

Faith On the rise

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



Lenten Services



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. Here is the rotation schedule for Faith Lutheran.

March 4—**Pastor Jared Carson (Our Savior’s)**

March 11—**Pastor Bryce Blank (Epworth United Methodist)**

March 18—**Pastor Nicholas (Kathryn-Nome-Fingal)**

March 25—**Pastor Diane Krumm (Trinity)**

Holy Week each pastor will be at their home church so Pastor Jamie will be here at Faith.

A meal will be served 5:30-6:15pm each Wednesday during Lent prior to worship. This is a freewill offering. We are thankful for the groups/committees/individuals who signed up to make and serve the meals.

We thank the confirmation youth for helping with the cleanup also.

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Holy Week Schedule



March 29—Palm Sunday—Sunday School children will process in with palms and will sing at the 9:30am worship service.

April 2—Maundy Thursday—1st Communion received at the 6:30pm service. Meal served prior (5:30-6:15pm).

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

Good Friday Community service will be at Our Savior’s at 12:10pm.

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



There is a season and time for every matter under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Happy March! We are amid the season of Lent which of course concludes with Holy Week and Easter. And as sure as there is a resurrection there is also the season of Spring. It's been a challenging winter for those who must commute to work and I'm anxious for the white to disappear and the green to reappear.



The theme this year for Lent is *Unbound: Longing for Wholeness*. We all have a longing for our lives to be made whole. The opposite of wholeness is being bound. Our world is full of things that bind us and prevent us

from living an abundant life that God has promised us. We will read through the Biblical stories of regular people who encounter Jesus and were drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides. The hope is that in the process of this Lenten season, we can learn about our own longings and be drawn into wholeness.

Once again this year we will have revolving pulpits with a variety of pastors sharing on Wednesday nights. The services will not be exactly the same as on Sunday mornings. We will be having just one scripture reading and the pastors will be sharing more personal stories about their own longs for wholeness. The service will kind of resemble Brian Yanish and Tyler Van Bruggen's Farmer's Union *Fireside Chats* where they share some stories and give bits of advice.

If you are longing for this winter to be over and need some hope in your life, I invite you to join us Wednesdays for supper at 5:30pm and worship at 6:30pm as we examine those things that bind us and how Jesus draws us into wholeness.

Happy March and let's stay safe out there!

Pastor Jamie

The Palm Sunday Path



The Palm Sunday Path will be Sunday, March 29, Gather at 3pm at Moorhead Hjemkomst Center to Fargo City Hall. You are invited to participate in the Palm Sunday Path, an ecumenical and interfaith worship and a processional walk in Fargo. Palm Sunday Path was centered on our call to love those who are hungry or vulnerable (including those who are ill) and the stranger, and to bear public witness to that call, and people from more than 15 states will be participating.

Centuries ago, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, symbolizing a humble, nonviolent leader who prioritizes dignity and the needs of all. Today, in the face of injustice and abuse of power, we are called to follow His example in solidarity with the marginalized yet again. all those who stand behind the values of healing the sick, feeding the hungry and welcoming the stranger are welcome.

Message from Council President

February has flown by, and our Lenten services are now in full swing. Please take a moment to read about the upcoming events planned for this meaningful season.

On Wednesdays throughout Lent, we will gather for a meal from 5:30-6:15pm, followed by worship at 6:30pm. We hope you will join us for this special time of fellowship and reflection.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our additional services: Palm Sunday (March 29), Maundy Thursday (April 2), and Easter Sunday (April 5). We look forward to worshipping together as we journey through Lent and celebrate the joy of Easter morning.



Over the past month, the Council has been addressing several matters. You may have noticed a few changes in the sanctuary, including the repositioning of some pews. These adjustments are part of our ongoing effort to ensure that our facility is accessible to everyone who wishes to attend Faith, not only by entering the building, but by participating comfortably in worship. We hope these updates help create a more welcoming and accommodating space for all.

You may also have heard that we experienced an issue with the coffee maker. We are currently determining whether it can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we resolve this matter.

We are grateful for each of you and look forward to gathering together throughout this Lenten season.

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

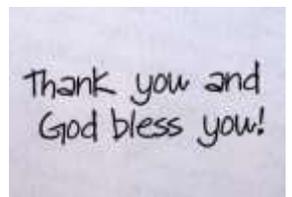
Hearing Enhancing Devices



We want you to be aware that we do have hearing enhancing devices available for use during worship. They are ear buds that you put in your ears and you are able to adjust the volume so you are able to hear the service better. The sound runs through the soundboard. The devices are located in the sanctuary by the sound board. The sound person will be able to help you if you have questions on how to use them. The people who have used them say they work great.

