

Faith On the rise

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072
Volume XXVIII Issue IV Monthly April 2026

Office will be closed
Friday, April 3 and
Monday, April 6 in
observance of Easter.

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Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!

The Sunday School children processed in with palm branches and shared a song with us. We love our kids! What a great way to start Holy Week!



Holy Week Schedule

April 2—Maundy Thursday—We have 9 young people receiving their 1st Communion at the 6:30pm service. Meal served prior (5:30-6:15pm).

April 3—Good Friday—Tenabrae service will be here at Faith at 6:30pm.

Community Good Friday Service will be at Our Savior's at 12pm. This is by the Barnes County Ministerial.

April 5—Easter Sunday—Worship Services will be at 9:30am and 11am.

“Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen indeed!”



He is Risen! He is risen indeed!

This year we celebrate Easter on April 5th which just happens to be my wife Teresa's birthday. I cannot ever remember her birthday falling on Easter. That is because every year Easter falls on a different date. Which brings me to the question Why Easter, the Celebration of Jesus' resurrection falls on a different date every year and how did that come about? Well, let me tell you.

In the New Testament it is written that the Resurrection was celebrated on the first day of the week following the Passover according to the Jewish calendar. As time passed, various Christian communities began celebrating Easter on different dates to set themselves apart from the Jewish calendar. Therefore in 325 AD at the Council of Nicea it was decided that Easter would be celebrated on a Sunday independent from the Jewish calendar. From here the setting of the date gets a little complicated. It now is a combination of the solar and lunar calendars. The actual process of this date setting called *Computus* which follows these three rules.

- 1) *Vernal Equinox* set on March 21st the astronomic date.
- 2) *Pascal Full Moon* falls on the first full moon after March 21st.
- 3) *Easter* falls then on the first Sunday after the Pascal moon.

This process assures us that Easter will always fall between March 22nd and April 25th. This year Easter just happed to fall on my wife's birthday. I guess we will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Sunday morning and singing Happy Birthday later in the afternoon. I just must make sure I do not get the two mixed up.

Easter is a time to celebrate newness, rebirth and hope. *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.* Romans 6:3-11

May your April be filled with new life, hope and new beginnings. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, April 5th at 9:30am or 11:00pm.

May the peace of God be with you now and forever,

Pastor Jamie





Message from Council President

Thank you, Val Moritz, for leading us in worship when the pastor was away March 22. Your willingness to step in and serve is greatly appreciated.

As March comes to a close, we approach the conclusion of our Lenten services. Please review the information in the newsletter regarding upcoming Lenten events and consider joining us as we continue this season together.

Parents and guardians are reminded to ensure that children using the nursery and classroom areas help put toys away after use. Your assistance in keeping these spaces orderly is appreciated.

Our spring clean-up will take place on Sunday, April 19, following the worship service. If you are able to help, please plan to stay. Mark and Sandy Brandvold will be available to provide guidance.

Several members have asked about the status of church directories and the new logo. We anticipate the directories arriving between May and early June and will share updates as they become available. The new logo is still in development, and we look forward to unveiling it soon.

The Church Council has voted to move its regular meeting from the second to the third Wednesday of each month to better accommodate schedules. This change begins in April. This next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15, at 5:15pm.

I leave you with this quote:

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” - 1 Peter 5:7

Your Council President,

Amy Pederson

Holy Humor Sunday!

April 12, the Second Sunday of Easter we will celebrate the joy we have in the risen Lord! Wear a silly, fun hat or brightly colored shirt or both! We will tell some jokes and sing Christmas tunes with Easter words. This has become an annual tradition here at Faith.

Every Sunday there are smiles and laughter at Faith, but this Sunday is a special day to be intentional about having fun together and celebrating life



Men's Group News

It's been said before so I'm happy to be able to say it again. Our French Toast Brunch fundraiser was a success. Every time there is a project that turns out successful, it is synonymous that many Thanks need to be extended.

We would like to express our thanks to the members of Faith for their continued support. To go along with that, we say a big Thanks to the members of other congregations and the community for so graciously supporting us. Thanks to Julie in the office for helping with the publicity and Tami, our photographer, for taking pictures.

