

Faith On the rise

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072
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Office will be closed Mon, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

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First Communion Received Maundy Thursday

We welcomed 9 young people to the communion table to receive their First Communion during the Maundy Thursday service on April 2. God bless these young ones as they have made this milestone and grow in their faith in Christ Jesus.

Pictured: (back row, l-r) Rowan Nathan, Blake Schmidt, Corrigan Langemo, Pastor Jamie; (middle row, l-r) Rhett Holm, Ellie Stearns, Elsie Jorissen, Olivia Johnson; (front row, l-r) Bristol Carlson, Claire Heide.



We Welcome You to Join Us for Worship!

Sunday, May 3—We will recognize our Sunday School Teachers during worship for their dedication and commitment to our young people.

Last day of Sunday School.

Sunday, May 10—**Happy Mother's Day!**

Sunday, May 17—We will bless our Graduating High School Seniors and they will each receive a quilt from our quilters and our congregation.

Men's Group Pancake Brunch! They will be serving 9:30am-12:30pm.

This is freewill offering.

Sunday, May 24—**Pentecost Sunday—Wear Red!**

High School Graduation Day!

Sunday, May 31—Summer Worship begins. Time remains at 9:30am.



*For everything there is a season and
a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Is it safe to say that the days of snow are gone for the season? As we look out our windows this May, the landscape is changing. The grass is greening, the trees are budding and the birds are chirping. Winter kept us indoors and now we are **transitioning to being more active and I don't have to worry about the driving conditions.** Ecclesiastes three reminds us that shifting change is inevitable for both the physical world and our spiritual lives.

This season we may feel the shift from one season to another more significantly than other times in our lives. It may be a *time to weep* (3:4) over a loss or possibly a *time to laugh* (3:4) in a celebration of a new blessing. Whatever your case maybe it is good to know that God walks with in both the good and the bad seasons. For the church this is a time we wind down our programing to catch our breath. While the seasons change God presence remains stays the same.

Just as Jesus rose, bringing new life to all creation, He is present with us through every transition. I encourage you to look for the *newness* blooming all around you as **a sign of God's grace and to trust that He is working in your life even when the season feels uncomfortable.**

As a church, let us be mindful of the *time* we are in, a time to serve our neighbors, a time to gather for worship and a time to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us.

In May we celebrate Senior Recognition, Mother's Day, Vacation Bible School, Bible Camp, the Crop Walk, the Men's Pancake Brunch, the Spring Rummage sale along with many birthdays and anniversaries and let's not forget on the May 31st we celebrate Pentecost (remember to wear red).

Once again, I want to thank you for supporting all of the ministries here at Faith! It is you who makes all of these things possible.

God bless you in the changes and transitions this season will bring and remember that *for everything there is a season and time.*

Blessed be the Name,

Pastor Jamie



Message from Council President

Thank you to everyone who took time from your busy schedules to help clean the church. Your time is valuable, and I am truly grateful for your willingness to serve. A special thank you to Mark and Sandy for preparing a task list and gathering supplies so our volunteers could work efficiently and joyfully.

Thank you as well to all who helped with our Lenten and Easter services and meals. These seasons are meaningful because of the care, creativity, and dedication you bring to them. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and they are deeply appreciated.



This month, we will recognize our graduating seniors as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Please keep them in your prayers: Autumn Anderson, Brooklyn Botz, Madison Frieze, Mavrick Ludwig, Mazie Ludwig, Kaleb McClafin, Trey McPartland, Lauren May, Faith Schmidt, Jack Samuelson, Brenna Storly, Jacksyn Thornton, Abby Wilmes and Alyssa Wilmes. May God bless their journeys ahead and surround them with guidance, courage, and joy.

As summer approaches, I encourage everyone to continue attending Sunday worship. Your presence strengthens our faith family and reminds us that we walk this journey together. Summer often brings travel, activities, and change of routine, but **gathering in worship keeps us grounded in God's Word and connected to one another.**



I leave you with this reminder from Scripture:

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." - 1 Peter 5:6-7

Your Council President,
Amy Pederson

Church Directory Update



We know you are wondering the status of our new directories that we took pictures for back in November. The rough draft of the directory was edited so hopefully all information will be correct and current. The directory will have names, addresses and phone numbers listed but not the emails of our congregation. We should have the directories by mid May as long as all goes smoothly with the print.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. The planning, preparing and printing of the directory took time and multiple people to get it done.

We will let you know as soon as they arrive and get them out to you as quickly as possible.

Handbell Case Fundraiser Update

The handbell board is full!
Thank you for your wonderful response to purchasing new handbell cases. We look forward to keeping an active presence in worship.



