

# Faith On the rise

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072  
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## Ash Wednesday, March 5



We begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday worship service will be at 6:30pm. The service will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.

The services during Lent will be live-streamed on our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City. We will also have a freewill offering simple meal served prior to the services, 5:30-6:15pm.

Lenten service will be Wednesdays at 6:30pm and should be 30-45 minutes. The theme for this Lenten season is **“Majoring in the Minor Prophets”**. Hear different pastors share the stories 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)**. They will rotate each week to a different church. Ash Wednesday and Holy Week each pastor will be at their home church.



## *Souper Bowl of Caring—February 9*

Sunday, February 9 is *Souper Bowl of Caring*.

We will receive a noisy offering with the money received going to the Barnes County Food Pantry.

Share in God’s love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday. The kids will come around during the Children’s Message with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills. We are asking you to bring cans of soup to donate to the BC Food Pantry. We will have a container for you to put them in.

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.” In 1990 this prayer by a youth pastor inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. Since then, close to \$200 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring.



*What are your expectations for the Holy Spirit?* Is that a random question? We talk about expectations for ourselves, our jobs, our children and our church, but when do we ever ask: *What are our expectations for the Holy Spirit?*

When you read or listen to the scriptures in worship, what do you expect the Holy Spirit will accomplish? If I were to ask you to describe what the Holy Spirit is up to in and through Faith Lutheran, how might you respond? What are the hopes and the hurts and the fears and the faith of those who live in the Valley City community and in our congregation? What is Faith doing well? Who are we ignoring? Who are we not reaching out to that might need to be welcomed?

I'm asking and challenging us to be a church with high expectations of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not done with Faith Lutheran Church. We have been called through the good news of Jesus Christ to the work of making new creations in him, reconciling the alienated, forgiving us and setting us free for lives of witness and service. The Holy Spirit is working in us tearing down the walls that divide us and turning those walls into tables of reconciliation and conversation. Christ welcomes all to the table of his presence.

No church is absent from the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Not one of us lacks the gifts of the Spirit. Christ risen from the dead means there are no godforsaken places or godforsaken people. Yet we sometimes forget Jesus promised that we would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on us. That is especially true when we describe the church based on what we lack and have lost and nostalgically long for days gone by.

We have all we need: God's promises. And so, we listen to the promises God has made to us throughout the scriptures. We discern the gifts the Spirit has given us for the common good. We listen to the life stories of those who live here in our community. In listening we believe the Holy Spirit is at work in us restoring us and sending us to be about God's work for the life of the world. We go because we believe our neighbors deserve to hear the good news of God's acceptance, forgiveness and love for them.

I invite you to pray and listen for the ways the Spirit is moving at Faith with high expectation for the Holy Spirit. But a warning because when the Spirit shows up, lives are changed, the dead are raised, unbelief turns to faith, demons are cast out, despair gives way to hope, the alienated are reconciled, those in poverty hear the good news, people sell their possessions and give to the poor and all are welcomed at God's table of grace.

As we near the season of Lent let us remember Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit to remind us when we forget God's faithfulness to us and empowers us to do even greater deeds than Jesus did (John 14).

Let us begin February with high expectations of the Holy Spirit!

Happy February,

Pastor Jamie



## Stewardship

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Family

As we embark on a new year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the privilege of being stewards of **the resources God has entrusted to us. Your financial contributions are vital to our church's ability to fulfill its mission of spreading the Gospel and serving our community.**

We are currently focusing on the General Fund which pays our monthly bills and payroll and the Building Fund which is used for building repairs. This requires increased support from our congregation. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Please consider how you can contribute to our shared vision through your tithing and offering.

We are grateful for your partnership in ministry and look forward to seeing how God uses our collective giving to further His Kingdom.