Stewardship

Thank you to everyone for your continued stewardship. We appreciate the giving of **your time, talent, and monetary gifts to Faith Lutheran.** We wouldn't be able to do all that we do here at Faith Lutheran, the community and beyond without you. You are each a blessing from God!



Your 2026 Elected Church Council

Your 2026 Council members were installed into office on Sunday, February 15. Please pray for them as they work diligently to keep Faith Lutheran moving forward in God's work. If you have any questions, suggestions or ministry ideas please speak to any council member.



Pictured: Amy Pederson (council president), Kalyn Botz, Cheryl Foell, Pastor Jamie, Rick Bredeson, Randy McClafin, Jacob Rohde (vice-president). Unable to attend: Erin Metcalf (secretary).

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!

Community Closet

The Community Closet will be open Monday, March 16, 5-7pm at **Our Savior's Lutheran Church**. **Volunteers are needed to help set up on Sunday, March 15, 6-8pm** and also to help on Monday, March 16 at 7pm to help with clean up. The Community Closet has free clothing for all sizes and some household goods available for those in need.



New Year New Logo Update

Thank you for all the fantastic logo submissions! We truly have some very creative members in our congregation. It was fun to see what was created to represent our church, and even more fun to see which logos the congregation felt would represent us best.

These are the top three vote-getters. The Council will vote to select the final logo that will represent Faith Lutheran as a church and congregation at the next meeting on March 11th. After that, the chosen logo will be sent to a graphic designer for refinement. Once that process is complete, we will officially debut it.

We are not done using your creativity yet! A comment box will be available until our March 11th Council meeting to gather feedback and suggestions. We encourage you to share what you like about the logos and what you might change.

Thank you again for allowing us to highlight the creativity within our congregation.

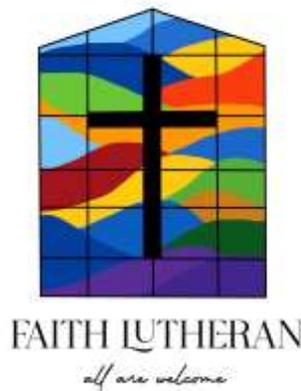
“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” - Martin Luther

In that spirit, the creativity shared in this campaign was not simply artistic expression—it was a gift offered for the good of our church community.

Jake Rohde, Church Council Vice President



Submitted by Alyssa Wilmes



Sarah Duffy



Unknown—
Let us know if this is yours

Easter Lilies

We will be adorning our altar with Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday, April 5th. If you would like to contribute a cash donation (suggested \$20) towards the purchase of each plant, a sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering area. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory or in honor of your loved one please note that on the sign up sheet. Deadline to sign up is Friday, March 27. We will put the names of your loved ones in the easter bulletin. Other plants and flowers are very welcome also.





WELCA News

WELCA met Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at Faith Lutheran Church.

We planned for serving our supper during Lent. Since Ash Wednesday service cancelled due to weather, we will now serve supper before service on March 25.

Bold Women's Day was Sunday, March 1. We celebrate all Lutheran women who are acting boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their prayers, in the service to those in need, still others through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others, living out our baptismal call, **BOLDLY**.

Items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits will be collected during March and assembled in April.

The following is the list of items to bring if you would like to donate.

We will have a collection tote in the gathering area to drop off your donations.



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

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

SPRING ROUND-UP: Saturday, April 1, 2026, 9am-3pm, Bagg Bonanza Historical Farm
"WALKING IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS" Pre-registration required by March 28, call Jeanne at 701-230-8745 or email mrs wob@gmail.com. Registration is FREE but they need an early count for lunch and lunch is \$20 paid day of event. Call or email TODAY. Watch for flyer in bulletins and bulletin board.



Also, the Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa, July 16-18, 2026 is still happening and the deadline to register for the bus of those in the area is July 1, 2026. So if there is anyone from Faith who is planning to attend, and you have any questions be sure and ask Julie in the office early, so we can help or direct you to the people who know.

February was Thankoffering Month. If you have not yet returned your offering envelope, please do so this first week of March. Thank you for the offerings received for the ongoing churchwide organization to support the WELCA missions.

