

Faith On the rise

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

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Ash Wednesday—February 18

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 from 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 services will be Wednesdays at 6:30pm and should be 30-45 minutes. The theme for this Lenten season is ***“UNBOUND: Longing for Wholeness”***.



What if the opposite of being bound is being whole? Our world is filled with things that hold us captive. These things that bind us prevent us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us. Through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus, and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longs and be drawn into wholeness.

Each week we will have different pastors sharing scripture and a longing to bring us closer to Jesus. The pastors participating are Rev. Jamie Desai (Faith), Rev. Nicholas Rohde (Nome-Fingal-Kathryn Parishes), Rev. Diane Krumm (Trinity), Rev. Jared Carson (Our Savior's), Rev. Bryce Blank (Epworth United Methodist). Ash Wednesday and Holy Week each pastor will be at their home church.



Souper Bowl of Caring—February 8

Sunday, February 8 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 the BC Food pantry. We will have a container for you to put them.



Happy February! And with February comes Lent! We are proud to once again work with our fellow ELCA churches again this year, Our Savior's, Trinity, Kathryn-Nome-Fingal and we are proud to announce we are adding Epworth United Methodist Church with Pastor Bryce Blank to our Lenten round robin.

Our Lenten theme this year is *UNBOUND Longing for Wholeness*. What if the opposite of being bound is being whole? Our world is filled with things that keep us captive. These things that bind us prevent us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us. Through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longings and be drawn into wholeness.

Each week we hear a Biblical story of an encounter with Jesus from a different pastor on the topic of Longing for Wholeness.

Pastor Nicholas on Longing for Wholeness—Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Bryce on Longing for Mystery—John 3:1-17

Pastor Jared on Longing for Relationship—John 4:5-42

Pastor Diane on Longing for Community—John 9:1-41

Pastor Jamie on Longing for Authenticity—John 11:1-45



Our Lenten season will begin with our traditional Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 18 with a meal at 5:30pm and worship at 6:30pm. We will culminate with Holy Week and Easter Sunday on April 5 with two services at 9:30am and 11:00am.

Let us come together this month on Wednesdays for fellowship and around UNBOUND our Longing for Wholeness.

Peace be with you this February,

Pastor Jamie

Update on New Directory

We know everyone is excited and waiting for our new directories.

First, thank you everyone who took family pictures or submitted photos for directory! We have been working on making sure we have current

address and phone numbers for everyone so hopefully we are good on that

front. Committee/Group pictures are done. Now we have to figure out what we would like to have for the extra pictures and then we can move on to the Directory Builder to get everything in place.

Once we have that done and we mail the packet to Universal Church Directories it will take about 20 days for them to get the completed directory back to us to edit and make sure it looks the way we would like. We thank you for your patience and we will let you know as soon as we have more information.



Message from Council President

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to all members who attended our annual meeting on January 25. During this session, the congregation approved the 2026 budget and selected new committee members. I extend a warm welcome to Randy McClaflin, who joins the church council, and offer thanks to Erin Metcalf and Kalyn Botz for their continued service on the council. Jacob Rohde will serve as vice president, while Erin Metcalf has been appointed council secretary. The council also includes Rick Bredeson, Kalyn Botz, Cheryl Foell, and Randy McClaflin, with Mary Rausch assuming the role of council treasurer.



I wish to formally recognize Matt Brandvold for his dedicated service to the council over the past three years. Additionally, I thank Tami Kratz for her contributions to the nominating committee, Deb Shape for her work with the audit committee, and Jessica Jenrich for her tenure as treasurer.

The council recognizes several challenges and objectives for the upcoming year. Our goals include fostering growth within our faith community, striving for a balanced budget, and ensuring that our church remains welcoming and inviting. We remain committed to the mission of Faith Lutheran Church: to Welcome, Serve, Equip, and Send.

We encourage all members to actively participate in church life, whether through attending services, joining committees, supporting youth initiatives, assisting with services or funerals, or providing financial contributions. Those with skills in music, vocals, instrumentations, or reading are invited to reach out to Julie or Pastor Jamie to discuss opportunities to share these talents with the congregation.

As we approach the Lenten season, please refer to the announcements regarding scheduled events. Wednesday evening services will be preceded by a meal from 5:30-6:15pm, followed by worship at 6:30pm. We invite everyone to attend, and those interested in helping serve meals or participating in preparations are encouraged to contact Julie at the church office.