Thank you for your bell sponsorship purchased in April:

Nancy Knutson—In memory of Michael O. Knutson

Marlene Wixon—In memory of Bonnie Ritchey and In memory of Wesley Wixon



Red Willow Ministries Camp Clean Up Days

Your help is needed as Red Willow Bible Camp prepares for summer. The Clean Up Days are Saturday, May 2 and Saturday May 9, 9am-4pm, **lunch provided**. **There's a wide range of projects to tackle:** everything from prepping First Aid kits and organizing the kitchen pantry, to trimming trees, raking leaves, and getting the volleyball pit back into **shape**. **There's something for everyone, no matter your skill level.** **Come for a few hours or stay the whole day.** To sign up go to <https://forms.gle/dnVDTiS4qn> or go to Red Willow Ministries on Facebook and click on the link there.

Register Now for Red Willow Bible Camp!



Faith Lutheran has a limited number of \$200 scholarships for those attending the 2026 summer camps. Please note: the scholarships can be used for other Bible Camps besides Red Willow. 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.



Our Savior's Lutheran WELCA Spring Treasure Sale

Friday, May 1, 1-4pm & Saturday, May 2, 8:30am-noon. Check out the treasures—kitchen, household, toys, holiday decorations, storage, furniture, luggage, and much more. Rolls, coffee and juice in the small dining room on Saturday. Free will offering will go to WELCA project and activities. Good Samaritan Quilters will also have quilts for sale. Several different sizes available and in many different colors. They make great gifts for graduation, baby showers and more!



Spring Cleaning THANK YOU

I just want to say thank you so very much to all that helped with our Church Spring Cleaning!! My regular bi-week cleaning helps to maintain the building but there isn't enough time in the day to deep clean as well, so it is very important that so many of you come to help when we have these cleaning days. Many hands make light work. We were able to get all the items on the lists completed in an hour!! Thank you to those who brought the ladders, fans and extra cleaning items. It is nice to see everyone working together and having some laughs as we worked too. I appreciate you all and again, thank you!!

Sandy
Brandvold



CROP WALK for World Hunger—May 6

The 46th Annual Valley City CROP WALK for Hunger is set for Wednesday, May 6th at 7pm on the Jefferson School Mile. Walkers may start collecting pledges and making donations now. Donation Envelopes are available at the church.

The Mission Team will have a table set up during the walk and their **theme this year is “Malaria”**. There will be information on Malaria as well as a display of a Malaria net used by people in Africa while sleeping in hopes to prevent mosquito bites and the transmission of Malaria.

Hope to see you there!



Bridges Backpack Summer Grocery Store

Summer is right around the corner, and although final plans are expected to be made at May Bridges Backpack Program meeting, the board is hopeful there will be funds to continue the Summer Grocery Store Wednesday nights to help with increased food needs when children are not in school.

Watch for more details in the June newsletter and the May and June Sunday Bulletins for schedule details and for needed food donations and opportunities to volunteer.

Bridges Backpack Program
Scott Johnson and Elise Miller
Faith Representatives





WELCA News

WELCA met for the April meeting on April 8 and the youth in the Kids Club enthusiastically helped put together 31 Personal Care Kits. Thank you for those who brought donated items we used along with the Thrivent Community Impact Dollars for all supplies. These will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.



Three Faith WELCA members attended the Spring Round Up April 18 at Bagg Bonanza Historical Farm. Other than the cold, windy day, Julie Moritz, Mary Johnson and Diane Sommerfeld enjoyed the entire day and I am sure they will enjoy sharing their experiences if you visit with them.

Faith WELCA along with Trinity WELCA and Our Savior's WELCA will host Coffee Time with St Raphael residents from Faith, Trinity, Our Savior's on Friday, May 8, 1-3pm in Coffee Shop for Mother's Day. Family and friends are welcome to join us at this coffee time with our members.

WELCA will not meet until fall unless important business to conduct but we will come together again to begin planning for Fall Festival. In the meantime everyone keep your festival plans and creations flowing, preparing for another successful Fall Festival for our Faith Mission.

Enjoy these beautiful spring days ahead (even if it comes in a little white moisture)! In the busyness of this May, **remember to stop and take in the beauty of God's creation and rebirth all around us** this time of year. Everywhere you look is another miracle.

I end with these words from a favorite song, *Canticle of the Turning*, **Inspired by Mary's prayer**, this powerful hymn tells of the hope and promise found in Jesus.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.

Elise Miller, WELCA President

Noisy Offering—Summer Grocery Store

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, May 17 for the Summer Grocery Store. This helps families with the increased food needs when the children are not in school for the summer. 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 April we received \$245.21 for Crop Walk for World Hunger! This will help locally as well as globally. Your donations are greatly appreciated!



Men's Group Pancake Brunch—May 17

It's that time of the year again so 'Come and Get It'. Our Men's Group Spring Pancake Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 17th. We hope for a good turnout again so come and enjoy our meal of Pancakes, Sausage and Fried Potatoes.

