

# FAITH ON THE RISE

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072  
Volume XXVI Issue IV Monthly April 2024

The office will be closed .  
Monday, April 1 in  
observance of Easter.

## Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!



The Sunday School children processed in with palm branches, shared a Palm Sunday skit and sang two songs. They are awesome!

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## Holy Humor Sunday!

April 7th, the Second Sunday of Easter we will celebrate the joy we have in the risen Lord! Wear a silly, fun hat or brightly colored shirt or both! We will tell some jokes and sing Christmas tunes with Easter words. This has become an annual tradition here at Faith.

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

### The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Jesus takes a post resurrection stroll 'incognito' on the road to Emmaus. **Luke 24:13-35**





You are precious and honored in my sight. Isaiah 43:4

Easter is a symbol of new life and new birth as is the season of Spring. It may be a while before we see the trees budding and the birds singing this year. Spring brings with it new opportunities to be loved and to love others as Jesus did. If we look at the way Jesus loves, we see that his love was unconditional without partiality and full of compassion. Often, we are hardest on ourselves and on those closest to us. Jesus calls each of us *precious and honored in God's sight*. Too often we judge ourselves and others on preconceived ideas and expectations of how we *ought* to be and not like Jesus does as *precious and honored* gifts from God.

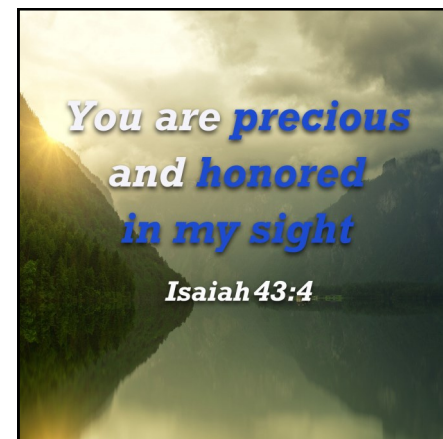
To love like Jesus is to give value to ourselves and others not for what we hope we could be but for exactly who we are today. By seeing ourselves as *precious and honored* we begin to grow in tolerance, compassion and love for those around us as well as for the whole of creation. Jesus modeled for us a love that was more than a feeling, but an action through his welcoming, accepting, healing, teaching, feeding, saving, forgiving, intervening and advocacy for all people.

Springtime offers us the challenge to begin anew. We can start by putting away old resentments, judgmental attitudes, unnecessary competition and petty complaining about others by looking instead at our neighbors with the eyes of Jesus, seeing people as *precious and honored* gifts from God.

I encourage you this Spring to put on an attitude that reflects the love of Jesus, leaving unrealistic expectations of ourselves and others based off the world's criteria to discover ways Jesus is transforming our minds to see all of creation as *precious and honored* gift you are to the world and to see others in the same light as fellow children of the Almighty.

Have a happy and blessed April,

Pastor Jamie



O Great Laughing God,

We come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised. We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight. These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth.

May we find that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing.

Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living.

Amen.

~from the United Church of Canada's Bay of Quinte Conference website. <http://www.bayoquinteconference.ca/>

# Youth News

## Confirmation Information for 7th-9th Graders

During the month of April, we will be at TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Parents, please be watching your emails to see how many sermon notes your child still needs to complete and if he or she needs to still do worship assistance.



**CROP HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



April 24th will be the **Crop Walk for Hunger** here in Valley City! Parents, please watch your emails for more information soon.



## Senior High Event

Wendi will be taking youth in 10th-12th grade to the **Mercy Me** concert in Fargo on **Thursday, April 11th!** We will leave from Faith at **5pm**. The concert is at **7pm**. Tickets for the concert are \$30. The deadline to sign up for this fun concert is **Monday, April 1st!**

