

Faith On the rise

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

The office will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day.



We Welcome You to Join Us for Worship!

Sunday mornings at 9:30am we join together to worship our Savior and Lord! If you are unable to attend in person, please join us online. During

the summer we will livestream the services at least twice a month. If we don't have anyone available to run the camera we won't be able to livestream the service that morning. We thank you for your understanding. To watch worship online go to our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City and click on the link to watch the service. You may also watch worship services on YouTube/vcfaithlutheran.

During the summer months many of you are out of town on the weekends or have activities going on. We would like to remind you that it is easy to set up your giving online on our website: www.faithlutheranvc.org. The QR Code will take you to our website to the online giving. This is a way you are able to continue to support Faith Lutheran Church and our ministries even when you are unable to attend in person. We would like to thank everyone for your continued support of Faith Lutheran through your time, talents, and giving!



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Church Landscaping and Cleanup Night—July 8

Join us on Wednesday, July 8, at 5:30pm, as we spruce up the church grounds! We will be filling low spots around the foundation with dirt in preparation for new mulch, along with general cleanup around the property.

If you are able, please bring a shovel, rake, broom, or wheelbarrow. Most importantly, bring your self, maybe a pair of gloves, and a willingness to help!

Pizza will be provided for all volunteers. We hope to see you there as we work together to care for our church home.





"Whoever welcome you welcomes me". Matthew 10:40

Jesus places priority on his disciples to be welcoming to strangers they meet as he sends them out. Jesus sends his disciples into a *hostile* world and tells them not to bring any money or a suitcase but rather rely on the hospitality of others.

Do you think it's harder to receive than to give? When we welcome someone with food or hospitality, we are the ones who are in control, but when we receive welcome from others, it leaves us vulnerable. The person doing the welcoming is the one with the power.

What does this have to do with our faith? It means we put all our faith and trust in God not in ourselves. Can you imagine having that much faith? That seems kind of irresponsible to me. Live for today and not worry about what tomorrow brings, it that what faith is? What is Jesus trying to tell us with these words of welcome?

I think of ourselves as a welcoming congregation, but how good are we at receiving **welcome? It isn't until a trauma happens in our lives that we are forced to receive** welcome from others. A tornado takes our house, we break an arm and need assistance, the list goes on. Welcoming is reciprocal. Jesus is calling us to both welcome others and receive welcome from others.

A few weeks ago, I noticed a new couple in church, I smiled at them but did not make a contact. The next Sunday they were in church again and I failed to ask them if they **were new to Faith. Sometimes I fear that the people I don't recognize may be longtime members who I just don't know and so I fail to ask. I haven't seen them since.**

It's not easy to be welcoming or to receive welcome from others but welcome is characteristic of a disciple of Jesus.

Maybe you can help me out when it comes to welcoming others to church. You could stop me and say, *those are new faces* or you could just be welcoming yourself. Either way Jesus is giving us a command to welcome the stranger and to receive welcome when it comes to us.

Did you know FAITH has a new logo? The words on the new logo read **"All Are Welcome"**. It's time to take welcoming others seriously! Now you have something to consider this summer.

Blessed be the Name,

Pastor Jamie



Message from Council President

As summer continues, June has given us many wonderful reminders of the generosity, service, and faithful commitment that makes our church community so special.

We were blessed with a very successful rummage sale this month. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Nancy and Al Sorensen, as well as everyone who donated items, gave their time, and helped make the event such a success. We also thank Jake and Brenda Rohde for representing our church at the Synod Conference in June.

We are especially grateful to Scott Johnson for leading worship **and sharing his gifts each time he steps in to fill those “big shoes.”** Thank you as well to **Brian Yanish, Tyler, Van Bruggen,** and Scott for all the behind-the-scenes support they provide for our technology needs during worship and special events.

Your council continues to meet monthly as we plan ahead and care for the ongoing needs of the church. There is much to look forward to, including the Crazy Daze Bake Sale at the end of July, Summer Nights on Central in September, and our annual Back-to-School Luau in August.



Stewardship remains an important focus for the council as we work together to reduce our reliance on the line of credit. If you are looking for a meaningful way to give through a memorial gift or other contribution, we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the general fund. As always, please feel free to reach out to any council members with questions, ideas, or suggestions.

We have also been discussing the landscaping around the front of the church, and the Property Committee is planning a July Workday to help freshen up that area.