## 2025 Elected Members

2025 Council: Kalyn Botz, Matt Brandvold, Rick Bredeson, Cheryl Foell, Erin Metcalf, Amy Pederson, Jacob Rohde.

2025 Endowment Foundation: Scott Johnson, Dean Klein, Val Moritz, Al Sorensen, Angela Van Bruggen, Kara Wiebe

2025 Audit: Deb Shape, Brian Yanish

2025 Nominating: Deb Beilke, Sandy Brandvold, Deb Horner, Tami Kratz

2025 Cemetery: Justin Foell. Mike Metcalf, Don Schlotman

Thank you for your willingness to serve in each of your elected positions. Your work and dedication in each of your positions is a vital part of Faith Lutheran.



## Thank You for Serving!

We would like to thank and acknowledge those who went off elected boards/committees. Thank you Mike May and Justin Foell for your leadership and guidance while you served on the Faith Lutheran Council and thank you to each of you for serving a year as Council President during your terms. Thank you Cindy Waagen for serving on the Audit Committee for the past two years. Thank you Elise Miller for your dedication and insight while serving on the Nominating Committee for 14 years!

We welcome those newly elected at the annual meeting to serve on the boards/committees. We welcome Cheryl Foell and Jacob Rohde to the FLC Council. Brian Yanish to the Audit Committee, Deb Beilke to the Nominating Committee. Thank you each for your willingness to serve. May God bless you and strengthen you as you serve on your boards/committees.



Thank you all who continue to serve on the your boards/committees. The giving of your time and dedication is appreciated. We are blessed to have such dedicated and devoted members serving within Faith Lutheran!

## Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars ®

The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities. Thrivent Financial members, remember to designate where you would like **your 2024 Choice Dollars to go. The 2024 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2025. Don't let your Choice Dollars expire.** Thrivent Financial members go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoic](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoic) to make your choice for your Choice Dollars.



We would like to thank Thrivent members who designate their Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran. Thanks to your generosity Faith Lutheran received \$1,336 during the 2024 year. Thank you!

A reminder that each Thrivent member who has a policy has access to two \$250 Thrivent Action cards a year. You can use the cards for a fundraiser led by a client with membership or organize your own. When a charitable activity is approved, volunteers may then use the cards to purchase supplies for a wide range of events. The three categories are fundraisers, service projects and educational projects. Members of our congregation have applied for and received cards that have been used for the following purchases to name a few: school supplies, items for the Hi-Liner Pantry, items for the quilters who make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Christmas gifts for those **in need in the community**, **WELCA fundraisers**, **Men's Group fundraisers**, **Back to School Luau**, fleece for making tied blankets and pajamas for Project Ignite Light, etc.

If you would like more information about Thrivent Financial contact their office at 845-2897 to set up an appointment. Their office is located at 213 Central Ave. N.

## Giving Hearts Day—February 13

Giving Hearts Day continues to be a vital avenue to support synod ministry and provides an opportunity to highlight the important ministry that we do together. This Giving Hearts Day, we invite you into the mission of the Eastern North Dakota Synod: **United in Christ, we dare to Invite, Connect, and Act.** You can be a part of the work that we do across the Eastern North Dakota Synod. We hope that you will consider a gift and help us reach our goal of \$80,000. We have already raised \$40,000 in match dollars.

Ways to Participate: Go to <https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/379>

- Select your donation amount and add to cart
  - Check-out or find more charities to support!
- You can also mail a check—just make sure it has GHD in the memo line, is dated 2/13/2025 and is received in our office by 2/13/2025.

We encourage you to give to our partners in Ministries: Red Willow Bible Camp Ministries, Park River Bible Camp Ministries.



## Baptism Keepsake Cross Presentation

Sunday, January 12, Baptism of our Lord Sunday, we recognized and presented Baptismal Keepsakes to those who were baptized in 2024. Carol Smith presented the wooden crosses with a card with each person's name, baptism date and the Bible verse *"May the Lord give his angels charge over you to guide you in all your ways."* Psalm 91:11. The crosses are a reminder of this special step in their Christian walk of faith. The Baptismal Keepsakes are compliments of WELCA and Faith Lutheran.