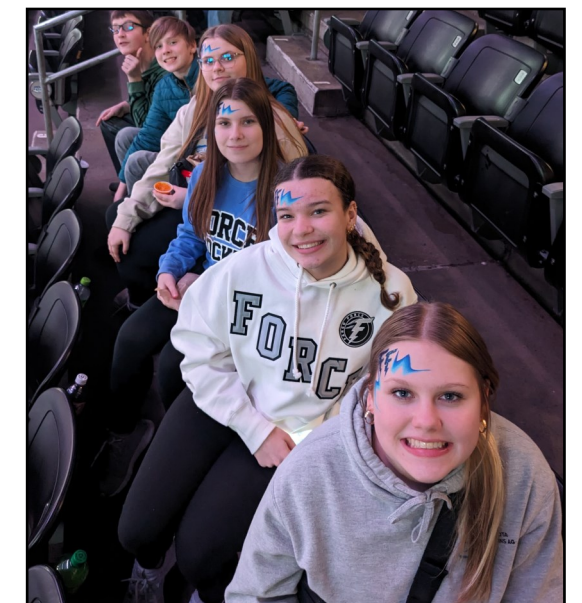
## Junior High Youth

Jr High Youth (7th-9th Graders) come to Faith Lutheran on **Friday, April 12th at 7pm** for a pizza and game night! We will play **Among Us**, **Amazing Race**, and other board games! Watch for a sign up genius soon.



## Fargo Force Game

These kids had a great time at the Fargo Force Hockey Game on Friday, March 22nd!



## Senior High Lunch

Senior High Lunch is on Mondays at Our Savior's! Wendi will be helping the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. The freshmen lunch is served at **11:15am** and the 10th-12th graders will be served at **12:10pm**.





## Sunday School!

After church, you can grab a treat with your family and then we start Sunday School at 10:45am and finish at 11:45am. Each week is a blast together with Jesus.

### Some Important Dates for Sunday School:

**\*Sunday, April 28—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

**\*Sunday, May 5—will be the last day of Sunday School until the fall!**

### Save the Date—Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School 2024: Hero Hotline will be held June 4-6, from 12:30-5pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. As always, registration is free because of the generous support of their congregation. We will be having VBS with Our Savior's Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran. It is a joy to learn and play together! Mark your calendars, and look for a registration link soon!



## Kids Club

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

### Schedule for April

**Wednesday, April 3—Kids Club at Faith**

**Wednesday, April 10—Kids Club at Faith**

**Wednesday, April 17—Early Dismissal Day** Kids filling eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt  
(Please see more info below)

**Wednesday, April 24—Service Project Day**

**\*LAST DAY OF KIDS CLUB WILL BE MAY 8!**



## Early Dismissal Day

**Wednesday, April 17** is another Early Dismissal Day for Valley City Public Schools! We will welcome kids that are in Kindergarten-6th grade to join us for an extra afternoon of fun!

If your child attends Jefferson School, you will be responsible for getting your child to Faith Lutheran Church after school. If your child attends Washington School, we will have transportation provided for them.

We will start our day at Faith by doing activities and a snack, and then we will head to the Wellness Center from about 2:45-5pm. Kids will be able to swim from 4-5pm, so please have your child bring a swimsuit and towel with them that day.

Parents will pick their child up at 5pm at the Wellness Center!

Parents, watch your emails to sign your child up for this fun afternoon!

## Message from Our Council President

Dear Faith Family,

I would like to start off by saying thank you to everyone that took time out of their busy schedules to help during Lenten Services this year. I know everyone is busy with all kinds of activities, so I really appreciate everyone that helped, whether it was helping with church services or preparing and serving meals. Thank you so much, if it wasn't for you Lenten Services would not be what they are.

The council would like everyone to know that the youth are going to start a social media account. Matt Brandvold is working with Abby and Alyssa Wilmes to get things figured out and launch the social media account. The council will keep everyone informed when it goes live. Thank you to Abby and Alyssa for all your hard work and ideas with this account.

The Synod approved the reduction of the council members from nine to seven. The constitutional changes have been made to reflect this change. Remember, this can be changed back to nine if the church elects to do so.

Please keep in mind to look at your Monthly Service & Care committee and see if the month you are in is really the best month for you. The church is having a hard time finding people for these jobs so please look at your month and if you would like to be moved to another because it fits your schedule better, please contact the church to make the change.

Mike May, Council President

## Faith Visitation Team

We celebrated birthdays for Marlys Freadhoff and Clara Bredeson in March. They share a birthday on March 19!



Rick and Audrey Bredeson hosted a party for Clara Bredeson's 92nd birthday.

Marlys Freadhoff had an early visit from the Easter bunny! Marlys' family hosted a luncheon for her and her Red Hat friends.





### First Communion Kids Paint Their Chalices

This year we welcomed 6 kids to the Lord's table to receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. God bless Drake Andrew Carlson, Odin Magnus Greenley, Della Elizabeth Heide, Owen Mark Johnson, Skylar Pamela Thornton, Emery Jane Wiebe.