As we continue serving and growing together, I'll leave you with these words of encouragement::

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” - Proverbs 16:3

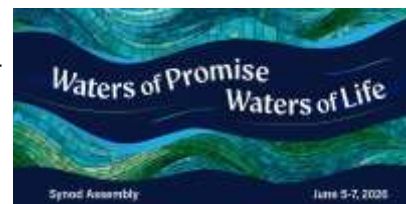
With gratitude,

Amy Pederson

Your Council President

Tessa Moon Leiseth Reelected Bishop of ELCA EaND Synod

The Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth was reelected June 7 to serve a second 6 year term as bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA. The election took place during the synod assembly, June 5-7 in Fargo, ND. Moon Leiseth has served as the synod's bishop since 2020.



Summer Grocery Store



The Bridge Backpack Program/Hi-Liner Pantry Summer Food Assistance will be offering the Summer Grocery Store again this year. The Summer Grocery Store will be open every Wednesday evening through August 5, 5-7pm at the Valley City High School. Enter VCHS Door #W6 (NW corner of high school) - watch for OPEN sign by the door.

This is free to everyone to help with the added food need during summer months when children are not in school and school lunch is not available. This grocery store is available for all ages.

The Program does get some food from the Great Plains Food Bank and purchases are made with financial donations and grant funds. Local churches and organizations also donate items. We will have a box at Faith Lutheran for donations that we will bring to the store.

Suggested items to donate:

Canned Items: Meat—**chicken, tuna, etc.**; **Soup; Vegetables; Fruit; Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, etc;** Beans—pinto, kidney, baked, etc.

Other Items: Cereal; Pasta; Spaghetti Sauce; Alfredo Sauce; Peanut Butter; Jelly; Mac & Cheese; Ramen Noodles; Hamburger Helper; Beverages; Potato Chips; Granola Bars; Pancake Mix; Syrup; Oatmeal; Desserts; Cake Mixes/Baking Materials; Rice

If any Fridge/Freezer Items, Fresh Fruits/Veggies, please call the church office to coordinate drop off.

Monetary donations to purchase frozen meats or fresh breads, etc.— Checks should be made out to Bridges Backpack Program and mailed to: Bridges Backpack Program, 674 10th Ave SW, Valley City, ND 58072.

Red Willow Ministries—39th Annual Quilts & More Auction

Support Red Willow Bible Camp by attending the Annual Auction! Enjoy Food, Bouncy Houses for Kids as well as the Live and Silent Auctions by beautiful Red Willow Lake. You can also participate by bidding for the Online Auction items.

Online Auction is open August 7-14 (**Link on Camp's Website: www.redwillowministries.com**)

Bidding opens 8am, August 7 and closes 8pm, August 14.

Live & Silent Auction—Saturday, August 22 at Red Willow Bible Camp, 1651 Jacob Drive, Binford, ND 58416

Quilt Viewing in Gym—10am

Luncheon in the Retreat Center Dining Room—11am

Silent Auction—10am-2:15pm

Live Auction in the Chapel—12:30pm

Raffle Quilt “Lakota Star” is donated by the family of the

Janice Thykseon. Raffle Tickets for the raffle quilt are \$10 each. These can be purchased on their website as well.

The Raffle drawing will be held during the Red Willow Quilt Auction.



Men' Group News

The June activity for our Faith Lutheran Church Men's Group was a potluck evening picnic. This event was on June 17th and was held at Salyer's cabin at Sibley. We enjoyed a lot of good food, both food prepared by our hosts (Salyer's) and food that was brought by members as a 'dish to pass'. There were 8 members in attendance so Fun, Laughter and good times were shared by all. We also shared some good fellowship, both while sitting outside visits, also while sitting around the table inside as we ate the meal. Thanks to those who took time to attend. Also a special Thanks to Larry H. and Larry E. Salyer for being such wonderful hosts and inviting us to their home. Hopefully we will be able to do this again next June.

Our July activity will be a potluck picnic at Mark Brandvold's cabin at the crossing on Lake Ashtabula. This picnic will be held on Wednesday evening, July 15th. Once again we will gather at the church to ride share. More details will be emailed to the men of Faith as the time for the event gets closer.

In August we will once again be attending a RedHawks baseball game in Fargo. The date and details for this event are yet to be finalized. If anyone is interested in attending this event, please let Duane know (840-8857) so plans can be made. More details will be emailed as the time approaches.