Pictured (l-r) Pastor Jamie; Claire, Landon & Della Heide; Bailey & Sarah (holding Westen) Duffy; Sam Ranisate (holding Viola); Cory & Abbi (holding Rayeann) Knutson; Katie & Aaron (holding Camden) Schuster. Bolded names are the 2024 baptized. Unable to attend Iva Smith and August (Auggie) Pederson. God bless these children of God and their families.

## Faith Visitation Team

Faith Lutheran Team has a goal for 2025 to increase the number of people involved in this very **important ministry**. We're looking for people to dedicate a few hours a week to visit some members of our Faith family who are not able to regularly take part in church life. If you have ever considered serving in this visitation program or have any questions, please call Val Moritz at 840-1652.

I'm confident you'll find this a very rewarding experience.

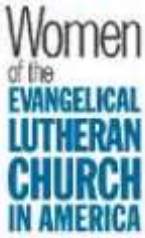


## WELCA News



WELCA Ladies did not meet the month of January. We will meet again on Wednesday, February 12 at 3:30pm.

Here are some of the items to be discussed:



**Bold Women's Day on Sunday, March 3.** This day celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others.

Personal Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will be asking for donations from the congregation during March. The youth will help collect items and help put them together. If you would like to purchase any of the items for the personal health kits ahead of time, they are 1 light-weight bath-size towel; 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap; 1 adult-size toothbrush; 1 sturdy comb; 1 metal nail clippers. More information will be in the March newsletter and bulletins.

Thank you to all the ladies that helped take down Christmas decorations. It goes fast with good help!

February is Thankoffering month. We give in thanksgiving of blessings received and we are grateful for them. The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings **are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Our ongoing ministries include our justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, our constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, and so much more. Your Thankoffering envelope is stapled to the front of this newsletter.** You can also donate to WELCA on our website: [www.faithluthernvc.org](http://www.faithluthernvc.org).

Please consider donating to the churchwide WELCA organization to support their missions.

Sincerely,

Carol Smith, WELCA President



## Valley City Community Closet

The Community Closet will be open on Monday, February 24, 5-7pm in the **basement of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 138 3rd St NW. This is a source the community has for free clothing of all genders and sizes.** Volunteers are needed on Sunday, February 23, 6-8pm and Monday, February 24, 7-8pm for closing.



## Great Plains Mobile Food Bank

Great Plains Mobile Food Distribution will be Thursday, February 20, 1:15-3:15pm at Epworth UMC parking lot, 680 8th Ave SW. Fresh vegetables, fruits, shelf-stable items, meat, bakery items, boxed goods and more are distributed. All in need of food assistance are welcome to receive food at no cost. A short intake form is filled out onsite.

## Mission Team News

Mission Team did not meet in January, but we will meet the second Tuesday, February 11 at 5:30pm. We plan to continue to meet for future meetings the *second Tuesday* each month which is a date change so be sure to mark on your calendars.



February 23 will be our Fun Fleece Blanket Tying Event following worship. We will have blankets ready to be tied on tables in the Fellowship area so come and join the fun! If you would like to donate fleece, it takes 2 coordinating pieces of fleece (1 1/2 Yards each) to make a blanket. Please drop fleece off by the week of February 17 so we can prepare for the blanket tying.

We continue to collect 2-piece pajamas for Project Ignite Light throughout the month of February.

All sizes are needed. You may buy sleep pants and a top especially for the older youth since pajamas may be harder to find in the larger sizes. Please note: **Project Ignite Light doesn't take one piece pajamas/sleepers. We thank you for the pajamas already received.** The Noisy Offering we received Sunday, January 19 was \$198.52. Thank you for your support of this important charity.



**For those of you who haven't heard of Project Ignite Light, it is a** faith based organization that provides children with important items needed when examined at Local Advocacy Centers around the United States for physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and human trafficking.

Project Ignite Light is located at the former Barnes County North school near Rogers, ND. If you would like to learn more about Project Ignite Light go to their website: <https://ignitelight.org>.

