explain. We receive names of children in need from the school principals. The Mission Team then make up gift tags with the age, size and item requested and place them on our mission Christmas tree. Each child receive a clothing item as well as a fun gift that they request. You pick up your gift tag ornament(s) from the mission Christmas tree and do your shopping. All gifts need to be returned to the church no later than December 14th. Our Mission team members will be at the table to help you with any questions you may have. We ask that you make sure the team member is at the table before taking the gift tags as we need to record which number you have. Thank you again for your generosity!

**SMP Health—St. Raphael Gift Giving**—Again, this year St. Raphael has requested gifts for residents, and we want to help them out. They are asking for crew neck sweatshirts for male/female sized L-3XL, Gripper socks, LARGE print word search books (they specified the large print), and you will also have an opportunity to pick up an ornament off our giving tree requesting a cash donation to be used at the St. Raphael beauty salon or a local restaurant. You give the cash donation to a Mission Team member and they will use it to buy the gift cards. Basically we are doing your shopping for you. ☺

### Mission Christmas



**Mission Christmas Fund**—This is a collection of funds received throughout the year. In December we help families that are experiencing something difficult in their lives. Some of the situations we have helped families or individuals with are travel expenses for medical appointments, long term illness with loss of employment, and many other struggles that we may have known about. We help with gift cards for gas, groceries, general shopping needs, a restaurant/pizza, distributing based on their greatest needs. Recipients are identified by Pastor, committee members and other congregation members who may know of a need.

If you would like to join our fun group, please contact one of the team members or just show up at our next meeting which will be December 2nd at 5:15pm in the Fireside Room. We would love to see you.

Sandy Brandvold—Chairperson

## Noisy Offering—SMP-St Raphael Stocking Stuffer Program



We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, December 14 for the Stocking Stuffer Program. This program helps to buy gifts for the residents to make their Christmas brighter. The kids will come around with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills. Your caring and generosity makes a difference in people's lives.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1. Terri Dalglish, Ilene Hetler, Alaina Rodin, Deloris Welken; 2. Ali Rodin, Josh Smith; 3. Brady Anderson, Ashley Horner, Westen Smith; 4. Linda Lane; 6. Nikki Moen, John Samuelson, Georgia Welken; 7. Doug Kratz, Larry H. Sayler, Gary Sommerfeld, Angela Van Bruggen; .8. Kalyn Botz, Bonnie Schumacher; 10. Val Moritz; 11. Gabe Jenison, Brenda Klein; 13. Taylor Yanish; 14. Laura Klevgaard; 16. Lance Jenison; 17. Krista Johnson, Quinn Jorissen, Dylan Rafferty, Ranetta Starr; 18. Riley Gerhardt, Drew Kohler; 19. Markus Kratz; 20. Aaliyah Torbenson; 21. Rhyatt Ernest, Joe Martin, Tony Moritz; 22. Landon Heide, Cale Ludwig; 23. Ashley McClafin, Julie Opdahl, Megan Tichy; 24. Owen Johnson, John Kohler; 26. Marsha Sayler; 27. Viola Johnson; 28. Scott Limesand; 29. Brandon Moen, Zach Rischmiller, Warren Ventsch; 30. Kayla Holm, Ben Shape; 31. Elsie Jorissen, John Tompt.

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

2. Matt & Allison Anderson; 9. Rick & Robin Idland; 10. Lyle & Angi Hansen; 12. Mark & Cyndi Hill; 13. Bruce & Julie Moritz; 14. Nate & Mary Rausch; 16. Troy & Jodi Miller; 21. Ed & Betty Overby; 22. Don & Kathy Burke; 23. Tyrone & Katie McCullough; 24. Travis & Kim Gray; 26. Doug & Patty Altringer; 31. Ron & Lee Ann Peterson.

## NOVEMBER TRANSITIONS

**BAPTISMS: We celebrated God's promise in Holy**  
Baptism for Banks Shawn Johnson, born July 28, 2025 and was baptized on Sunday, November 16, 2025. His parents are Samantha Ranisate & Braydan Johnson and big sister is Viola. God bless Banks and his family.

## November Memorials & Honorariums

In honor of **Al & Nancy Sorensen's 50th Wedding**  
Anniversary given by Paulette Everson (General Fund).

In memory of Latha Pederson given by Paulette  
Everson (General Fund).

## December Service & Care

**\*\*Tyler & Angela Van Bruggen**

Mark & Sandy Brandvold

Matt Brandvold

Andy & Sam Carlson

Mike & Pamela Egan

Matt & Jessica Jenrich

Duane & Diana Larson

John & Tonya Samuelson

Leighton & Dianne Smith

Mark & Paula Thomsen

James & Janet Thornton

Jarin & Gina Thornton

Scott & Amy Tichy

John & Dixie Tompt

\*Thank you for serving!