We once again would like to invite any of the men of Faith to come to a meeting or event and be **a part of our group. we are very 'low pressure' but we sure do like to have FUN and usually share a lot of good fellowship.** I might also add that whatever we do, Food is usually involved in one form or another. **That is our motto, 'Food, Fun and Fellowship'.**

May GOD Bless all of you—our Family of Faith
Duane Larson



Pictured (l-r): Ron Peterson, Larry H. Salyer, Larry E. Salyer, Pastor Jamie, Mark Brandvold, Kevin Baasch, Joe Lunde. (Duane Larson taking the photo)



WELCA News

Wondering if some of you women young and not so young have had some questions about how WELCA works.



Maybe you are not like me and have asked, but I for years was on the sidelines (much like my sports life) participating by bringing and giving, knowing that missions were always worthy but not having an understanding how the whole organization works beyond our church group.

There are three expressions of Women of the ELCA, each with its own constitution:

- Congregational, inter-congregational and special units (about 4,500) *This is our Faith Lutheran Women
- **Synodical Women's Organization (in 64 of the ECLA's 65 synods)** *Faith is part of the Jamestown Cluster of the Eastern **Nort Dakota Synodical Women's Organization**
- **Churchwide Women's Organization** *whole/entire organization

The congregational, inter-congregational and special units are the largest expression of the organization and are the heart of the organization. This is where we grow the organization. Inviting women to experience the reconciling and transforming love of God through Jesus Christ, encouraging women to act on their baptismal covenant.

The **synodical women's organizations** (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their **geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization**. SWOs exist to support women in congregations. Each SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by voting members from units. Each SWO establishes clusters or conferences of units within its geographic area and provides learning opportunities.

The **churchwide women's organization** (CWO) is the entire organization. Within the churchwide expression of women of the ELCA, the triennial convention is the highest legislative authority; voting members to the convention are elected by synodical organizations between conventions, the churchwide executing board (volunteers elected by the triennial convention) conducts the business of the organization.

WELCA is the women's ministry organization of the ELCA. It is separately incorporated and is not an auxiliary of the church. It is financially independent and responsible for its own financial affairs. Financial support comes from individual and group offerings and gifts.

Want to know more? Check out womenoftheelca.org

Every woman of Faith is a member of Faith WELCA. We have a small board that meets monthly usually August through April the second Wednesday. All are welcome to attend and volunteers welcome if interested in board positions just make it known.

I hope you continue to have a blessed summer,

Elise Miller, WELCA Board President

Mission Team News



The Mission Team does not meet in July, but our next mission is to collect school supplies for our elementary schools. The list of supplies needed will be provided in our Sunday bulletins and newsletters. A list of supplies needed is on page 10 of this newsletter. We have collected supplies that when provided to the two elementary schools become a resource for the teachers.

Their students may not come with all the supplies needed, run out of supplies needed, or move into school during the school year. Each year we receive thank you messages from the schools telling us that this is so helpful for the students and teachers. We will be collecting them until the first week in August so we can deliver before the school starts.

Some of our team members worked a couple of Wednesdays at the Summer Grocery Store. Thank you to Deb Shape, Laney Jenison and Sandy Brandvold for their help. Thank you for donating food and toiletry items for the store, the items are greatly appreciated!

Thank you for participating in all our mission projects! We are truly blessed with our wonderful church family.

Hope your summer is going well.

Faith Mission Team

CROP Walk for Hunger Update

Hooray! CROP WALK FOR HUNGER! The donations have continued to come in for our crop walk but our treasurer has provided what we think is now that final total: \$7,685.21!!!! This is just shy of our \$8,000 goal increase this year but still a WONDERFUL amount. THANK YOU to all of you who walked and donated!



Until next year....Sharon Buhr, CROP WALK Coordinator.



Noisy Offering—School Supplies Drive

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, July 19. The offering received will be going toward our School Supplies Drive to help provide the school supplies needed in our elementary schools. During the summer months the Food Pantry may be used by more families due to The kids will come around during the Children's Word with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills.

In May we received \$292.32 for the Summer Grocery Store! Thank you for your generous giving. You are making a difference in the lives of those in need!

Sheyenne Valley Memory Café

If you or a loved one is experiencing memory loss, this is an opportunity to connect and visit with healthcare professionals and individuals. Sheyenne Valley Memory Café will meet Thursday, July 23, 1-3pm. Presentation will be on LTC Medicaid, presented by Gwen Coit, LTC Medicaid Eligibility Worker.





JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1. Talia Germann; 2. Olivia Johnson;
- 3. Dave Jewett, Avvi Kellogg;
- 4. Russell Kudrna; 7. Jasen

McGough; 8. Jason Gerhardt, Taylor Miller, Mark Moser; 9. Sarah Duffy; 10. Mary Johnson, Heather Smith; 11. Kay Stanford; 12. Ashley Limesand, Sandy Pollock, Shawn Ranisate; 13. Jake Rohde; 14. Gary Anderson, Arlo Horner; 15. Diane Kohn; 16. Ivory Erickson, Torrey Morehouse; 17. Rick Bredeson, Candace Johnson; 19. Westen Duffy; 21. Ellie Altringer, Mikkal Auka, Mike Metcalf, Sue Milender; 22. Michelle Trzpuć; 23. Kent Gronlie, Brody Metcalf, Sandy Mulvaney, Betty Overby, Jack Walker; 25. Seth Auka, Diana Larson, Conner May; 26. Janeen Anderson, Jessica Jenrich, Kaylee Smith; 27. Drake Carlson; 28. Haidyn Becker, Banks Johnson; 29. Gage Hilborn, Cyndi Hill; 30. Doug Altringer, Lynn Gustafson, Jarin Thornton, Zach Wilmes; 31. Tyler Gustafson, Oliver Stearns.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

8. Scott & Kay Stanford; 9. Austin & Sydni Smith; 12. Matt & Courtney Jorissen; 16. Dean & Amy Pederson, Scott & Wendi Wilmes; 20. Seth & Lexi Hanson; 23. Cory & Alison Rodin, Bob & Carol Thibeault; 25. Luke & Stephanie Bopp; 26. Casey & Samantha Schauer; 27. Gene & Nancy Bjerke, Brent & Lynn Gustafson, Brandon & Nicole Larson; 29. Tyler & Angela Van Bruggen; 31. Mark & Linda Moser.

July Service & Care

**Julie Moritz
**Cindy Waagen

Marlene Bartz
Rita Bearman
Jerry & Carol Moritz
Cheryl Peterson
Ron & LeeAnn Peterson
Jake & Brenda Rohde

*Thank you for serving!

June Attendance

June 7	67	56+ online
June 14	78	47+ online
June 21	73	30+ online
June 28	78	38+ online

Offering

January	\$20,643.00
February	\$28,046.00
March	\$22,464.00
April	\$22,960.50
May	\$32,502.50
June	\$15,021.00

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

June Transitions

WEDDINGS: Congratulations Derek & Melissa (Pedersen) Oxtan. They were married here at Faith on June 27, 2026 with Pastor Jamie officiating. God bless this couple as they begin their married life.

DEATHS: Our sympathies to the family and friends of Doreen Vangerud. Doreen died Thursday, May 28, 2026. Her Funeral was Wednesday, June 3, 2026 here at Faith Lutheran with Pastor Jamie officiating.

Our sympathies to the family and friends of **Janine “Janie” Mehus**. Janie died April 29, 2026 and her Celebration of Life was Friday, June 12 at the Dacotah Pavillion with Pastor Jamie officiating.

Our sympathies to the family and friends of JoAn Neller-moe. JoAn died Monday, March 2, 2026 and her Celebration of Life was Saturday, June 13 here at Faith Lutheran with Pastor Jamie officiating. Please keep these families in your prayers.



Crazy Days Bake Sale Fundraiser—July 30
 Mark your calendar! We will have our Crazy Days Bake Sale here at Faith Lutheran on Wednesday, July 30, 9am-12pm! Start thinking about what you would like to bake and bring for the Bake Sale! A price list is on the back of the calendar and will be available at church and as a bulletin insert in the July bulletins. You will want to price your items. Labels will be available. We will need volunteers to help set up for the Bake Sale and during the Bake Sale. A sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering area.

A portion of the proceeds will go to South Central Adult Services Transit which is an essential need for our community and utilized by many.

Proceeds will also be used at Faith Lutheran. We would like to purchase **the display panels for Faith Lutheran's confirmation photos.** They would be like what we had at our old church building. Currently our confirmation pictures are in a binder in the library in the Fireside Room. If you would like to give a monetary donation toward the purchase of the display at any time, it would be greatly appreciated. The display to the right is a photo of one of the panels of confirmation from our old church building.



June Memorials



In memory of Michael O. Knutson given by Nancy Knutson (Kids Club).
 In memory of JoAn Nellerhoe given by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated).
 In memory of Gary Riedman given by Dave & Jeanne Johnsen (Undesignated).