Faith Mission Committee

## Bridges Backpack Donations

Faith Lutheran Foundation is no longer the fiscal agent for the Bridges Backpack program.

Donations for the Backpack Program should be made payable to Bridges Backpack Program and given to *Scott Johnson* or mailed to:

Bridges Backpack Program  
674 10th Ave SW  
Valley City, ND 58072

Bridges Backpack Program provides a bag of kid-friendly, shelf stable food for a child to bring home and eat over the weekend. It includes 4 snacks and 3 meals for the student. \$5 covers the cost of one bag of food. \$190 covers the cost of food for one student for the school year. Donations of any size make a difference.



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

1. Rylee Gray, LaVonne Lee;
2. Shay Pilgrim, Samantha Schauer, Don Schlotman, John Stearns;
3. Chris Botz, Leighton Smith;
4. Dave

Smith; 7. Brian Larson; 8. Sarah Friestad; 9. Bonnie Kramer, Carol Smith; 10. Auston Jewett, Cardar Jewett, Darci Jewett, Jeff Johnson, Johnson, Josh Tulp; 11. Matt Brandvold, Cole Brockopp, Jasmine Roberts; 15. Ryan Nelson; 16. Tiffany Greenley, Abigail Roberts, Emma Tichy; 17. Patty Lloyd, Janet Thornton; 18. Jody Johnson, Margie Lima, Gary Wieck; 19. James Thornton, Abby Wilmes, Alyssa Wilmes; 20. Nick Holm, Ashley Roe; 21. Dixie Tompt; 23. Troy Miller, Ron Peterson, Gina Thornton; 24. Karen Burchill, Keltie McCullough, Chuck Shape; 26. Wanda Auka, Brenda Bong, Paula Thomsen; 27. Allison Anderson, Jill Berg-Foss, Brian Yanish; 28. Daisy Newton, August Pederson, Gage Thompson.

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

7. Mike & Loree Morehouse; 9. Tim & Nancy Ost;
18. Ray & Wanda Haugen, Ryan & Erin Metcalf.

January Transitions

DEATHS: Our sympathies to Jan and Elizabeth Oppegaard and family and friends of **O'Neil** Oppegaard. **O'Neil died Monday, January 13, 2025**, His celebration of life was held here on Saturday, January 18 with Pastor Jamie officiating.

**January Service & Care**

\*\*needs chairs

- Scott & Deb Beilke
- Rick & Audrey Bredeson
- Tom & Ashley Kellogg
- Mark & Patty Lloyd
- Jasen & Kathy McGough
- Brad & Megan McKay
- Steve & Karolee Ondracek
- Dave & Vicki Pedersen
- Melissa Pedersen
- Adam & Amanda Pilgrim
- Cheryl Storhoff
- Warren & Brenda Ventsch

\*Thank you for serving!

**January Attendance**

January 5	97	95+ online
January 12	115	64+ online
January 19	106	91+ online
January 26	101	87+ online

Offering

January \$19,005.60

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

**Altar Guild Information**



Altar Guild members discussed and voted to not lend out our Processional Cross. Previously we have lent out our Processional Cross a couple of times and it was **damaged and needed repair when it was returned. We know the damage wasn't intentional** but we want to keep it in pristine condition for use within our sanctuary. It is a special and beautiful designated memorial gift given to Faith Lutheran Church. We hope everyone understands our decision.

Blessings,  
Altar Guild





## January Memorials

In memory of Betty Bostrom given by Karen Nitschke (Foundation).

In memory of Russ Hilborn given by Karen Nitschke (General Fund).

In memory of Kim Homan given by Karen Nitschke (Foundation).

In memory of Allen Marler given by Mark & Krista Johnson (Undesignated).

In memory of Steven Nelson given by Mark & Krista Johnson (Undesignated).

In memory of Steve Nitschke given by Karen Nitschke (Backpack Program).

In memory of **O'Neil Oppegaard** given by Lois Brandvold (Mission); by Randy & Kay Bostrom (Building Fund); by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Gigi Goven (General Fund); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Bruce & Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Joan Noeske (Undesignated); by Dennis & Val Pommerer (General Fund); by Yvonne Steidl (General Fund).

