

# Faith On the rise

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

## Daylight Savings Time

is March 9.

Don't forget

to turn your

clocks ahead

1 hour!



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## Ash Wednesday, March 5



We begin our forty-day journey 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.

Here is the rotation schedule for Faith Lutheran for Lent.

March 5—Ash Wednesday—Pastor Jamie Desai at Faith Lutheran

March 12—Pastor Rich from Our Savior's Lutheran

March 19—Pastor Diane from Trinity Lutheran

April 2—Pastor Nicholas from Our Savior's Lutheran

April 9—Pastor Jamie at Faith Lutheran

## Meals During Lent



We thank the groups who have signed up to prepare the food and serve for the Wednesday Lenten meals. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer to help with this! We will serve 5:30-6:15pm each Wednesday during Lent and Maundy Thursday. The confirmation youth are to help with the dishes and clean up.



One of Faith's members asked me this week, "*Pastor Jamie, what are you giving up for Lent?*" Giving up for Lent? Ordinarily I have not given up anything for Lent because of my stubbornness with my Catholic relatives who always let me know what they are giving up for Lent and I reply to them, "*I don't Have To give up anything for Lent because I'm Lutheran!*"

However, after my conversation with a Faith member I've given is some thought. I could give up something under three conditions.

- 1) I'm not doing it because I *Have To*.
- 2) I'm not doing it for *spiritual* reasons.
- 3) I'm not doing it just for *myself*.

The tradition of giving something up for Lent was a way to symbolically sacrifice a pleasure, mirroring Jesus' forty days of fasting in the wilderness before his crucifixion, thus demonstrating self-discipline and focusing attention on faith in preparation for celebrating Easter. It was a way to reflect on Jesus' temptations and test our own ability to resist worldly desires and set our hearts toward God. That is the idea anyway. Will it work? For some. Will we be able to make our sacrifice for the whole forty days? For some. Will it help us to spiritually focus on Jesus and loving our neighbor? Yes it will!

Then I've decided I will either give up something or do some other action during the forty days of Lent, which will begin *March 5th at 6:30pm on Ash Wednesday*. On Ash Wednesday I will also give you some ideas on it to discern if you would like to join me in *giving up* or *adding to* something this Lent. I will reveal what I gave up for Lent at the conclusion of the forty days (hopefully I make).

What do you say? Will you join me in this Lenten experiment? Do you think you can make it a whole forty days? I'm asking you to give it a try with the hope that it might help us as individuals, families, and a congregation to prioritize our spiritual life and deepen our connection with God.

Come join us for supper at 5:30pm and worship at 6:30pm on Wednesdays this Lent and discover what it means to deepen our relationship with Jesus.

Blessed be the Name,

Pastor Jamie



## Let Us Pray

God incarnate, you have given us eyes to see your presence and love in the details of creation and in the creativity of those made in your image. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive the gifts you have for us, and teach us to share these gifts with the world. Amen.



## Message from Our Council President

I would like to start by thanking the church council for electing me as your council president, Matt Brandvold is your vice president, and Erin Metcalf is the council secretary. Other members of the council include Rick Bredeson, Kalyn Botz, Cheryl Foell, and Jacob Rohde. Jessica Jenrich is serving as the council treasurer.

I would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to Mike May, the past council president, and to Justin Foell for their service on the council over the last three years. I would also like to give a shout-out to Nancy Ost for her contributions to the council.

Many of you may already know me, but for those who do not, my name is Amy Pederson. I am originally from Berthold, North Dakota. I worked for Valley City Parks & Recreation for just shy of thirty years. I recently started working for the USDA at the Farm Service Agency (FSA). My husband, Dean, and I were married at Faith Lutheran thirty years ago. Dean has been a member of Faith Lutheran since it was formed from Nebo and First Lutheran. All of our children have been baptized, had their first communion, and been confirmed at Faith Lutheran Church. We have three adult children: Mackenzie, who lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and recently got engaged; Peyton, who will graduate in May from North Dakota State University with a finance degree and plans to move back and work in Valley City; and our youngest, Carver, who is pursuing a degree in Farm and Ranch Management at Bismarck State College.

