

# Faith On the rise

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072  
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Sunday Worship Service—9:30am

Sunday School—10:45am

September 7 we transition to our fall worship schedule. We welcome you to Sunday morning worship w/Holy Communion at 9:30am. If you are unable to attend worship in person, please join us as we livestream the services from our Facebook page:

Faith Lutheran Church Valley City. Click on the link to watch on YouTube.

Following worship at 10:30am enjoy a cup of coffee/juice/water and a treat while you visit with each other.

September 7th will be a busy Sunday morning! Besides Worship and Sunday School we will be having our Mission Fair. Tables will be set up in the Gathering Area so our groups/committees can share information about their groups and the impact they have within our church, community and beyond. This is great way for you to see where your passion leads you to be a part of spreading your faith through your good works. You will be surprised how many mission opportunities Faith Lutheran has to offer!

We will also be setting up appointments for family photos for our NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY! We will be doing that in the Fireside Room. Photos will be taken Wednesday, November 5, 2-8:30pm; Thursday, November 6, 2-8:30pm; Friday, November 7, 2-8:30pm; Saturday, November 8, 10am-4:30pm here at Faith. Check your calendars to see a time that will work for you. We will want to be sure we have your correct contact information for the directory (address, home & cell phone numbers, emails). We will need to have the names of all family members you would like included also.

## **Rally Sunday—September 7!**

### **This is the first day of Sunday School!**

Rally Sunday Celebration will be sports themed so kids wear your favorite sports shirt/jersey! It will run 10:45-11:45am. All families are welcome to enjoy an ice cream treat afterwards at 11:45am that day! We are excited to welcome all the kids back for another great year!

Please save the date on your calendars!



## *Where has the wonder gone*

Another Fall has begun. Young people are starting a new school year. The church launches into a new cycle. I think back to when I was a kid, and I remember a sense of wonder. The awe in the colors of a rainbow, the smell of fresh rainfall, the power in a thunderstorm. All these things provided a sense of wonder that I feel we have lost in the super high-tech world we live in today. Where is the wonder? We no longer run our fingers through water, shout at the stars or make faces at the moon. Water is H<sub>2</sub>O, the stars are classified, and the internet connects us instantly to the world. We have lost our sense of wonder.

Is there anything that can amaze us or that still remains a mystery? We have even put God into a box in our quest for certainty. We have become immune to the wonder of creation. We have become so preoccupied with our own agendas, plans and pet projects that we barely notice a cloud passing overhead or dew drops clinging to leaves. We avoid the heat and insulate ourselves from the cold. We are quick to pick up dead branches on the lawn but slow to notice the bird's nest right outside our window. We miss the experience of awe, reverence and wonder of God. Yet there is grace in abundance all around us if we would take the time to wonder. The presence of God is revealed not only in spirit matter - the flight of a hawk, a deer heaping through a field, or just in the wind blowing through our hair. God intended for us to discover his loving presence in the world we inhabit.

How can we regain the wonder we had as children? Maybe it is as simple as *stopping to smell the roses*. For *the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit* opens us to the divine everywhere around us. We all long to experience God in some real and tangible way. But we cannot do that without a good dose of wonder. It is not objective proof of God's existence that we long for but the actual experience of God's presence. What might you do this Fall to open your heart and mind to a sense of wonder to experience the presence of God?

How about this Fall we take pause from the rush of the transition of the season to reactivate our sense of wonder. Here is an ancient prayer that can help get you started; *Dear Lord, grant me the grace of wonder. Surprise me, amaze me, awe me in every crevice of your universe. Delight me in how you play in ten thousand places, each day enrapture me with your marvelous things without number. I will not ask to see the reason for it all; I ask only to share the wonder of it all. Amen.*

Welcome September with grace and wonder,

Pastor Jamie



## Message from Our Council President

Dear Faith Family,

Hats off and THANK YOU to the Evangelism Team and their volunteers for a wonderful turnout at the Back to School Luau! Great food and great conversations made for a fantastic event.

**Rally Sunday is coming up fast, but what is Rally Sunday? It's the kickoff of our Sunday School, Kids Club, and Confirmation programs for the upcoming year.** during this time, we are also planning a



Mission Fair. The fair will showcase all the groups here at **Faith Lutheran Church.** Groups such as the Men's Group, WELCA, Mission Team, and many more. There will be information on what each group is about and how you can get involved.

