

Faith On the rise

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Pages 2 & 3

A Word from the Pastor

Page 3

Message from Council
President

2025 Offering Envelopes

Page 4

Christmas Eve Service

Page 5

Baptism Keepsake
Faith Visitation Team
2025 Daily Text
Prayer for New Year

Page 6

WELCA News

Page 7

Mission Team News

Page 8

January Birthdays
& Anniversaries

December Transitions

January Service & Care
Noisy Offering

Page 9

Celebration of Life Tree
Poinsettias

December Memorials

January Team Meetings

Page 10

Sunday School News
Kids Club

Feed My Starving Children

Page 11

Confirmation Info

Confirmation Service
Projects

Page 12

Staff Info

Inserts

Calendar/December Pics

Sunday School Christmas Program—Campfire Carols



Our kids did a fantastic job putting on their Christmas program, Campfire Carols! Thank you to all the teachers, student helpers, and parents for getting the children prepared for their wonderful Christmas program.

Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 26, 2025

The annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th at 10:45am in the sanctuary. There will need to be a quorum of 40 active confirmed members present to conduct business. More The Annual Reports will be available to pick up from the church by January 16, 2025. Reports will only be mailed to the out of area members by request.



For any committee member that is to write a report for the annual report please have it to Julie no later than January 6, 2025. Thank you!



Happy New Year and welcome to 2025. It is hard to believe 2024 has already come to an end. *They* say the older you get the faster time goes by, and I can concur with that. But before we pack up and put away all our decorations tucking Christmas away for another year, let us not forget that in church we celebrate Christmas for twelve days, just like the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. (I have a funny story about myself performing *The Twelve Days of Christmas* that I'd be happy to share with you).

The Christmas promise is that Christ came to dwell with us clothing himself in human skin. He went through all the emotions, struggles and pains, that we experience in life, and he left us with *Christ-like* qualities we can clothe ourselves with all year long. The Apostle Paul writes, “*As God’s chosen ones; clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.*” (Colossians 3:12-13).

During the COVID-19 Pandemic there is a story about one neighborhood in Fargo that decided to leave their Christmas lights up until Spring. They said they did it to remind people that the *spirit* of Christmas does not end with the Christmas season and if each person can do one small thing to bring joy to the world it could make a big impact on people’s lives.

Paul’s words from Colossians invites us to reflect on how we can stretch out the *spirit* of the Christmas season by sharing the promise of hope we have in Christ Jesus and by putting on Christ throughout the whole year.

I encourage you to keep the *spirit* of Christmas alive in your heart and see if we cannot continue to clothe ourselves with *Christ-like* qualities all year long.

God bless you as you begin 2025 and remember that Jesus is our *Emmanuel*—God with us.

Pastor Jamie



Message from Our Council President

Dear Faith Family,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year celebrating with family and friends.

The council finished the church budget at the last council meeting and have the final draft completed and ready for the January Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone that worked with Jessica to get this budget done, much appreciated. If anyone has any questions concerning the budget, please feel free to reach out to any of the council members or ask at the annual meeting.

Thank you Wendi and everyone that took time out of their busy schedules to work with the youth to lead the worship and put on one of the best Sunday School Christmas Programs to date. It was very nice seeing the church full of families to watch the kids and share in potluck. I also want to say thank **you for everyone that took time out to help with eh potluck. It's a lot of work but much appreciated.**

Just to let everyone know the council has three members whose terms on the council end this year. Justin Foell and I are going off and Amy Pederson is going to stay on for three more years. Thank you Amy for staying on the council.

Being on the church council these past three years has really opened my eyes to the workings of the church, finances, and just the daily issues that come up within the church. It has been challenging **but with the other members of the council it was an experience that I'm glad I agreed to do.**

Thank you Pastor Jamie and Julie for everything you do for Faith. You two run a tight ship at the church and do a lot behind the scenes that I did not know until I was on the council. You two are the best which made my job a lot easier as president.

The Annual Meeting for the church is scheduled for January 26, 2025. Please mark this date on your calendars. We would like everyone to be there if possible.

Stay Safe and God Bless.

Mike May, Council President

2025 Offering Envelopes

The 2025 offering envelopes for households are ready to be picked up. If you would like to have offering envelopes and do not see your name, please let the office know and Julie will get you envelopes.

Thank you to all you 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 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. A reminder: your contributions are recorded whether you use an envelope, place a check in the offering plate, drop it by the office, mail it or give online. Thank you for your generous, faithful giving!

All Is Calm, All Is Bright!



Bell Choir welcomed all to worship. Pictured: Deb Shape, Amy Johnson, Cheryl Foell, Val Moritz, Erin Metcalf, Julie Moritz.

Blessing as we light our candles to prepare to sing *“Silent Night, Holy Night!”*



We had a wonderful service and we are thankful to gather together to hear the scripture of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Photos from our Christmas Eve Service ~ Thank you Tami Kratz!