In closing, I would like to share the following passage::

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

- Isaiah 43:18-19

Your Council President,

Amy Pederson

2026 Elected Committees

2026 Council: Kalyn Botz, Rick Bredeson, Cheryl Foell, Randy McClaflin, Erin Metcalf, Amy Pederson, Jacob Rohde

2026 Endowment Foundation: Scott Johnson, Dean Klein, Val Moritz, Al Sorensen, Angela Van Bruggen, Kara Wiebe

2026 Audit Committee: Nicole Larson, Brian Yanish

2026 Nominating Committee: Deb Beilke, Sandy Brandvold, Deb Horner, Julie May

2026 Cemetery Committee: 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.

New Year, New Logo—Everyone Join In

We're working toward a new logo for our church, and we'd love your ideas! If you're not sure where to start, look around—both inside our church and around our community. Church is more than a building. What colors, shapes, or symbols do you notice? It could be a cross or a window, but also the river valley, bridges, trees, parks, and the people who make this place home.

Your submission does not need to be fancy or perfect. Simple sketches and doodles are more than **welcome. you don't have to be an artist**—just share what makes you think of our church. People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate.

Submissions are due by February 8. After that, the congregation will have two weeks to vote to help select the top logo design. The selected concept will be taken to a professional designer, who will turn it into a finished, workable logo for our church.

Flyers with details and submission instructions are available—stop by the table in the vestibule to pick one up and learn how to submit.

We're excited to see the creativity,
imagination, and heart behind your ideas!

Jacob Rohde
Council Member



Handbell Cases Fundraiser

Can you help us provide a safe home for our handbells? We were blessed that the 36 handbells survived the fire, but the handbell cases did not. After a thorough search, the most economical cases were located at a cost of \$2,200.



Gifts of \$60 to sponsor a bell will be acknowledged with a named bell on a poster at the church. This is a great way to honor someone by dedicating a bell in their honor or memory. Any and all gifts are appreciated.

We look forward to regularly ringing the bells at Faith Lutheran!



Giving Hearts Day—February 12

Giving Hearts Day is Thursday, February 12. As part of a continual improvement program at Fargo, North Dakota-based Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF), Giving Hearts Day arose in 2008 as a simple but unique fundraising concept: **Around Valentine's Day, ask people to show affection to not only people they love but charities, too.** In the decade-plus since, the event has gone on to become one of the longest-running and most successful giving days in the country, providing a platform for North Dakota and northwest Minnesota charities to raise \$226 Million. Last year \$31 million was raised with 40,127 donors and 619 charity participants.

Please consider making a gift to the Eastern North Dakota Synod on Giving Hearts Day. Early giving is open now! Give by check: EaND Synod, PO Box 2019, Fargo, ND 58109 *Put "Giving Hearts Day" in the memo line.* Give online: <https://app.givingheartsday.org>.

"Anyone considering giving should know that their support directly impacts real people and real ministries in our Synod. Even a small gift helps sustain programs that are vital to the church."

- Clara Kjelland, EaND Synod Council Youth Representative

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 2025 Choice Dollars to go. The 2025 Choice dollars will expire on March 31, 2026. Thrivent Financial members go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to make your choices 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 receive \$1,697 during the 2025 year. Thank you!

Epworth United Methodist Men's French Toast Brunch



Sunday, February 22, enjoy French Toast, Sausage, Fruits, Assorted Syrups and Beverage at Epworth United Methodist Church (680 8th Ave SW). They will be serving 9am-12:30pm. Cost is Adults: \$8; Grades 1-6: \$4; Preschool: Free.

Proceeds will be used to support Epworth's Youth Ministries.



Second Annual Klub Dinner at Trinity Lutheran

Trinity Lutheran (499 4th Ave NW) will be serving their 2nd Annual Klub Dinner 4-6:30pm on Saturday, February 14. *What is Klub??*

It's a traditional Scandinavian potato & ham dumpling made with potatoes, flour and bullet. All are welcome! This is a free-will offering meal with the proceeds going towards Trinity Lutheran Church Ministries.



WELCA News

WELCA did not have a meeting in January but met to take down the Christmas decorations and also to change the large wreaths balls with non-glass balls as some had been broken.

We will meet on February 11 at 3:30pm and have election of officers.
We will also serve Lenten supper on February 18, Ash Wednesday.