The council has some challenges and goals for the upcoming year. We want to grow our faith family, pray for a balanced budget, and continue to keep our church home feeling warm, friendly, new, and inviting. We encourage all of you to get involved, whether that means attending church, serving on committees, helping with our youth, assisting with church services or funerals, or contributing financially. If you have any special talents, such as musical, vocal, or instrumental abilities, or if you enjoy reading, please let Julie or Pastor know so you can share them with our faith family.

March marks the beginning of Lenten services. Please read about the upcoming events scheduled during Lent. On Wednesdays, there will be a meal from 5:30 to 6:15pm, followed by church service at 6:30pm. We would love for all of you to join us!

**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” — Romans 15:13.**

Your Council  
President,

*Amy Pederson*

Pictured:  
Peyton, Carver,  
Dean, Amy,  
Mackenzie





## Your 2025 Elected Church Council

Your 2025 Council members were installed on Sunday, February 23. Please pray for them as they work diligently to keep our church moving forward in God's work. If you have any questions, suggestions or ministry ideas please speak to any council member.



Pictured: Jacob Rohde, Amy Pederson, Erin Metcalf, Matt Brandvold, Kalyn Botz, Rick Bredeson, Pastor Jamie

## The Garden of Daily Living

- 3 - Rows of Peas—1. Peace of Mind; 2. Peace of Heart; 3. Peace of Soul.
- 3 - Rows of Lettuce—1. Lettuce be Kind; 2. Lettuce be Patient; 3. Lettuce really Love Each Other; 4. Lettuce be Faithful.
- 4 - Rows of Squash—1. Squash Gossip; 2. Squash Indifference; 3. Squash Grumbling; 4. Squash Selfishness.

Not Complete without:

- 3 - Rows of Turnips—1. Turnip for Meetings; 2. Turnip for Service; 3. Turnip to Help Each Other.

Conclude with Thyme: 1. Thyme for Each Other; 2. Thyme for Family; 3. Thyme for Friends.

Water freely with Patience and cultivate with Love.

**There is much fruit in your garden—as you reap what you sow!**

Thank you Lois Brandvold for this wonderful reminder ❤️

## Noisy Offering—Bridges Backpack Program

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, March 23 for the Bridge Backpack Program. The kids **will come around with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills during the Children's Message. Your caring and generosity makes a difference in people's lives.**

The Bridges Backpack Program helps with food-insecurity for our children. It provides food for a child to bring home and eat over the weekend. The cost is approximately \$5 for one bag of food and approximately \$190 covers the cost of food for one student for the school year. Donations of any size make a difference! If you would like to donate to the Bridges Backpack Program your donations should be made payable to Bridges Backpack Program and mailed to: Bridges Backpack Program, 674 10th Ave SW, Valley City, ND 58072.



In February we received \$174.48 for the Barnes County Food Pantry as part of Souper Bowl of Caring! We also collected 41 cans of soups to donate to the Food Pantry. Thank you for your generous giving! It is greatly appreciated!

## 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/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) 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.

## WELCA News



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

We reported on the coffee hour at SMP Health St. Raphael's, hosted with Our Savior's and Trinity Lutheran Churches, in December in the Coffee Shop. This was enjoyable and was fun to be included and would like to do again with our Faith Lutheran residents. It was fun visiting with other community church members and with their residents along with Faith residents.

Items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits will be collected during March and assembled in April. The following is the list of items to bring if you would like to donate. We will have a collection tote in the gathering area to drop off your donations.

- ♦ ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27", dark color
- ♦ TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ♦ ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*
- ♦ ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ♦ ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



\*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

**Bold Women's Day on Sunday, March 2**, and we will celebrate all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their prayers, in the service to those in need, still others 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. Living out our baptismal call, BOLDLY. Join us at worship as we celebrate all **Faith's bold women on March 2.**

We had election of officers as follows:

President—Elise Miller  
Vice President—Cheryl Foell  
Secretary—Val Moritz  
Treasurer—Leona McPherson

Thank you to all who gave their Thankoffering envelopes, donating to the churchwide Women of the ELCA to support the WELCA missions.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 12 at 3:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church. All women of the church are welcome to join us each month.

Blessings,

Elise Miller, WELCA President



## Mission Team News

Mission Team met on Tuesday, February 11, 2025; note our committee plans our regular meeting to continue to meet on the second Tuesday each month at 5:30pm. We welcome anyone interested in joining this fun group organizing these Faith missions.