This means that our May Breakfast meeting will be on Saturday morning, May 16 at 8am. At this meeting we will be preparing the Potatoes, Onion and Green Peppers. We will also be taking care of any other preliminary items that need to be done.

We would like to extend a special invitation to any and all of the Men of Faith to come share some good fellowship with us. We would like to welcome you to come to our Monthly Breakfast Meeting, our Sunday Brunch or both. We are a very 'low key' 'easy going' bunch, so anybody would fit in and feel comfortable.

Our Motto is very fitting for our group—'Food, Fun, Fellowship'.

May GOD Bless all of you, Our Family of Faith.
Duane Larson

Mission Team News

The Mission Team wants to thank you for the items donated for our April Cake Kit project. Last year we put together close to 60 kits. These are greatly appreciated by the recipients that come to the Barnes Count Food Pantry and the Summer Grocery Store. We are fortunate to give some to SMP Health—St. Raphael as well.

The Crop Walk will be held on Wednesday, May 6th at 7pm on the Jefferson Mile. We hope to see you here. Our Group will be stationed at the NW corner of 12th Ave and Central Ave, come check us out. ☺

The Summer Grocery Store will be open during the summer months again this year so stay tuned for more information on that in the June newsletter.

The next Mission Team meeting is Tuesday, May 12 at 5:15pm. Please join us if you are interested.



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.. The Memory Café will meet Thursday, May 28, 1-3pm. **May's presentation** on CHI Hospice will be presented by Susanne Olson.



MAY BIRTHDAYS:

1. Jodie Miller, Karen Nitschke, Harper Van Bruggen; 2. Mark Brandvold, Mark Hill; 3. Don Jones, Erin Metcalf; 4. Sam

Carlson, Darlene Friestad, Wrevyn Friestad; 5. Ryan Johnson, Virgil Kratz; 6. Wyatt Friestad, Keith Hovland, Parker Larson, Cheryl Storhoff; 7. Brenton Rittenhouse; 8. Gene Bjerke, Mark Thomsen; 9. Verlynn Christianson, Joe Lunde, Brent Wallender; 10. Michale Pedersen; 12. Randy Bostrom, Jacob Johnson, Connie Ronholm; 13. Wade Sorensen; 14. Jesse Johnson; 15. Colter Schuster; 16. Mary Ann Anderson, Thomas Houdek; 17. Nicki Brockopp, Rick Idland; 18. Verna Anderson; 20. Alexis Horner, Arlene Larson, Mercidez Lunn; 21. Jere Heide, Tom Kellogg, Cassidy Schulz; 22. Riley Miller, Braeden Schulz; 23. Leona McPherson; 24. Doreen Vangerud, Laurette Zachrison; 27. Jeremy Smith; 28. Deb Horner, Ethan Miller; 31. Devin Anderson, Debbie Eggert, Owen Houdek, Janie Larson.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES:

3. Mark & Sandy Brandvold; 17. Russ & Mabeth Kudrna; 20. Jeff & Jennifer Bergner; 24. Dave & Carol Smith; 25. Dan & Emily Thompson; 27. Jarin & Gina Thornton; 28. Ryan & Michelle Trzruc; 31. Rydell & Suzie Becker.

April Honorariums & Memorials

In honor of **Bonnie Smith's Birthday** given by Dave & Carol Smith (Undesignated).

In memory of Manuela Cruff given by Paulette Everson (Undesignated).

In memory of Georgia Manstrom given by Virgil & Tami Kratz (General Fund).

In memory of Ralph Metcalf given by Duane & Diana Larson (Undesignated) by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated).

April Service & Care

****Doug & Leona McPherson**

- Kevin & Barb Baasch
- Randy & Kay Bostrom
- Brent & Lynn Gustafson
- Deb Horner
- Nick & Ashley Horner
- Lance & Laney Jenison
- Doug & Becky Kratz
- Virgil & Tami Kratz
- Russ & Mabeth Kudrna
- Mike & Julie May
- Bonnie Schumacher
- Jeremy & Kara Wiebe

*Thank you for serving!

April Attendance

April 2 (Maundy Thursday)

129 52+ online

April 3 (Good Friday) 36

April 5 (Easter) 242/79 159+ online

April 12 98 66+ online

April 19 115 62+ online

April 26 107 52+ online

Offering

January \$20,643.00

February \$28,046.00

March \$22,464.00

April \$22,960.50

Needed monthly to meet Mission Plan:

\$24,295.67



MAY TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, May 20 at 5:15pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, May 13 at 12:00pm

Men's Group—Meets Sat, May 16 at 8:00am

Mission Team—Meets Tue, May 12 at 5:30pm

June Service & Care— Meets Sun, May 17 after worship & by emails texts/ phone



FLC Spring Rummage Sale Notice!