In memory of Doreen Vangerud given by Vangerud Family (Undesignated); by Randy & Kay Bostrom (Worship & Music); by Rick & Audrey Bredeson (Undesignated); by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by John & Elise Miller (Foundation); by Bruce & Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated); by Chuck & Deb Shape (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated); by Brenda Stearns (Undesignated); by Elaine Walls (Undesignated).

JULY TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, July 15 at 5:15pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, July 8 at 1:30pm

August Service & Care— Meets Sun, July 19 after worship & by emails texts/ phone

Men's Group, Mission Team, WELCA do not meet in July



Sunday School Teachers Needed!

With a few of our Sunday School teachers graduating from high school this past year, we are going to be needing some new teachers! Our Sunday School runs more like a VBS experience. We have a Craft, Creative Drama, and Game stations. We like to have 2 teachers per rotation, so you don't need to commit every Sunday to teaching. If you feel a calling to help lead our youth in their relationships with God, please reach out to Wendi at 840-3911. Thank you!



Mission Team Project— School Supplies Collection List

We will have a collection box at the church in July through the first week of August. The Mission Team will pack them for the schools at their August meeting. Monetary donations should be placed in the donations envelopes and marked "School Supplies" or you can send a check with School Supplies in the memo. We appreciate all the support his congregation has given to this project in the past, and we know we will have it again this year!



Reminder: Please stick to the items on the following lists.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Crayons (24 count); Crayola Broad Line Markers; Crayola Fine Point Markers; #2 Pencils; Pink Erasers; Elmer's School Glue; Glue Sticks; Plastic Pencil Boxes; Scissors (blunt and sharp); Black Sharpie Markers; Colored Pencils; Highlighters; Mechanical Pencils; Two Pocket Folders; Wide-Ruled Single Subject Notebooks; College-Ruled Single Subject Notebooks; Loose Leaf Wide-lined Paper; 1.5" 3 Ring Binder; Pens (blue, black, red); 12" ruler (both inches & centimeters); Kleenex (175 count or more); Clorox Wipes.

Bible Camp Scholarships Still Available!



Faith Lutheran has \$200 scholarships available for those attending the 2026 summer camps. Bible Camp is a wonderful opportunity for your kids to grow in their faith and meet new friends! Please note: the scholarships can be used for Red Willow Bible Camp and other Bible Camps.

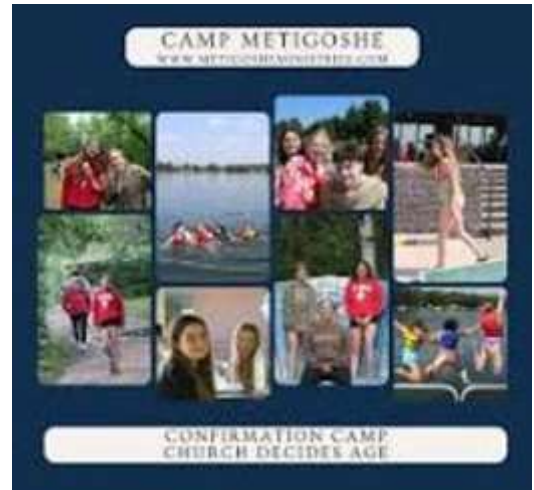
To register for RWBC scan the QR Code to go directly to their website to register: www.redwillowministries.com. Contact Julie in the office for the special discount code for Red Willow Bible Camp.



Youth News

Confirmation Camp Lake Metigoshe

Tuesday, July 7th—Friday, July 10th Wendi and Rebecca Westman are taking 5 youth to the Confirmation Camp at Lake Metigoshe! Please pray for these 5 young people to grow closer in their relationship with God, while also having lots of fun at this beautiful camp!



Junior High Youth Group

Tuesday, July 21st we will head to a RedHawks Game! Game is at 7:02pm, so we will leave from Faith at 5:20. Cost is \$10 plus bring money for food! Hope this day works for more people! ☺

Splash into Faith

Our Savior's Lutheran is hosting the Staff of Red Willow Bible Camp for a Day of Summer Camp in Valley City! Students in Grades 7-12 and Adults will be needed as volunteers to help with registration, serving food, and as small group leaders. Please contact Pr. Jared at Our Savior's to volunteer. Registration Link for children (K-6 Grade) is open! Use the QR Code below to register.



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 McClaffin,
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
Mary's E-Mail: treasurer@faithlutheranvc.org
Wendi's E-Mail: wendi.wilmes@gmail.com
Sandy's E-Mail: sandy.brandvold@gmail.com*



Website: www.faithlutheranvc.org

Fax Number: (701) 845-5887

Church Office: (701) 845-4390

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