In memory of **Winton "Windy" Rohwedder** given by Karen Nitschke (General Fund); by Joan Noeske (Undesignated).

In memory of Terry Schwab given by Jack & Val Moritz (Foundation).

In memory of Marilyn Smith given by Leighton & Dianne Smith (Backpack Program).

In memory of Landon Storly given by Tyler & Lacy Majerus (Youth).

In memory of Brian Ventsch given by Lois Brandvold (Mission); by John & Elise Miller (Foundation); by Jack & Val Moritz (Foundation); by Warren & Brenda Ventsch (General Fund).



## Meals During Lent

We will be having a simple meal each week served 5:30-6:15pm before our Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 5. We will be relying on volunteers to prepare and serve meals each Wednesday (and Maundy Thursday)

through Lent. If you or your church committee are interested in serving the congregation in this way there is a signup sheet on the table in the gathering area or you may contact Julie in the office to sign up. The meals should be prepared for 50-60 people. That number may be higher for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. The confirmation youth are to help with the dishes and clean up. We are thankful for those who are willing to volunteer to prepare and serve a meal. Thank you!

## FEBRUARY TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Feb. 12  
at 5:30pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Feb. 5  
at 1:00pm & Wed, Feb. 19  
at 1:30pm



Mission Team—Meets Tue, Feb. 11 at 5:30pm

March Service & Care— Meets Sun,  
Feb. 16 after worship & by emails  
texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets Wed, Feb. 12 at 3:30pm

**Men's Group**—Meets Sat, Feb. 15 at 8am

## Klub Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church—Saturday, February 15

Trinity Lutheran (499 4th Ave NW) will be serving their Klub Dinner 4pm-6:30pm on Saturday, February 15. *What is Klub? It's a traditional Scandinavian potato & ham dumpling made of potatoes, flour and butter.* All are welcome! This free-will offering meal is to raise funds for a new boiler heating system at Trinity Lutheran Church.

## 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**. We are SO excited to have a great year of Bible Stories, music, games, and crafts. Each week is a blast together with Jesus. If you haven't signed up yet, that's ok! Please talk to Wendi Wilmes, Sunday School Coordinator, if you still need to register for Sunday School.



### Some Important Dates for Sunday School:

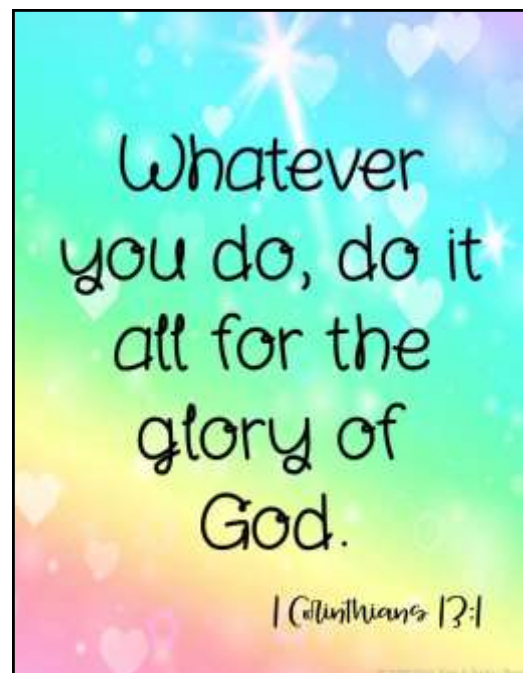
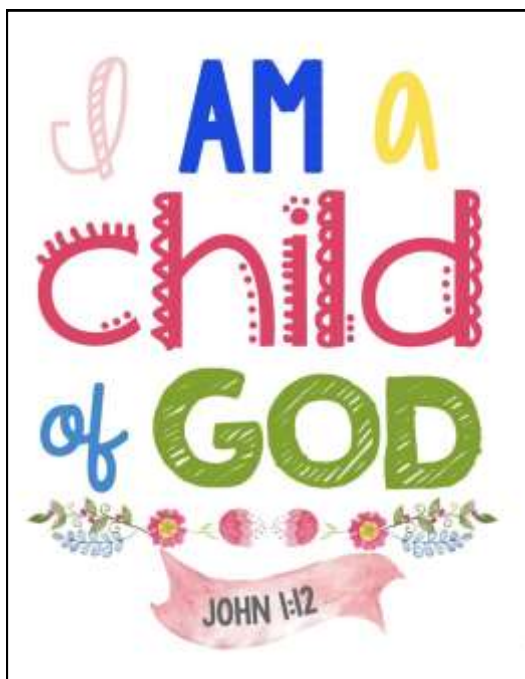
- \*Sunday, February 9—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Wendi is gone)
- \*Sunday, February 16—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (4 day weekend)
- \*Sunday, February 23—Annual Blanket Tying Event for Project Ignite Light!