I don't know what words to say about the guys in our Men's Group. I know that Thanks just isn't enough to describe the friendships and the willingness to help to make sure everything gets done and our Brunch goes smoothly. Thanks to Mark Brandvold for being overall chairman and purchasing the needed supplies, to Joe Lunde for delivering posters, to Greg Burchill for getting the sausages and syrup, to Al Sorensen for doing the financial work and to Chuck Shape for filling in to run the Saturday meeting. Thanks to the above mentioned members plus Randy Bostrom, Jake Rohde, Randy McClafin, Gary Sommerfeld, Kevin Baasch, Matt Brandvold, Larry H. Sayler, Larry E. Sayler, Virgil Kratz and Doug Kratz for all the good help to do the Brunch.



One more special Thank You is extended to Adam Brandvold and Thrivent Financial for providing a gift card to use for some of the expenses incurred. With the use of this gift card, we were able to give more money to the general fund at Faith Lutheran.

Faith Lutheran Men's Group will have our April Breakfast meeting on Saturday, April 18th at 8am. We invite any of the men at Faith to come join us for Breakfast and fellowship.

We close by asking GOD's Blessings for all our members, Our Family of Faith.

Duane Larson

Handbell Case Fundraiser

We're Almost There!!

There's still time to be included on the handbell case fundraiser board; only three spots remain. Thank you for the tremendous response!

Thank you to those who have purchased bell sponsorships. These are the names from March:

Don & Kathy Schlotman	Tony Moritz
Al & Nancy Sorensen	Mark & Cyndi Hill
Randy & Kay Bostrom	Ryan & Erin Metcalf
Matt & Allison Anderson	Carol Oppegard
Jerry & Mary Waagen	Lorraine Nitschke

Doug & Leona McPherson—In memory of Vernon & Myrna Kratz

Paulette Everson—In honor of Youth

Pat Seiner—In memory of Floyd & Ellen Bostrom

Mary Stearns—In memory of Bobby Cruff, in memory of Ronnie Cruff Jr, in memory of Ron Cruff Sr.

Joe & Martee Lunde—In memory of Evan James Lunde

Rev. Jamie & Teresa Desai—In memory of Dr. B.J. & Lou Desai

Margie Lima—In memory of Ron Lima and in memory of Scott Lima

Jody Johnson—In memory of Dan Johnson

Majerus & Storly Family—In memory of Landon Storly

Mark & Krista Johnson—In memory of Dale & Marcyne Pederson

Troy & Jodi Miller—In memory of Tom Miller and in memory of Dennis Wahl

Sheldon Wanner—In memory of Bernice Wanner





WELCA News

WELCA met Wednesday, March 11 and installed the following officers elected at the February meeting to continue another year in each office.

President - Elise Miller; Vice-President - Cheryl Foell; Secretary - Val Moritz; Treasurer - Leona McPherson. Thank you for continuing to serve in these offices for another year.

Thankofferings were submitted to the churchwide WELCA organization in the amount of \$650.50. Thank you for your offerings given.

Also thank you for your donations to the Personal Care Kits during March. At our April meeting, the Kids Club will help us put the kits together and send them to Lutheran World Relief.



SPRING ROUND-UP: Saturday, April 18, 2026, 9am-3pm, Bagg Bonanza Historical Farm. If you missed the March 28 early registration deadline, call today: Jeanne at 701-230-8745 or email mrswo@gmail.com. Registration is FREE but they need an early count for lunch and lunch is \$20 paid day of event. Watch for flyer **“WALKING IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS”** in bulletins and on bulletin boards for more information. Watch the signup sheet after Easter so we can possibly carpool together to the event.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 3:30pm—Faith women are welcome to join us.

In peace,

Elise Miller, WELCA president

Register Now for Red Willow Bible Camp!

Faith Lutheran has a limited number of \$200 scholarships for those attending the 2026 camps. Scan the QR Code to go directly to their website to register. Contact Julie in the office for the special code.



Mission Team News

The Mission Team prepared and served the meal on Wednesday, March 18. They served chili with toppings, cornbread muffins, French bread and ice cream for dessert. Thank you to all who helped with the meal!

The Mission Team will make the Celebration Cake Boxes this spring! Items will be collected during the month of April and put together the first part of May. This is a great way to make a birthday cake or a cake for any celebration especially since not everyone may have oil or eggs on hand, a can of lemon-lime soda (7-up) will be the substitute. It really works! The Barnes County Food Pantry is excited that we will be doing this project again and provide them to the pantry as they are well received and bring happiness to the families receiving them! Thanks to your generosity, Last year we were able to have some available for the Summer Grocery Store as well.