## November Attendance

November 2	162	27+ online
November 9	136	28+ online
November 16	207	55+ online
November 23	106	30+ online
November 30	96	58+ online

## 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
August	\$23,412.00
September	\$17,717.00
October	\$21,782.00
November	\$24,005.90

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



## Celebration of Life Tree

The Youth Ministry of Faith continue our tradition of the "Celebration of Life" tree. Buy an ornament for \$5 in memory or in honor of a loved one to celebrate their life. Paulette Everson has made the beautiful Cross ornaments. Forms are in the church office and in the bulletin. Fill it out and return the form and money. Your loved one's name will be on the ornament tags hanging on the tree. Names received by December 17th will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



## Christmas Poinsettias

We would like to have around 15 poinsettias to adorn our altar on Christmas Eve. If you would like to purchase a plant the suggested amount is \$25 or bring a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the gathering area. You may also contact Julie in the office. Names received by December 17th will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing



It's time to spread some Christmas cheer and ring the bells for the Salvation Army! The kettles will be set up at Leever's Foods and Petro Serve USA. If you can help for any amount of time (1-2 hours, or more!), please sign up by calling Naomi Schlect (701-541-1418) or Lenora Ziemba (701-840-1357). Bell ringers needed Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm, through Wednesday, December 24 at 2pm.

## Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 25, 2025

The annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 25th immediately following the worship service. There will need to be a quorum of 40 active and confirmed members present to conduct business. The Annual Reports will be available to pick up from the church by January 15, 2026.



**ANNUAL MEETING**

For any committee members that is to write a report for the annual report please have it to Julie no later than January 5, 2026. Thank you!

## DECEMBER TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Dec 10  
at 5:15pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Dec 10  
at 1:30pm

**Men's Group**—Meets Sat, Dec 13 at 8:00am



Mission Team—Meets Tue, Dec 2 at 5:15pm

Jan Service & Care—Meets Sun, Dec 21  
after worship & by emails texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets Wed, Dec 10 at 3:30pm

## Sunday School News

Sunday School runs from 10:45-11:45am.

Important Dates for Sunday School:

Sunday, December 7—Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School

(We will be practicing until 12:15 this day)

Sunday, December 14—CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

Sunday, December 21—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

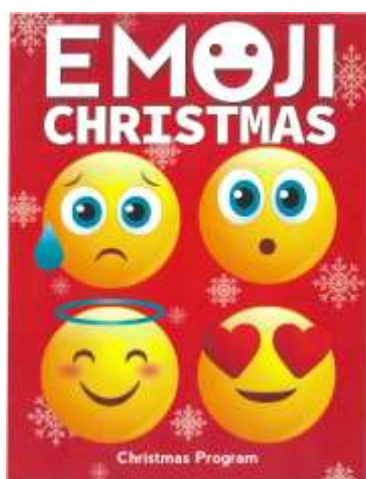
Sunday, December 28—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, January 4—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, January 11—Sunday School Resumes after Christmas Break



## Sunday School Children's Christmas Program



Our Christmas Program, *Emoji Christmas* is scheduled for **Sunday, December 14** during the 9:30am church service! We hope you will be able to attend to watch how amazing the kids are at sharing the Christmas story and singing Christmas Carols!

There will be a potluck after the program at approximately 11am. Bring a dish to share and enjoy fellowship together!

Parents, please watch your emails for more info soon.

## Kids Club!

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

### Schedule for December

Wednesday, December 3—Service Project

Wednesday, December 10—Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 17—NO KIDS CLUB

Wednesday, December 24—NO KIDS CLUB—Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, December 31—NO KIDS CLUB—Happy New Year!



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# Youth News

## Confirmation Information

Confirmation will now be at Our Savior's Lutheran Church November-January from 6:30-8pm. A light snack will be offered from 6-6:30pm for kids who are hungry after school and sports.

**Wednesday, December 3**—we will be shopping for gifts or making gifts for college students at VCSU

**Wednesday, December 10**—we will be having our annual "wrapping party"

**NO Confirmation Classes on:**

Wednesday, December 17

Wednesday, December 24

Wednesday, December 31



## Junior High Youth

We will be having a **Christmas Party** on **Sunday, December 14 at 6pm** at Faith. We will have pizza, board games, and a special Christmas gift game. Please bring a \$5 gift to share that evening with a friend! Watch for more information soon!



## Community Closet

The Community Closet will be open Monday, December 15, 5-7pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Volunteers needed Sunday, December 14, 6-8pm in the basement of Our Savior's. Donations needed: Winter clothing for all ages, blankets, plastic storage totes. The Community Closet is open to all and provides free clothing to those in need.



## Libraries are Sweet—& Books are My Jam Market Day!

Market Day will take place on **Saturday, December 6, 11am-4pm** at the **Valley City Branes County Public Library, 410 Central Ave N.** Please help make this a huge success by donating jams, jellies, and other sweet treats. They are also accepting craft items for sale or bigger items for their silent auction. Donations of funds toward items are also welcome. Nonperishable items may be brought to the library anytime before then. Sweet treats and other perishable items may be brought to the library on Friday, December 5 or by 10am on Saturday morning. Come and explore the library, listen to local musicians, shop for gift giving. Bring the kids to do a fun craft too! All proceeds will support the VCBC Library Foundation's Brighten Up the Book Barn Project.

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



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

## 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*

**E-Mail Address:** *office@faithlutheranvc.org*  
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**Sandy's E-Mail:** *sandy.brandvold@gmail.com*



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

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

**Church Office:** (701) 845-4390

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