## 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 February

- Wednesday, February 5—Service Project at Legacy Place
- Wednesday, February 12—NO KIDS CLUB
- Wednesday, February 19—at Faith
- Wednesday, February 26—at Faith



# Youth News

## Confirmation Information for 7th-9th Graders

Starting on February 5, we will be moving over to Trinity Lutheran Church (499 4th Ave NW) for Confirmation! We will be having snacks served starting at 6pm and then Confirmation will begin at 6:30pm!

Wednesday, February 5—Class  
Wednesday, February 12—Class  
Wednesday, February 19—Class  
Wednesday, February 26—Class



Note: Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 5th.

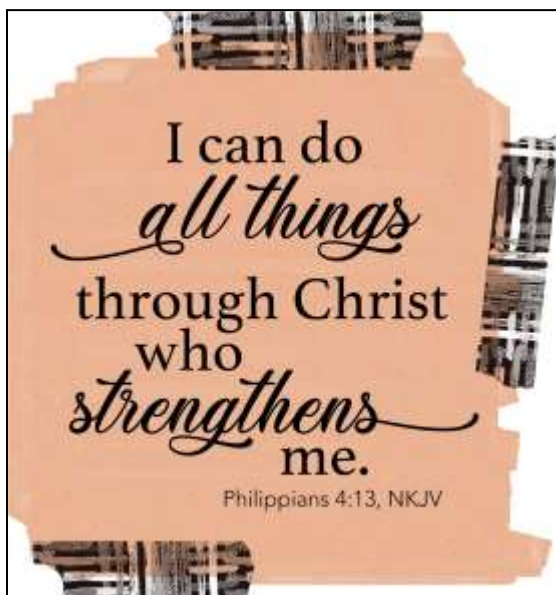
## Lent Information for Confirmation

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 5. This is the beginning of Lent. We will be having Lent at our own churches during the Lenten season, so Faith kids come to Faith during this time. There will be suppers served starting at 5:30-6:15pm on these evenings. The actual serve will begin at 6:30pm. Kids are required to attend the Lenten services just like they would come to "normal" confirmation. After the serve 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 10-15 minutes).

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

Here is the schedule:

March 5—9th Grade Girls  
March 12—9th Grade Boys  
March 19—8th Grade Girls  
March 26—8th Grade Boys  
April 2—7th Grade Girls  
April 9—7th Grade Boys



## JH/SH Youth

On Friday, February 28 we will be going to a Fargo Force hockey game! We will be leaving from Faith at 5pm and the game starts at 7:05pm.

Cost is \$15 per ticket plus bring money for food. Please watch for more information soon!



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

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

*Custodians: Mark & Sandy Brandvold*

*Accompanist/ Worship Coordinator: Cyndi Hill*

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

*Treasurer: Jessica Jenrich*

*Administrative Assistant: Julie Moritz*

*Interim Pastor: Pastor Jamie Desai*

**Church Staff**

*Church Office: (701) 845-4390*

*Fax Number: (701) 845-5887*

*Website: www.faihlutheranvc.org*



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