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

Blessings,
Elise Miller, WELCA president

Mission Team News

The Mission Team has been busy; we received 78 pairs of PJs for Project Ignite Light, and we thank you so much for your donations. The Fleece Tie blanket project was a success once again. We tied 26 blankets. All the PJs and blankets will be dropped off at the Project Ignite light Center in Rogers, ND. Thank you Al & Nancy Sorensen and Jerry & Carol Moritz for doing that.



We will be serving Lenten Supper on March 18th and look forward to seeing you there. We are also getting ready for the Celebration Cake project that will start in April so watch for more information on that coming soon. There is always something in the works with our team so watch the newsletter each month and if you are wanting to join in on the fun, please come to our meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:15pm. We would love to have you there. ☺

Sandy Brandvold—Chairperson

Noisy Offering—VCPS Hot Lunch Program

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, March 15 for the Valley City Public Schools Hot Lunch Program. The money will be used by VCPS to put towards the hot lunch program outstanding costs. The kids will come around with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills during the Children's Message. Your caring and generosity makes a difference in people's lives!

In February 23 received \$348.62 for the Barnes County Food Pantry as part of Souper Bowl of Caring! We also collected 60 cans of soups to donate to the Food Pantry. Thank you for your generous giving! It is greatly appreciated!





MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

1. Paulette Everson, DeeDee Jewett; 2. Wayne Eggert, Gavin Gerhardt, Taylor Johnson, Katie Kaber, Dillon Thomas; 3. Tori Houdek; 5. Jennifer Bergner, Skylar Thornton; 7. Beau Hilborn; 8. Lila Rohwedder; 11. Jodi Miller, Ed Overby; 12. Candice Lukes; 13. Pamela Egan, Cara Sorensen, Scott Stanford; 14. Jeff Bergner; 15. Audrey Bredeson, Taylor McKay, Ryan Metcalf; 17. Patty Gronlie; 19. Marlene Bartz, Marlys Freadhoff, Zoey Greenley, Kaidence Harstad, Mikayla Newton; 20. Talon Klevgaard; 21. Jordyn Everson, Nathan Johnson, Julie May; 23. Paul Hilborn, Olive Mallette; 25. Atlas Brant; 26. Finley Foell, Jacob Miller, Jody Svenningsen, Caius Williams; 27. Jack Rohde; 28. Asher Foell; 29. Dallas Cooley; 30. Emily Thompson; 31. Grady Samuelson.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

1. Mark & Krista Johnson; 3. Jed & Katie Kohler; 7. Greg & Karen Burchill; 15. Jack & Val Moritz; 18. Damon & Brenda Bong; 21. Doug & Leona McPherson.

February Transitions

DEATHS: our sympathies to the family and friends of Bob Hetler. Bob died Monday, February 9, 2026. His Celebration of Life was held Friday, February 13, 2026 with Pastor Jamie officiating.

March Service & Care

**Mikkal & Wanda Auka
** Scott & Amy Johnson

Seth Auka
Scott & Nicki Brockopp
Greg & Sarah Friestad
Dave & Lara Mairs
Troy & Jodi Miller
Tim & Alyssa Miller
Mike Nix
Dean & Amy Pederson
Shawn & Karla Ranisate

*Thank you for serving!

February Attendance

February 1	95	14+ online
February 8	132	73+ online
February 15	111	70+ online
February 18 (Ash Wednesday)	No service due to weather	
February 22	112	63+ online
February 25 (Lent)	90	32+ online

Offering

January	\$20,643.00
February	\$28,046.00

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



February Memorials

In memory of Clara Bredeson given by Cheryl Foell (Stained Glass Window); by Jerry & Carol Moritz (Undesignated); by Dave & Carol Smith (Undesignated).
In memory of Bob Hetler given by Cheryl Foell (General Fund); by Bruce & Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Jack & Val Moritz (Stained Glass Window); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated).
In memory of Georgia Manstrom given by Jerry & Carol Moritz (Undesignated).
In memory of **James O'Brien** given by Cheryl Foell (General Fund); by Scott & Amy Johnson (Undesignated); by Duane & Diana Larson (Undesignated); by John & Elise Miller (Undesignated); by Bruce & Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Jack & Val Moritz (Stained Glass Window); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated); by Joan Noeske (General Fund); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated).