If you would like to be a part of this mission project, here are supplies needed:

- ◆ 1 Cake Mix—any flavor
- ◆ 1 12 ounce Can of Lemon-Lime Pop (not diet)
- ◆ 1 Can Ready to Use Frosting (with sprinkles on top of can, if you can find) - any flavor
- ◆ 1 Small pack of candles

Our Sunday School kids will help collect items for the Celebration Cake Boxes too ☺

The next Mission Team Meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 at 5:15pm. We would love to have you join us if you would like.

Noisy Offering—Crop Walk

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, April 19 for Crop Walk. Crop Walk will be Wednesday, May 6th and will be the “Jefferson Mile” as we have done in the last few years. This is an annual community event with the funds raised helping fight hunger and food needs locally and globally. The donations received for Crop Walk are used locally and globally. More information for Crop Walk will be available in upcoming bulletin announcements and the May newsletter. 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 March we received \$272.27 for the Valley City Public Schools Hot Lunch Program outstanding costs. Your donations are greatly appreciated!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

1. Nancy Bjerke, Conner Mallette, Iva Smith; 2. Hunter Briones, Tyler Kotta, Stacie Larson; 3. Jerry Moritz, Nancy Sorensen; 4. Kathy Burke, Marlys Kunze; 5. Teresa Desai, Bea Faust, Alec Storhoff; 6. Randy McClafin, Willow Shape; 7. Matt Anderson, Blake Jewett, Nancy Knutson, Reneé Martin; 8. Gordon Reiten, Alivia Thomas; 9. Adam Brandvold, Graysen Foell, Kylie Van Bruggen; 10. Bob Green, John Miller, Abbey Thornton; 11. Lara Mairs, Madison Trzpuć; 12. Beverly Rohrbeck, Riley Smith; 13. Josh Gilbertson, Leah Radke, Chase Tompt, Wendi Wilmes; 14. Jed Kohler; 15. Brooke Bopp, Janel Richman, Kathy Schlotman; 16. Diane Busche, Carter McKay; 17. Karla Ranisate; 19. Stephanie Bopp; 20. Odin Greenley; 21. Kelsey Schulz, Tifani Thomas, Diane Wood; 23. Andy Carlson, Jan Johnson, Danny Newton; 24. Samantha Nelson, Sydney Nelson; 26. Ben Bullinger, Jordan Lunn; 27. Dallas Gruebele, Dean Klein, Jacksyn Thornton, Maya Van Bruggen. Elaine Walls; 28. Brianne Foell, Liam Greenley; 30. Jodee Ukestad.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

1. Scott & Amy Johnson; 4. Randy Toppen & Sue Milender; 8. John & Jan Johnson, Virgil & Tami Kratz, David & Lara Mairs; 13. Jasen & Kathy McGough, Clint & Natalie Meyer; 14. Keith & Cindy Hovland; 15. Jerry & Carol Moritz; 18. Ryan & Jessica Johnson, Mark & Paula Thomsen; 22. Doug & Becky Kratz; 25. Shane & Tricia Germann; 28. Dennis Hoye & Linda Lane; 30. Wayne & Debbie Eggert

March Transitions

BAPTISMS: We celebrated God’s promise in Holy

Baptism for Corrigan Gerard-Thomas Langemo. Corrigan was baptized Sunday, March 15, 2026. His parents are Chris & JoEllen Langemo and the Late Laura Langemo. God bless Corrigan and his family.

April Service & Care

****John & Elise Miller**

- Val Bolstad
- Greg & Karen Burchill
- Miranda Erickson
- Bob Green
- Rick & Robin Idland
- Jody Johnson
- Nate & Mary Rausch
- Dave & Carol Smith
- Dan & Emily Thompson
- Brian & Georgia Welken

*Thank you for serving!

March Attendance

March 1	112	93+ online
March 4 (Lent)	64	83+ online
March 8	86	90+ online
March 11 (Lent)	77	28+ online
March 15	115	80+ online
March 18 (Lent)	77	21+ online
March 22	127	66+ online
March 25 (Lent)	52	4+ online
March 29 (Palm Sunday)	192	57+ online

Offering

January	\$20,643.00
February	\$28,046.00
March	\$21,190.00

Needed monthly to meet Mission Plan:
\$24,295.67

March Memorials

In memory of Kevin Sailer given by Karen Enge (Undesignated).