We are also creating a new church directory. For this we will need updated information and photos taken. This will happen in November, so please plan to have your photo taken. See the rest of the newsletter for specific dates and times.



The Church Council is planning to attend Summer Vikes on Central on September 11, 2025. the plan is to hand out faith bracelets and share more about Faith Lutheran Church. **If you're interested in welcoming college students, please check your calendar, we would appreciate any help!**

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, whether spending time at the lake, vacationing, or simply enjoying time with family and friends.

I leave you with this quote:

**"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."** - Nahum 1:7

Your Council President,  
Amy Pederson

## New Member Invitation and Information Gathering

In October (date to be decided) we will be having a new member information gathering for those



who would like to learn more about us and join our Faith Lutheran family. If you or someone you know would like to join Faith Lutheran or learn more about us please let Julie in the office know so she can send the invite and information to you. We have had new members joining Faith throughout the year and we would like them to join us for the information gathering so we can get to know each other better. We will officially welcome the new members on Sunday, October 19 during our worship service.

## Bridges Backpack Summer Grocery Store

With your help, the Summer Grocery Store again served to help lessen the hunger need for community individuals and families. Thank you for the food you contributed throughout the summer that we brought to the store each month. We also brought some of the Celebration Cake Boxes that you helped fill earlier this spring for summer celebrations.

Counting the number of adults and children in the home and weighing the food received is the process through Great Plains Food Bank that we follow.



In the ten weeks the store was open, more than 1,000 family members came and more than 10,000 pounds of food left the store. We have seen an increase each year and it was an increase of about 2,000 pounds of food since last year so it does appear to help with hunger needs in our community.

Bridges Backpack Program will continue throughout the year and bring weekly weekend foods for **elementary students' backpacks that we purchase from Great Plains Food Bank. The schools will continue to put those in the students' backpacks at the end of the week in great partnership with this program.**

As Scott Johnson, BBP treasurer indicated in church, the expenses for the grocery store also increased this summer but we do have a good balance to begin the school year and we do continue to explore all grant opportunities and appreciate all financial donations. All financial donations can continue to be mailed to Bridges Backpack Program, 674 10th Ave SW, Valley City, ND 58072.



We will also still collect food contributions at the church for the Hi-Liner Pantry. Suggested items for this are individual cups of soup, mac/cheese, or other meals; granola bars, crackers and cheese, chips, jerky, small packages of cookies, nuts, trail mix.

Thank you so very much for continuing to support his mission and lending a helping hand in our community.

Bridges Backpack Program Committee

## Sheyenne Valley Memory Café



The Sheyenne Valley Memory Café will meet Thursday, September 25th at Faith Lutheran Church. Doors open at 1pm with a program beginning at 1:30pm. **The program for September will be "Preparing for an Emergency." Each month will have a different topic and speaker.**

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



## Men's Group News

Our Men's Group had our 3rd and final summer activity. On Tuesday evening, August 19th, we had 7 men attend a RedHawks Baseball Game in Fargo. The weather was Beautiful, the fellowship was Great and the baseball game was very entertaining, plus the RedHawks won the game 8-0. This was the 5th year in a row that we have attended a game and the RedHawks have won 4 of the 5, so they **usually perform well when we are there. This year we didn't have quite as much drama as we had last year, but we did manage to find a couple of road closings that made us alter our route, but we made it there just fine, with a few laughs along the way. Hopefully we will be able to attend a game again next August.**

Pictured: (back row, l-r) Mark Bartle, Joe Lunde, Larry H. Sayler, Larry E. Sayler, Scott Johnson; (front row, l-r) Duane Larson, Gary Sommerfeld.