February is also Thankoffering Month. The following is from the WELCA website:

“Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

My mother’s Thankoffering box had its own place of honor on the windowsill in the kitchen. It welcomed the morning light, observed the crops growing, heartened to the birds’ call, watched for the first flakes in winter. And through every season, and every circumstance, my mother would offer her thanks, putting a dime, or a quarter, or a dollar in the box. Often it was for a special concern—in thanks when her college daughter returned home after traveling, safely after a fierce storm, in thanks for a bountiful garden harvest, for occasions when extended family could be together. Sometimes an offering, a daily thanksgiving for simple things, or God’s mercies new every morning. Her offering box was a symbol of my mother’s thankful heart, her grateful spirit, her trust in God’s care.

Some of you might remember your mom’s box or have had your own special Thankoffering box.

Now we have Thankoffering envelopes that you will find on the front of this newsletter to use as you think of all things that fill your thankful heart and grateful spirit with God’s Blessings.

Please consider donating to the ongoing churchwide WELCA organization to support their missions. You can also donate to WELCA Thankoffering on our website: www.faithlutheranvc.org. Special offering can be Sundays throughout February.

Coming in March: Bold Women’s Sunday. This day celebrates all Lutheran Women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.



REMINDER of the WELCA 2026 Triennial Gathering July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa. The Registration deadline is June 21. There is a pamphlet on the bulletin board above the water fountain at the church and you may also go to the website www.eandwelca.net for all the details. There is group from Trinity Lutheran planning to go so you could also contact Jeanne Wobbema at 701-230-8745 for more information on that. If you would like to talk to someone who has attended a Triennial Gathering in the past you could talk to Mary Johnson, Cheryl Foell or Juile Moritz. They attended the Gathering when it was in Minneapolis.

All Faith women are welcome to join us, so consider coming to the next meeting Wednesday, February 11 at 3:30pm!

Christ, Be Our Light,

Elise Miller, WELCA president



Meals During Leant

Lenten Meals begin on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. We are asking groups or families/individuals to sign up to make and serve a simple meal of one of the Wednesdays and Maundy Thursday. A reminder that the groups/**people making and serving the meals aren't required to pay for it out of pocket**, if they prefer not to. Receipts can be turned into the church office for reimbursement. We will serve 5:30-6:15pm each Wednesday during Lent and Maundy Thursday. You should plan for between 50-60 people. That number may be higher for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. A sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering area. The confirmation youth are scheduled to help with the dishes and clean up. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Mission Team News

Our Mission Team does not meet in January, but we will meet Tuesday, February 10 at 5:15pm. Please come and join us.

On Sunday, February 22 we will be tying the fleece blankets following worship. We will have the blankets read to be tied on the tabled 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 ½ yards each) to make a blanket. Please drop the fleece off by the week of February 16 so we can get it ready to tie. All blankets will go to the Project Ignite Light organization.

We are still collecting 2-piece pajamas of all sizes (no one-piece sleepers) for the Project Ignite Light organization as well, and we thank you for your continued support for 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. If you would like to learn more about Project Ignite Light go to their website: <https://ignitelight.org>.

Sandy Brandvold—Chairperson

Sheyenne Valley Memory Café

Sheyenne Valley Memory Café meets at Faith Lutheran on Thursday, February 26, 1:30-3pm. This meeting is a great way to connect with others that are going through memory loss or caring for someone with memory loss. The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month September-May here at Faith Lutheran.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1. Rylee Gray, Lavonne Lee;
2. Shay Pilgrim, Don Schlotman;
3. Chris Botz, Leighton Smith;
4. Della Kracht, Samantha

Schlotman, Dave Smith, John Stearns; 7. Brian Larson; 8. Sarah Friestad; 9. Chloe Hatten, Bonnie Kramer, Carol Smith; 10. Auston Jewett, Cardar Jewett, Darci Jewett, John Johnson, Josh Tulp; 11. Matt Brandvold, Cole Brockopp, Jasmine Roberts, Traeson Sorola; 16. Tiffany Greenley, Abigail Roberts, Emma Tichy; 17. Patty Lloyd, Janet Thornton; 18. Jody Johnson, Margie Lima, Gary Wieck; 19. Abby Wilmes, Alyssa Wilmes; 20. Nick Holm, Ashley Roe; 21. Dixie Tompt; 23. Troy Miller, Ron Peterson, Gina Thornton; 24. Karen Burchill, Chuck Shape; 25. Marlene Wixon; 26. Wanda Auka, Brenda Bong, Paula Thomsen; 27. Allison Anderson, Jill Berg-Foss, Scott Wilmes, Brian Yanish; 28. Daisy Newton, Auggie Pederson, Gage Thompson.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

7. Mike & Loree Morehouse; 18. Ray & Wanda Haugen, Ryan & Erin Metcalf.

February Service & Care

**needs a chair

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
Pat Seiner
Cheryl Storhoff
Warren & Brenda Ventsch

*Thank you for serving!