APRIL TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, April 15 at 5:15pm
 FLC Staff—Meets Wed, April 8 at 1:30pm
Men’s Group—Meets Sat, April 18 at 8:00am

Mission Team—Meets Tue, April 14 at 5:30pm
 May Service & Care— Meets Sun, April 19
 after worship & by emails texts/ phone
 WELCA—Meets Wed, April 8 at 3:30pm

First Communion Kids Paint Their Chalices

We will be welcoming 9 kids to the Lord's table to receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. God bless Bristol Carlson, Claire Heide, Rhett Holm, Olivia Johnson, Elsie Jorissen, Corrigan Langemo, Rowan Nathan, Blake Schmidt, Eleanor Stearns as they prepare for First Communion.

To make their day a bit more special each child paints their own chalice. The kids and their parents went to Pederson Pottery to paint them. Each one is uniquely their own. As you can see they take this very seriously. We thank Dennis & Gail Pederson for having the kids out to paint their chalices.



It's Time for a Church Spring Cleaning Day!



It's that time of year to help out Mark and Sandy with some extra spring cleaning. We will hold the Spring Cleaning Day, Sunday, April 19 right after our worship service so please wear your cleaning clothes to church that day. We will begin cleaning immediately after the service.

Sandy and Mark will have a table of cleaning supplies and a list of what needs to be done so you can choose what you would like to do. If you have a ladder, either step or regular, that you could bring that would be helpful so we can clean the windows properly and wipe down above the door frames and the trim work above the stone pillars in the gathering area. We will be moving pews and cleaning the sanctuary floor. This is a job that takes muscles to move the pews and put them back in place when the floor is done.

Your willingness to volunteer your time and energy is greatly appreciated! Remember the sayings "many hands makes light the work". ☺ Thank you all!

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.

Important Dates for Sunday School:

There is NO Sunday School

Sunday, April 5th due to Easter!

Sunday School's last day will be on

Sunday, May 3rd before summer break!



Kids Club!

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

Schedule for April

Wednesday, April 8—at Faith

Wednesday, April 15—at Faith

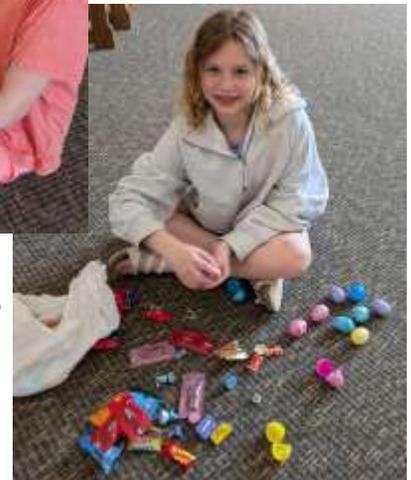
Wednesday, April 22—at Faith

Wednesday, April 29—at Wellness Center

(more info to come later)



Thank you Kids Club
for filling all the
eggs for the
Easter Egg Hunt!



Youth News

Confirmation Information

Confirmation will resume at TRINITY Lutheran Church on Wednesday, April 8th! Just a reminder that a light supper is served from 6-6:30pm and Confirmation starts at 6:30pm.

The schedule for Confirmation:

April 8—Class at Trinity

April 15—Class at Trinity

April 22—Class at Trinity

April 29—Class at Trinity

May 6—(tentatively planned for Crop Walk and last day before summer break)

Thank you to our confirmation youth for helping with our Lenten services.



Junior High Youth

On **Friday, April 10th** we will attend **Pack the SHAC** at NDSU's Sanford Health Athletic Complex! Get ready for a powerful night of live music with Walker Hayes and special messages from Nick Hall and Zach Van Batavia!

Doors open at 6pm, so we will leave Valley City around **4:45pm**. Please watch for more information soon!



Family BINGO Night



Thursday, April 23, 5-7pm at Hi-Liner Activity Center, VCHS
In recognition of April as Prevent Child Abuse Month, join us for Family Bingo Night- an evening of fun and prizes with helpful resources for families. Visit informational booths and get tips from a children's therapist on handling challenging behaviors. A free meal will be provided by the Valley City Kiwanis.

Vacation Bible School

This year, VBS will be on **Tuesday, May 26-Thursday, May 28** from 12:30-5pm each day! This will be open to kids who will be going into Kindergarten-6th grade in the fall of 2026.

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God.

Registration will be coming soon!



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Church Staff

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Administrative Assistant: *Julie Moritz*

Treasurer: *Mary Rausch*

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

Accompanist/ Worship Coordinator: *Cyndi Hill*

Custodians: *Mark & Sandy Brandvold*

Council President: *Amy Pederson*

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Cheryl Foell, Randy McClaffin,

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"Rejoice! The Lord is near." Philipians 4:5