Baptism Keepsake Cross Presentation

Baptism Keepsake Crosses will be presented to families on Sunday, January 12, 2025 during the 9:30am worship service. January 12 is Baptism of the Lord Sunday. All who were baptized in Faith Lutheran during 2024 will receive their baptismal crosses compliments of Faith Lutheran. These keepsakes are a reminder of this special step in their Christian walk of faith.

The following individuals will be recognized:

Della Elizabeth Heide, Claire Josephine Heide,
Landon Jerrold Heide, Camden Dennis Schuster,
Iva Jolene Smith, Bria Rayeann Knutson,
August Michael Pederson, Viola Faye Johnson,
Weston John Duffy, Bailey John Henry Duffy.



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.

Happy New Year!



2025 Daily Texts Are Available!



The 2025 Daily Texts are here! The cost of each book will be \$12.50. If you are interested in purchasing the Daily Texts, they are on the gathering area table. If you would like to purchase the Daily Texts directly you may go to their website: www.groupupgrace.com. This is the book the Faith's Friendly Friday Note devotion is found.

You may go to the GroupUpGrace.com/podcasts to listen to their podcasts.

Heavenly Father,

Fill my heart with joy and contentment in every situation I face this year.

Help me to find satisfaction in Your presence and the blessings You've provided.

May my life radiate Your joy and bring encouragement to those around me.

Thank You, Lord, for being my source of true happiness.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture: "The joy of the Lord is your strength." — Nehemiah 8:10

WELCA News



WELCA Ladies met on Wednesday, December 11 at Faith Lutheran Church.

On Friday, December 20, the ladies of Faith Lutheran joined the ladies of Our Savior's and Trinity to host a coffee time with the members who are residents of SMP-Health St Raphael. Coffee, punch and Christmas goodies were shared and it was a great time to visit and enjoy each others company. This has been hosted by Trinity for several years and were happy that they included us this year. We look forward to doing this in the years ahead.

We will not meet in January but look forward to seeing everyone again in February. Election of officers will be held then.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 12 at 3:30pm in the Fireside Room. All women of Faith Lutheran are welcome to join us.

We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas holiday and wish you all a Very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Carol Smith, WELCA President



Pictured: (above) Rick & Audrey Bredeson, Rick's mother, Clara Bredeson.



Pictured: (above) Deb Shape, her mother Laurette Zachrison, Elise Miller;
(right) Carol Smith, Marlys Freadhoff



Mission Team News

Mission Team had a busy December with special Christmas mission projects.

Another thanks to Faith members who helped make our Christmas mission opportunities successful. Again, this year, we partnered with the elementary schools. Your gifts provided a clothing item and toy for each of the 16 children referred and two gifts certificates for any additional needs for the 10 families. The parents were very appreciative and excited for their families as they picked up their gifts. We also continued the mission opportunity this year with gift donations for residents of SMP Heath-St Raphael (Sheyenne Care Center). Your gifts filled more than two big tubs and were greatly appreciated by the nursing home and residents! Every resident at St Raphael received Christmas gifts through these and other donations.



Throughout the year and with Noisy Offering, Faith members support our Christmas Family Fund. This year with those generous offerings and other committee contributions, Faith helped 9 individuals or families. We sent a Christmas Card greeting from Faith Lutheran with gifts cards to them. These cards are to help with gas, groceries, and personal items during a time of added medical travel or other expenses.

January and February we will be collecting 2-piece pajamas (please note, they do not take one-piece sleepers/pajamas) for Project Ignite Light. A container will be in the gathering area for pajamas and all sizes are needed. You may buy sleep pants and tops for larger youth sizes.



We will have a fleece blanket tying event for Project Ignite Light probably in February with a date to be announced later. More information will follow.

Again, thank you for your continued participation in the mission opportunities our committee brings to our congregation.

Mission Team will not meet in January but will meet Tuesday, February 4 at 5:30pm. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Mission Team or would like to be a part of the committee is welcome!

Faith Mission Committee

JANUARY



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

3. Amy Pederson, Audrey Peterson, Katie Schuster, Brett Stearns;
 4. Rowan Horner, Laney Jenison;
 5. Jordyn Adamietz; 7. Tami Kratz;
 8. Amy Johnson, Brenda Rohde, Brenna Storly; 10. Mara Thompson;
 11. Jax Hejtmanek, Joan Noeske; 12. Shane Everson, Jackie Heroux;
 14. Jan Kamstra, Faye Ranisate Heley, Tyler Stearns;
 16. Bristol Carlson; 17. Jill Rischmiller;
 18. Hayden Botz, Kael Jenison, Mark Johnson, Dani Sorensen, Brooke Yanish;
 19. Mackenzie Pederson;
 21. Breana Buringrud, Parker Rodin; 24. Jill Pederson;
 25. Rydell Becker, Tricia Germann; 26. Bailey Duffy, Addie Gerhardt;
 27. Linda Gruebele; 29. Morgan Larson; 30. Frank Larson;
 31. Cali Anderson, Claire Heide, Clayton Newton, Sam Ranisate.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

9. Richard & Marsha Anderson; 18. Mike & Pamela Egan, Dallas & Linda Gruebele; 29. Randy & Teri McClaflin; 31. Nick & Kayla Holm.