We're thrilled to announce a fun and meaningful way to support our church's general fund—our Spring Rummage Sale is coming soon! This special event is not only a great chance to find treasures and bargains, but also a wonderful opportunity to bring our church family and local community together.

Want to be part of the action? Here are a few ways you can get involved if you feel called to help. Stay tuned—**more details will be shared throughout May!** **Let's make this a joyful and successful event together!**

1. Mark the below dates & times on your calendar

Thursday, May 28—donations accepted at the church 8am-6pm

Friday, May 29—Rummage sale open 9am-5pm

Saturday, May 30—Rummage sale open 8am-1pm

2. Find items you'd like to donate

Please no televisions, microwaves or outdated infant carriers

Inspect all donations to ensure they are in good working condition and clean

All donations must be brought into the church, make arrangements for large/oversize items

PLEASE no early donation drop-offs, we don't have a dedicated storage space

3, Volunteer to help

Workers will re-arrange items, take money, greet customers and help this event run smoothly. Shifts are outlined and sign up sheets are on the table in gathering area.

We welcome all to participate!

4, Promotion & Marketing

Tell all your friends and family about the sale. Word of mouth, e-mail, Facebook, etc.

The more people who walk through the door, the more successful the event will be.

Watch the church bulletin and Friday e-mail for more details. Contact Nancy Sorensen with questions, 840-8388. Thanks for your support and help!



Easter Lilies—Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated or gave Easter Lilies to adorn our sanctuary for Easter:

Doug & Leona Mcpherson, Doug & Becky Kratz, Virgil & Tami Kratz, Pat Seiner, Glandt Family, Larry & Deloris Welken, Randy & Kay Bostrom Family, Jody Johnson, Bruce & Julie Moritz, Dean & Amy Pederson, Duane, Diana, & Brian Larson, Jack & Val Moritz, Cheryl Foell, Jan & Beth Oppegaard, Cheryl Peterson, Lance, Laney, Kael & Gabe Jenison, Diane Busche, Larry Pederson, Sara, Mark & Chris Neill, Larry, Brennan & Therin Pederson, Elaine Walls, Ron & LeeAnn Peterson.

Sunday School News

The last day of Sunday School for the 2025-2026 school year will be **Sunday, May 3rd!**

We will be honoring our Sunday School teachers on Sunday, May 3rd as well! Thank you to Angela Van Bruggen, Alyssa Wilmes, Abby Wilmes, Kylie Van Bruggen, Brenna Storly, Ashley Horner, and Jessica Johnson for volunteering their time to teach our kids all about Jesus!



Kids Club!

Wednesday, May 6th is the Last Day of Kids Club for the 2025-2026 school year! We will be heading out to Kent and Patty's for a bonfire and games!



Thank you for picking up trash around Valley City on Earth Day! You rock!

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.

Register at <https://form.jotform.com/240864442295057> or you can scan the QR Code with your cellphone. The link is also on our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Church and our website: www.faithlutheranvc.org



Register Below:



Register by Monday, May 18th!

Youth News

Confirmation Information

The last day of Confirmation will be on Wednesday, May 6th! We will be participating in the Crop Walk around Jefferson School. Please watch for more information soon.

If you haven't completed your confirmation requirements for the 2025-2026 school year please complete them over the summer so you can start new in the fall.



Senior Recognition Sunday

On **Sunday, May 17th** we will be honoring our Seniors (Class of 2026) at the church service. Please help us wish these amazing youth the best in their futures!

God bless you as you graduate Autumn Anderson, Brooklyn Botz, Madison Frieze, Mavrick Ludwig, Mazie Ludwig, Lauren May, Kaleb McClafin, Trey McPartland, Jack Samuelson, Faith Schmidt, Brenna Storly, Jacksyn Thornton, Abby Wilmes, Alyssa Wilmes! We have watched you grow into such amazing young adults and we wish you the best in the future!

Junior High Youth

On **Sunday, May 3rd** we will be heading to **Slick City** in Fargo! We will leave at 1pm from Faith. We will return around 5:30pm. Cost is \$25. We will slide for 90 minutes and grab a snack before heading home. Please watch the SPond app to sign up!



Vacation Bible School—Volunteers Needed

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.

Wendi will be looking for **7-12 grade youth** who are willing to help lead the kids around to their different stations!



VCHS Speech Team Showcase!

Our church has quite a few students in Speech at VCHS. On **Saturday, May 9 at 7pm** the Speech Team will hold its annual Showcase at VCHS Theatre. The team invites all community members to attend and enjoy the performances by the students. Admission is free, though free-will donations will be accepted! All proceeds will go toward National Tournament expenses and other team needs.

Come to the Showcase!

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*

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Mary's E-Mail: treasurer@faithlutheranvc.org
Wendi's E-Mail: wendi.wilmes@gmail.com
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