In old business, we reviewed the Christmas projects and noted changes we could make for next year.

New business:

Project Ignite Light blanket tying plans were made. We had a successful blanket tying day on Sunday, February 23, with many participating from our Sunday School kids to our grandmas!! It was a fun time and we tied 25 blankets, and our youth group will complete the tying of a few more so we expect to deliver more than 30 blankets when all are completed.



We also packed the pajamas that we collected for Project Ignite Light throughout January and February. A total of FIFTY-NINE sets of pajamas will be delivered along with our blankets.

Thanks to all who helped with this fun project, knowing these children will have new pajamas and blankets to keep them feeling warm and safe!! A special thanks to Nancy Sorensen, Krista Johnson, Mary Rausch, Diane Sommerfeld, Kay Bostrom and Olivia Johnson for their help with the early prep work of the blankets so they were ready to tie!

We selected a Wednesday to serve supper prior to the Lenten Service and planned the meal.

Diane Sommerfeld wrote on the Birthday cards for February and March birthdays to be mailed to our older members unable to attend services.

Faith Mission Committee





### MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

1. Paulette Everson, DeeDee Jewett; 2. Wayne Eggert, Gavin Gerhardt, Taylor Johnson, Katie Smith; 3. London

Herbert, Tori Houdek; 5. Jennifer Bergner, Samantha Nathan, Skylar Thornton; 7. Beau Hilborn; 8. Lila Rohwedder; 11. Jodi Miller, Ed Overby; 12. Candice Lukes; 13. Pamela Egan, Cara Sorensen, Scott Stanford; 14. Jeff Bergner; 15. Kylie Anderson, Katie Bolstad, Audrey Bredeson, Taylor McKay, Ryan Metcalf; 17. Patty Gronlie; 19. Marlene Bartz, Clara Bredeson, Marlys Freadhoff, Zoey Greenley, Kaidence Harstad, Mikayla Newton; 20. Talon Klevgaard; 21. Jordyn Everson, Nathan Johnson, Julie May; 23. Paul Hilborn, Olive Mallette; 26. Finley Foell, Jacob Miller, Caius Williams; 27. Jack Rohde; 28. Asher Foell; 29. Dallas Cooley; 30. Emily Thompson; 31. Grady Samuelson.

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

1. Mark & Krista Johnson; 7. Greg & Karen Burchill; 15. Jack & Val Moritz; 18. Damon & Brenda Bong; 21. Doug & Leona McPherson; 23. Robert & Carol Grenz.

## February Transitions

**BAPTSIMS:** We celebrated the Holy Baptism of Daisy Diane Newton on Sunday, February 9, 2025. Her parents are Danny & Mikayla Newton & big brother is Clayton.

We celebrated the Holy Baptism of Rhyatt James Earnest on Sunday, February 9, 2025. His parents are Payton Earnest & Kaycee Smith.

We celebrated the Holy Baptisms of Jayce Edward, Addalynn Grace, Brooklyn Michelle, Ashton Mikka Auka on Sunday, February 16, 2025.

Their parents are Seth Auka and Michelle Patraw. God bless these children and their families.



## March Service & Care

\*\*Mikkal & Wanda Auka

\*\* Scott & Amy Johnson

Gene & Nancy Bjerke

Scott & Nikki Brockopp

Greg & Sarah Friestad

Dave & Lara Mairs

Jenna Mairs

Tim & Alyssa Miller

Troy & Jodi Miller

Mike Nix

Dean & Amy Pederson

Shawn & Karla Ranisate

\*Thank you for serving!

## February Attendance

February 2 116 68+ online

February 9 140 48+ online

February 16 86 16+ online

February 23 111 7+ online

### Offering

January \$19,005.60

February \$20,335.00

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

## Lectors Needed

The office is working on the new lector list and would like to add more readers to this list. When it is your scheduled Sunday you would read the scriptures for that Sunday. The lector notes are sent out by Wednesday prior to your reading so you have time to read them over. They are also placed up front on the ambo each Sunday. Generally our lectors read about twice a year. Please contact Julie in the office by March 7 if you are interested. Thank you!