December Transitions

DEATHS: Our sympathies to Lila Rohwedder and family and friends of Winton (Windy) Rohwedder. Windy died Thursday, November 28, 2024, His celebration of life was held here on Saturday, December 21 (his 100th birthday) with Pastor Jamie officiating.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome Pat Seiner, Gerald Busche and Diane Woods to our Faith Lutheran Family.

Noisy Offering—Project Ignite Light

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, January 16. The offering received will be going to Project Ignite Light. The kids will come around **during the Children's Message with their pails to collect** your loose change and dollar bills. In December \$203.30 for the Mission Christmas Fund was received for the noisy offering! Thank you for your generous giving!

January Service & Care

**Dean & Brenda Klein

Jill Berg-Foss
 Chris & Kalyn Botz
 Jason & Kirstin Gerhardt
 Jackie Heroux
 John & Jan Johnson
 Scott & Lisa Limesand
 Mike & Vickie Z. Metcalf
 Carol Oppedard
 Larry & Deloris Welken

*Thank you for serving!

December Attendance

December 2	99	89+ online
December 9	124	61+ online
December 16 (Christmas Program)	187	98+ online
December 22	84	71+ online
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	346	92+ online
December 29	69	

Offering

January	\$16,113.00
February	\$22,023.00
March	\$24,553.00
April	\$14,355.00
May	\$16,831.00
June	\$19,084.00
July	\$13,346.00
August	\$19,604.00
September	\$19,801.00
October	\$16,263.00
November	\$18,440.00
December	\$34,784.77

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

Celebration of Life Tree

Our youth would like to thank everyone who purchased a butterfly ornament for the Celebration of Life Tree in memory or in honor of their loved ones. This is a youth group fundraiser. We had over 100 butterfly on the tree! Thank you Paulette Everson for making all the ornaments.



If you purchased any ornaments, don't forget to take them home with you.

Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to everyone who purchased or brought a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. The poinsettias adorning the chancel area added to the Christmas atmosphere.



December Memorials

In memory of **Amy's Aunt Sharon** given by Dean & Amy Pederson (General Fund).

In memory of Russ Hilborn given by Margie Lima (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated); by Doreen Vangerud (Undesignated).

In memory of Harvey Hochhalter given by Junette Christianson (Organ Fund).

In memory of Kim Homan given by Karen Homan (Undesignated).

In memory of Anna Hazel Johnsen given by Dave & Jeanne Johnsen (Undesignated).

In memory of **Bill "Doc" McGee** given by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Duane & Diana Larson (Undesignated/Foundation).

In memory of Windy (Winton) Rohwedder given by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Virgil & Tami Kratz (Undesignated); by Duane & Diana Larson (Undesignated/Foundation); by Doug & Leona McPherson (Quilters); by John & Elise Miller (General Fund); by Jack & Val Moritz (General Fund); by Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated); by Dave & Carol Smith (Quilters); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated).

JANUARY TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Jan. 8 at 5:30pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Jan. 8 at 1:30pm & Wed, Jan. 22 at 1:30pm

Men's Group—Meets Sat, Jan. 18 at 8am



Mission Team—No January Meeting

February Service & Care— Meets Sun, Jan. 19 after worship & by emails texts/ phone

WELCA—No January Meeting

Sunday School News

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

Important Dates for Sunday School:

We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, January 5th with an Epiphany Party!



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 January

Wednesday, January 8—at Faith

Wednesday, January 22—at Faith

Wednesday, January 15—at Faith

Wednesday, January 29—Service Project!



The Kids Club enjoyed a Pizza/Christmas Party for their last day of Kids Club for 2024.

Junior High/Senior High Groups

We will be helping at the Feed My Starving Children event at Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND the weekend of January 11-12. Parents and students please be watching your emails for more information soon!



Youth News

Confirmation News

Confirmation is 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.

Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, January 8th!

Wednesday, January 8—Class

Wednesday, January 15—Class

Wednesday, January 22—Community Action Night

Wednesday, January 29—Class



Confirmation Youth Service Projects

Kids in Confirmation from Faith, Our Savior's and Trinity took part in a special community service project this holiday season! Because of the weather, the kids shopped for the gifts online from WalMart to buy presents for children in need in our community. Thank you to Dakota Prairie Associates—Thrivent for providing \$1,000 to use to make this happen!



The youth made ornaments and prepared treat bags to give to Valley City State University Students to wish them well as they prepared for their finals.



They also gave them ornaments and treat bags to the Open Door Center residents.

Church Staff

Interim 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: *Michael May*
Phone: (701)320-4299
Council: *Kalyn Botz, Matt Brandvold,
Rick Bredeson, Justin Foell,
Erin Metcalf, Amy Pederson,*

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