So, this means that summer is just about over (Boo Hoo) and that it is time for us to get back into our regular routine of monthly Saturday morning Breakfast **meetings. September's Breakfast** meeting will be held on Saturday morning, September 20th at 8am. Once again, we would like to

invite any/all of the men of Faith to come join us. We are a very easy going bunch of guys and our Breakfast meetings are very informal and low key. If you have any questions or want any more **information about Men's Group, you can contact any of the guys in our group or talk to Julie in the church office and she will put you in contact with any of us.**

We hope all of you have had a very exciting and fun summer and now we look forward to doing the **Fall activities. We close by asking GOD's Blessings for all of our Family of Faith.**

Duane Larson

## Thank You to Volunteers



We would like to say thank you to everyone who volunteers to do things here at church. For those who have been doing the work with the landscaping we appreciate your time and effort you have put in. The landscaping is beautiful! For those who help with the **newsletters and bulletins we wouldn't know what to do without you each month! Thank you to all who so willingly give of their time to help at special events! Without your help we wouldn't be able to do the things we do. Thank you to all who serve on committees and groups! We appreciate the giving of your time and talents.**



## WELCA News

Greetings from Faith WELCA,

WELCA met Wednesday, August 13 at Faith Lutheran, and we will again be meeting monthly the second Wednesday at 3:30pm and all women are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall.

The Eastern ND Synodical Women Fall Convention is Saturday, September 13, 2025 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND. Registration—8:15am; Opening—9am. Speakers will be Prairie Rose Seminole and Merrily Burmeister, Churchwide Executive Board Member WELCA.

See the information at the right and register by August 30 so they have a count for the meals. If you have not registered when you read the, please contact them right away so they know how many meals to prepare.

If you are planning to attend, let a Faith WELCA Board member or church office know and we can connect to go together. We will make final plans at the September meeting as that will be just prior to the Convention. Those going will also bring the in-kind donation of yarn that already has been received and we will send the scholarship check along with those going.

The Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 11 and lefse making will probably be the Sunday afternoon prior so save the dates and start making plans.


Let us remember the students and their families in our prayers as they had back to school this fall. May God guide them and keep them safe during another exciting school year.

Elise Miller, WELCA President.



### Eastern ND Synodical Women's Organization

Annual Fall Convention  
Saturday September 13, 2025



"Surrounded By The Spirit"  
since we live by the Spirit,  
let us walk by the Spirit  
Galatians 5:22

**St Olaf Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND**

Registration 8:15am  
Opening 9am

**Keynote Speaker Prairie Rose Seminole**

Meal Reservation Due by Aug. 30th ~ \$20  
Contact Jeanne Wobbema 701-230-8745  
mrs wob@gmail.com  
or register online <https://eandwelca.net>

**In-kind Offering**  
Hope Center, Devils Lake—Personal Care Products  
Prison Ministry—Yarn

### AUGUST TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Sept 10  
at 5:00pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Sept 3  
at 1:00pm & Wed, Sept 17 at 1:00pm

**Men's Group**—Meets Sat, Sept 20 at 8:00am



Mission Team—Meets Tue, Sept 9 at 5:30pm

Oct Service & Care— Meets Sun, Sept 21  
after worship & by emails texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets Wed, Sept 10 at 3:30pm

## Mission Team News

The Mission Committee met Tuesday, August 12th. We packed up the school supplies that everyone so generously donated. Thank you so much for your donations!!! There are many kids at the schools who do not come to school with the required supplies listed on the school website so we are happy to help them out! The Noisy Offering funds that were collected for the school supplies will also go to each of the schools. They can then use that money to buy even more supplies needed.

The Summer Grocery Store was another success and so appreciated by families in Valley City that are in need of food. The number of families needing food keeps growing. This year on average we helped 45 more families and in a 10 day period 8,700 pounds of food was given to VC families. We are so proud of our church for all of your food item donations to help with this great program, thank you!!!

**September will be our “Sock Drive.” We accept new socks for both adults and children. These socks are very important as they are donated to APOC (Abused Persons Outreach Center). There are families that need to leave their homes in a hurry and may not be able to even remember to bring socks so we are able to help them.**

We welcomed a new member to our Mission Team. Thank you Barb Baasch for joining us!! We are always happy to have new members on our team and the joy you feel when helping with our projects is very gratifying. If you would like to join us, please let one of our Mission Team members know. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9th at 5:30pm.

Faith Mission Team



Pictured: (l-r) Deb Shape, Kay Bostrom, Sandy Brandvold, Mabeth Kudrna, Barb Baasch, Diane Sommerfeld, Brenda Bong, Elise Miller.  
Thank you Cheryl Foell for taking the photo!



## Noisy Offering—Access for All

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, September 21 for Access for All. This program provides free services for students in need of professional clinical counseling. The kids will come around with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills during the Children's Word. Your caring and generosity makes a difference in people's lives.

In August we received \$202.34 for the Bridge Backpack Program! Thank you for your generosity.





## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1. Trent Moritz, Chloe Sayler;
2. Lisa Limesand, Haley

Sayler, Brian Welken; 3. Erika Dalglish; 4. Corbin Germann, Nicole Larson; 5. Scott Beilke, Scott Johnson, Linda Moser, Michael Schmidt II; 6. Patty Myers, Ridge Rischmiller, Taylor Storhoff; 7. Emery Wiebe; 9. Cooper Bopp, Rhonda Friestad, Al Sorensen; 10. Ayden Ness, Dave Pedersen; 12. Lois Brandvold, Brenda Swanberg; 13. Frankie Ashline, Reagan Holm, Tyler Van Bruggen, Vicki Zinck Metcalf; 14. Gerald Busche, Jess Ranisate; 16. Kay Bostrom; 17. Barb Baasch, Justin Foell, Jacee Klein, Jenna Mairs, Aaron Schuster; 19. Loree Morehouse; 20. Deb Beilke, Jordy Stearns, Austyn Thornton; 21. Alex Jenrich, Tyson Jenrich; 23. Jessica Johnson, Steve Nelson; 26. Owen Struble; 27. Miranda Erickson, Tifani Komrosky; 28. Patty Altringer, Shane Germann, Shiloh Jewett; 29. Amelia Wiebe; 30. Carson McGough.

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

4. Rick & Audrey Bredeson; 5. Danny & Mikayla Newton, Brett & Em Stearn; 6. Greg & Kellie Schulz; 9. Matt & Rachel Kilmon; 12. Josh & Jessica Kaiser; 16. Leighton & Dianne Smith; 21. Kermit & Jill Pederson; 22. Mark & Jill Foss, Tom & Ashley Kellogg; 23. Mike & Vicki Z. Metcalf; 26. Ralph & JoAnn Hooper; 27. Joe & Renee Martin, Brian & Brooke Yanish.

## AUGUST TRANSITIONS

**BAPTISMS:** We celebrated God's promise in Holy Baptism for Walker Glenn-William Johnson, born October 26, 2023 and baptized on Sunday, August 3, 2025. His parents are Samantha Schlotman and Zander Johnson.

**We celebrated God's promise in Holy Baptism for Rylan Allen Biggers**, born on June 26, 2025 and baptized on Sunday, August 10, 2025. His parents are Daniel & Jenna Biggers.

God bless Walker and Rylan and their families.

**DEATHS:** Our sympathies to the family & friends of Matt Hilborn. Matt died June 15, 2025 in St Paul, MN. His Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, August 9, 2025 here at Faith with Pastor Jamie officiating.

## September Service & Care

\*\*Don & Kathy Schlotman

\*\*Jack & Val Moritz

Bud & Verna Anderson

Kaila Cooley

Gloriann Gaarder

Paul & Nancy Hilborn

Cindy Knudson

Margie Lima

Lorraine Nitschke

Connie Ronholm

Mark & Jody Svenningsen

Brian & Brooke Yanish

\*Thank you for serving!

## August Attendance

August 3 79 27+ online

August 10 116 26+ online

August 17 108 61+ online

August 24 106 53+ online

(August 31 not included)

## 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 \$20,305.00

(August 31 not included)

Needed monthly to meet Mission Plan:

\$23,577.58



## Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 24th we blessed the children's backpacks during worship. Each child also received a tag to put on their backpack that says **"Lord Bless This Backpack and the Child who wears it. May they feel Your Love and Protection in all that they do."** Love Faith Lutheran Church. We prayed for the children as they prepare for the new school year.



## 15th Annual Back to School Luau!



**A very BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's "Back to School Luau" a success!** Your time, talents and treasures helped support Faith Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Youth and the Barnes County Food Pantry. We couldn't hold they yearly event without your help and are truly grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve the food. Everything was delicious! Thank you Wendi Wilmes and Youth for running the Cake Walk and those who

brought items for the Cake Walk. It's a hit for all ages! Thank you the Evangelism Team—Brenda Klein, Tonya Samuelson, Erin Metcalf, Diane Busche, Sarah Friestad, Stephanie Ness, Jacob Rohde and their families for leading this event each year. We also want to thank Pastor Jamie for being our taste tester and being a welcoming face at the door.