French Toast Brunch Fundraiser—Sunday, March 22



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

Men's Group monthly Breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 8am. We invite any of the men in our congregation to come to the Saturday morning Breakfast meeting and/or come to help with the French Toast Brunch. We invite you to join in and share the 'Food, Fun & Fellowship' of our Men's Group.

Handbell Case Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who kicked off the handbell cases fundraiser! We're off to a great start but still need more help. Your sponsorship will go a long way to make this project a success. Thanks for your consideration!

Thank you to those who have purchased bell sponsorships:

Jerry & Carol Moritz
Diane Busche
Cheryl Foell—In memory of Kim Foell & Amy Harbaugh
Gordon Reiten—In memory of Dorothy Jean Reiten
Jack & Val Moritz
Roger & Sandy Mulvaney—In memory of Rory Mulvaney
John & Elise Miller
Chuck & Deb Shape
Gary & Diane Sommerfeld
Bruce & Julie Moritz



MARCH TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Mar 11
at 5:15pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Mar 4
at 1:30pm

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



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

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

WELCA—Meets Wed, Mar 11 at 3:30pm

Sunday School News

After church, you can grab a treat with your family and then we start Sunday School at 10:45am and finish at 11:45am. We are SO excited to have a great year of Bible Stories, music, games, and crafts. Each week is a blast together with Jesus.

Important Dates for Sunday School:

Sunday, March 8—There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** due to the 4-day weekend at VCPS.

Sunday, March 29—Kids will be singing in church & processing in with palms for Palm Sunday!

There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School!



First Communion Class



We invite children 2nd-5th grade whose parents feel they are read and would like them to receive Holy Communion to attend the session that is welcome them to Christ's table and begin to understand the gifts and meaning of Holy Communion. A letter was sent out to 2nd-5th grade families with children who have not yet received. Your child should be baptized before they receive 1st communion. If you have a child that age and did not receive a letter but would like information and/or like your child to receive 1st communion please let Julie in the office or Pastor Jamie know and we will get the information to you.

The 1st Communion session will be **Sunday, March 15 at 10:45am** in the Fireside Room. Pastor Jamie will be leading this session. An adult must attend the session with each child. Please have your child bring their Bible with to the session. If you plan to attend, please email office@faithlutheranvc.org or contact the office at 845-4390 so we can be sure we have enough learning material.

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 March

Wednesday, March 4—at Faith

Wednesday, March 11—at Faith

Wednesday, March 18—at Faith

Wednesday, March 25—at Faith



Youth News



Confirmation Information

We will be having Lent at our own churches during the Lent season, so Faith kids will attend Faith Lutheran Lent services just like they would for "normal" Confirmation. The service starts at 6:30pm. After the Lent service is over, the kids will meet with Wendi to discuss some questions at that time. This won't take long (maybe 10 minutes or so).

Wednesday, March 4—Lent Service at Faith
Wednesday, March 11—Lent Service at Faith
Wednesday, March 18—Lent Service at Faith
Wednesday, March 25—Lent Service at Faith
Thursday, April 2—Maundy Thursday Service at Faith



*The kids will also be taking turns helping clean up after the Lenten meals each week. Supper runs from 5:30-6:15ish. Here is the schedule of who will be helping:

March 4—7th Grade Boys
March 11—8th Grade Girls
March 18—8th Grade Boys
March 25—9th Grade Girls
April 2—9th Grade Boys



Junior High Youth

On **Friday, March 27th** we will head to a Fargo Force hockey game! The game starts at 7:05pm, so we will leave from Faith at **5:15pm**. Cost per ticket is \$10 plus bring money for food! Watch for more information soon!

Easter Egg Hunt—Palm Sunday, March 29

We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt for the children 6th grade & under on Palm Sunday during Sunday School. If you would like to donate wrapped candy for the eggs, you can drop the candy by Julie's office or leave in the workroom by Wednesday, March 25th so the eggs can be filled and ready to hide. Thank you!



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.

Watch for more information soon!

Council President: Amy Pederson
Phone: (701) 840-1328
Council: Kalyn Botz, Rick Bredeson,
Cheryl Foell, Randy McClaffin,
Erin Metcalf, Jacob Rohde

Custodians: Mark & Sandy Brandvold

Accompanist/ Worship Coordinator: Cyndi Hill

Coordinator of Youth Ministry and
Sunday School: Wendi Wilmes

Treasurer: Mary Rausch

Administrative Assistant: Julie Moritz

Pastor: Pastor Jamie Desai

Church Staff

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