January Attendance

January 4	91	21+ online
January 11	165	34+ online
January 18	No service due to weather	
January 25	162	68+ online

Offering

January \$20,643.00

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



January Memorials

In memory of Clara Bredeson
given by Paulette Everson
(General Fund); by Marlys

Freadhoff (Undesignated); by Bruce & Julie Moritz
(Undesignated); by Jack & Val Moritz (Stained Glass
Windows).

In memory of Georgia Manstrom given by Paulette
Everson (General Fund), given by Margie Lima
(Quilters).

FEBRUARY TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Feb 11
at 5:15pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Feb 4
at 1:30pm

Men's Group—Meets Sat, Feb 21
at 8:00am



Mission Team—Meets Tue, Feb 10 at 5:30pm

March Service & Care—Meets Sun, Feb 15
after worship & by emails texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets Wed, Feb 11 at 3:30pm

Baptism Keepsake Cross Presentation

Sunday, January 11, Baptism of our Lord Sunday, we recognized and presented Baptismal Keepsakes to those who were baptized in 2025. Cheryl Foell presented the wooden crosses made of olive wood grown in Bethlehem, the Holy Land and include a Certificate of Authenticity. They also receive 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 Keepsakes are compliments of WELCA and Faith Lutheran.



Pictured (l-r) Shawn Ranisate (grandfather of Banks Johnson); Erika Dalgliesh (holding daughter, Raven Middlestead); Deb Horner (grandmother of Arlo Horner); Daniel & Jenna Biggers (holding son Rylan); Katie Schuster (mother of Colter); Kathy Schlotman (great-grandmother of Walker Johnson); Hayes Kracht & Chloe Hatten (holding daughter Della); Addalynn Auka, Ashton Auka, Brooklynn Auka, Jayce Auka; Ryan Trzpuć (holding grandson Atlas Brant); Stephanie Bopp (aunt of Alice Mallette); Pastor Jamie.

Unable to attend Daisy Newton, Ryatt Earnest, Colton Anderson, Alivia Thomas.

God bless these children of God and their families.

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 okay! 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 15—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (4 day weekend.)

Sunday, February 22—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 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 February

Wednesday, February 4—NO KIDS CLUB

Wednesday, February 11—NO KIDS CLUB Wendi is gone)

Wednesday, February 18—at Faith

Wednesday, February 25—at Faith



Kindergarten-6th Grade Early Dismissal Info

In the past I have held a special Early Dismissal Kids Club when VCPS has an Early Dismissal Day. Unfortunately, this year will not work for this. I am running the Little League program at Circle of Friends this year, and I can't get over to the church by noon to run this special day. There will not be Kids Club on Wednesday, February 4th for this reason. Sorry if this is a problem for anyone!

Wendi Wilmes

Junior High Youth

On **Sunday, February 22**, we will be going to Thrill Hills at Fort Ransom for tubing! We will be leaving from Faith at 1pm. We will tube from 2-4pm. Cost is \$20 per ticket plus bring money for snacks. Please watch for more information soon!



Youth News

Confirmation Information

Starting on February 4, 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 start at 6:30pm!



Wednesday, February 4—Class
Wednesday, February 11—Class
Wednesday, February 18—Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 25—Lent



***Lent starts on Wednesday, February 18th.** During the Lenten season, Faith students will attend the Lent services at Faith. The Lent services are in place of "normal Confirmation". After the services, the students will meet with Wendi for 5-10 minutes to reflect on the service.

*Lent meals will be served each Wednesday, from 5:30-6:15pm. Each Wednesday, students will take turns cleaning up from the meals. Please have your child to Faith by 5:40pm on their night to help. Here is the schedule:

February 18—7th Grade Girls
February 25—7th Grade Boys
March 4—8th Grade Girls
March 11—8th Grade Boys
March 18—9th Grade Boys
March 25—9th Grade Girls

Fun Night of Pizza and Games for Junior High Youth



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Church Staff

Pastor: *Pastor Jamie Desai*

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*

Phone: (701) 840-1328

Council: *Kalyn Botz, Rick Bredeson,*

Cheryl Foell, Randy McClafflin,

Erin Metcalf, Jacob Rohde

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

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

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

Cyndi's E-Mail: *cyndi.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*