**French Toast Brunch Fundraiser—Sunday, March 23**  
**Sunday, March 23, Faith Lutheran Men's Group will be serving**  
 our annual French Toast and Sausage Brunch. We will be serving  
 9:30am-12:30pm. This is a Freewill Offering. To-Go Containers are available.  
 The proceeds, after expenses, will be given to the General Fund at Faith  
 Lutheran Church to be used for expenses. We invite the members of our congregation and other  
 churches and the community to come enjoy the meal and help support Faith Lutheran.

Our monthly Breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, March 22 at 8am. We invite any of the men  
 in our congregation to come to our Saturday morning Breakfast meeting and/or come to help with our  
**French Toast Brunch. We invite you to come join in and share the 'Food, Fun & Fellowship' of our  
 Men's Group.**

We ask GOD's Blessings for all of our members, 'our family of Faith'.

### Faith Visitation Team

The Faith Visitation Team welcomes Jody Johnson as a new member of our team. We're thankful  
 for Jody's participation and would welcome others who are willing to spend an hour or two each week  
 making visits. If you have considered taking part in this ministry  
 or have any questions, please call Val Moritz at 840-1652. Help us  
 maintain relationships with our members who are not able to attend  
 activities and services.



### February Memorials

In memory of Dan Johnson given by Jody Johnson (Undesignated).

In memory of Bob Olson given by Marlys Kunze (Sunday School).

In memory of **O'Neil Oppegaard** given by Joan Buchman (Undesignated); by  
 Marlys Kunze (Sunday School); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated); by Tory & Lori Hart  
 (Undesignated).

In memory of Terry Schwab (**Jody Johnson's brother**) given by Jody Johnson (Undesignated).

In memory of Brian Ventsch given by Junette Christianson (Foundation), by Marlys Kunze (Sunday  
 School).

### MARCH TEAM MEETINGS

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

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Mar. 5  
 at 1:30pm

**Men's Group**—Meets Sat, Mar. 22 at 8am



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

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

WELCA—Meets Wed, Mar. 12 at 3:30pm

## Sunday School News

After church, you can grab a treat with your family and then we start Sunday School at **10:45am** and finish at **11:45am**. 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, March 16—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL due to the long weekend!**

**\*Sunday, March—The kids will sing during the church services!**

The kids helped tie blankets 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 March

**Wednesday, March 5—at Faith**

**Wednesday, March 12—at Faith**

**Wednesday, March 19—at Faith**

**Wednesday, March 26—Service Project Day**



Kids Club enjoyed playing BINGO at Legacy Place on February 5 & had fun with the photo booth.

# Youth News

## Confirmation Information for 7th-9th Graders

Starting March 5 (Ash Wednesday) kids will be asked to attend Lent Services just like they would for Confirmation.

The schedule looks like this for the month of March (during Lent):

**Wednesday, March 5**—Lent Service at Faith (Ash Wednesday)

**Wednesday, March 12**—Lent Service at Faith

**Wednesday, March 19**—Lent Service at Faith

**Wednesday, March 26**—Lent Service at Faith



## Lent Information for Confirmation

We will be having Lent at our own churches during the Lent season, so Faith kids come to Faith during this time. There will be suppers served starting at 5:30-6:15pm these evenings. The actual service will start at 6:30pm. Kids are required to attend the Lent Services just like they would come to "Normal" Confirmation. After the service is over, the kids will meet with a small group leader to discuss some questions that will be presented at this time. This won't take long (maybe 10 minutes).

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

**Here is the schedule:**

March 5—7th Graders      March 12—8th Graders      March 19—9th Graders

March 26—7th Graders      April 2—8th Graders      April 9—9th Graders



## JH/SH Youth

Mark your Calendars! We are tentatively planning a fun event on the evening of **Friday, March 14th!** The super secret details will be revealed soon at Confirmation and the Remind App!



## First Communion Class

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

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

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

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





**Faith Lutheran Church**  
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 Valley City, ND 58072-0606  
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## 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:** *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*

**Pastor's E-Mail:** *pastor@faithlutheranvc.org*

**Cyndi's E-Mail:** *cyndi.r.hill@gmail.com*

**Jessica's E-Mail:** *treasurer@faithlutheranvc.org*

**Wendi's E-Mail:** *wendi.wilmes@gmail.com*

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



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