Please extend a thank you to neighbors, friends and family who attended as their presence matters to our mission and community. We look forward to seeing you at next year's event! Thanks again!



## August Memorials

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

In memory of Matt Hilborn given by Jack & Val Moritz (General Fund); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (General Fund); by Doreen Vangerud (Undesignated).

In memory of Sue Olson given by Paulette Everson (General Fund); by Jody Johnson (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (General Fund); by Warren & Brenda Ventsch (Undesignated).

## Sunday School News



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

We welcome any child who is 4 years old or close to being 4 up to kids who are going to be 6th graders to come on Sunday School!

**Sunday School will run from 10:45-11:45am.**



If you haven't registered your child, here is the QR code:

There is also a link on our website: [www.faithlutheranvc.org](http://www.faithlutheranvc.org) under Ministries then click on Education to find the form. It is also on our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City.

Rally Sunday celebration will be sports themed, and it will run from 10:45-11:45am on Sunday, September 7th. All families are welcome to come and enjoy an ice cream treat after 11:45am that day! We are excited to welcome all the kids back for another great year!

Thank you to Angela Van Bruggen, Kylie Van Bruggen, Ashley Horner, Jessica Johnson, Abby Wilmes, and Alyssa Wilmes for volunteering their time to teach our kids about Jesus!

## Kids Club!

We welcome all kids going into 4th-6th grade to come to our Wednesday Afterschool program called **Kids Club!** You should have received an email to sign up your child! Please sign your child up ASAP so Wendi knows how many kids to pick up from Washington. Kids Club meets Wednesdays, from 3:15-5pm here at Faith or we go do a service project around the community. The kids are picked up by Wendi with the church van from Washington School and parents then pick them up from Faith.

**Kids Club will be starting Wednesday, September 3rd!**

**Wednesday, September 3rd we will be at Faith**

**Wednesday, September 10th we will be at Faith**

**Wednesday, September 17th we will be at Faith**

**Wednesday, September 24th will be a Service Project Day**



## Castaway Club Retreat



TAKE FALL YOUTH RETREAT \*\*\* SEPTEMBER 26-28

Wendi will be taking a group of kids (6th grade up to 9th grade) to Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes the weekend of **September 26-28!** This truly is a wonderful experience for our youth at a beautiful resort. The kids that have come with on this trip in the past have truly LOVED it!

# Youth News

## Important Info for 10th Graders being Confirmed!

Banquet for Confirmands will be on Sunday, October 19th at Faith!  
Affirmation of Faith Sunday (Confirmation) will be on Sunday, October 26th at Faith!



Parents please watch for more information about the times that the students will meet with Pastor Jamie soon!

Please note that although we share our confirmation sessions with Trinity Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran, each of the 10th graders will be confirmed at their own congregation.

## Confirmation Information

This year, we will be joining together again with Our Savior's and Trinity Lutheran Churches for our Confirmation sessions on Wednesday evenings!

*We will be having a Parent and Student Meeting on Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30pm at Faith to talk about the year.*

*Confirmation will resume for the students on Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30pm.*

We are looking for Small Group Leaders for Confirmation again this year! We are hoping to have 2 adults per group, so the adults can take turns being there on Wednesdays. Please contact Wendi if you are interested in helping out!



## Confirmation App

We are switching our way to communicate with all the students and parents for Confirmation this year. We will begin using the app Spond, since all the high school coaches are using this form of communication as well.

Here is the link to sign up on Spond for Confirmation 2025-2026 school year:

**<https://spond.com/invite/WRGUJ>**

## Junior High Youth Group

On Saturday, September 20th, we will go to Jamestown to help at the Kiwanis Against Hunger event! We will leave from Faith at 8:15am. We will help from 9am-12pm and then we will grab lunch after we are finished. Please bring money for lunch! Watch your email to sign up!



**Faith Lutheran Church**  
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## Church Staff

**Pastor:** *Pastor Jamie Desai*

**Administrative Assistant:** *Julie Moritz*

**Treasurer:** *Jessica Jenrich*

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

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

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

**Council President:** *Amy Pederson*

**Phone:** (701) 840-1328

**Council:** *Kalyn Botz, Matt Brandvold,*

*Rick Bredeson, Cheryl Foell,*

*Erin Metcalf, Jacob Rohde*

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

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

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

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

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

***E-Mail Address:*** *office@faithlutheranvc.org*



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

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

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

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