To make their day a bit more special each child paints their own chalice. The kids and their parents went to Pederson Pottery to paint them. After they are painted the chalices are fired and glazed. Each one is uniquely their own. We thank Dennis & Gail Pederson for having the kids out to paint the chalices and for finishing them so they were ready for Maundy Thursday.



### Red Willow Bible Camp—2024 Summer Registration Open Scholarships Available



Red Willow Ministries, located near Binford, ND has officially opened registration for their amazing list of 2024 Bible Camps. Please scan the QR code below to visit their website, review camp details and register your child for a wonderful opportunity to grow in their faith and meet new friends. This year, Faith Lutheran is offering a limited number of \$150 scholarships for youth attending any 2024 Red Willow camps. Contact Julie in the office for a special scholarship code. If you have any additional questions about Red Willow registration, contact Erin Metcalf. Thanks!



**Special Note: July 7th is a "Seekers Day"** for kids entering grades K-6. It's a great way to introduce your child to Red Willow. This is a **FREE** activity and spots fill up fast so register today if you're interested!



### March Memorials



In memory of **Mike Brand** given by Lois Brandvold (Undesignated); by Paulette Everson (General Fund).

In memory of **Mavis Johnson** given by her family (Undesignated); by Lois Brandvold (Undesignated); by Paulette Everson (General Fund); by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Joe & Martee Lunde (Foundation).

In memory of **Grant Lebahn** given by Paulette Everson (General Fund).

In memory of **Jerome Miller** given by Lois Brandvold (Undesignated); by Paulette Everson (General Fund); by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated).

In memory of **Howard Opegard** given by Damon & Brenda Bong (Undesignated); by Randy & Kay Bostrom (Foundation); by Lois Brandvold; by Cheryl Foell (General Fund); by Mary Johnson (Foundation); by Linda Lane & Dennis Hoyer (Undesignated); by Virgil & Tami Kratz (General Fund); by Duane & Diana Larson (Foundation); by Margie Lima (Quilters); by Doug & Leona McPherson (General Fund); by Sue Milender (Undesignated); by John & Elise Miller (Foundation); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Karen Nitschke (Foundation); by Joan Noeske (General Fund); by Brenda Stearns (Undesignated); by Elaine Walls (Altar Guild).

In memory of **Connie Pederson** given by Dave & Jeanne Johnsen (Undesignated).

In memory of **Karen Pederson** given by Duane & Diana Larson (Undesignated).

In memory of **Marlys Peterson** given by Paulette Everson (General Fund).

In memory of **Don Pollert** given by Paulette Everson (General Fund).

In memory of **Randy Schober** given by Lois Brandvold (Undesignated).

In memory of **Jean Tabor** given by Paulette Everson (General Fund).

### Church Spring Cleaning Day!!



It's that time again to help out Mark and Sandy with some extra spring cleaning. We will hold the Spring Cleaning Day on Sunday, April 28th right after our church service so please wear your cleaning clothes to church that day. We will begin cleaning immediately after the service.

We will once again be moving pews and cleaning the sanctuary floor so if you have large fans to dry the floor, please bring them. Mark and Sandy will have a list ready for everyone to look at and pick their job. Pretty much just like last fall. Everyone worked so well together we were done in an hour and a half. Let's do it again! Oh, and did we mention, our church council will be serving lunch when we are done!

### APRIL TEAM MEETINGS

**Council**—Meets **Tue, April 9**  
at **5:15pm**

**FLC Staff**—Meets **Wed, April 10**  
at **1:30pm**

**Men's Group**—Meets **Sat, April 20** at **8am**



**Mission Team**—Meets **Tue, April 2** at **5:30pm**

**May Service & Care**— Meets **Sun, April 21**  
after worship & by emails texts/ phone

**WELCA**—Meets **Wed, April 10** at **3:30pm**



# APRIL



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

1. Nancy Bjerke, Lorianne Lima, Conner Mallette; 2. Hunter Briones, Tyler Kotta, Stacie Larson; 3. Jerry Moritz, Nancy Sorensen; 4. Kathy Burke, Marlys Kunze; 5. Bea Faust, Alec Storhoff; 6. Randy McClaffin, Willow Shape; 7. Matt Anderson, Blake Jewett, Nancy Knutson, Reneé Martin; 8. Gordon Reitan; 9. Adam Brandvold, Graysen Foell, Kylie Van Bruggen; 10. Bob Green, John Miller, Abbey Thornton; 11. Lara Mairs, Madison Trzpusc; 12. Riley Smith; 13. Josh Gilbertson, Leah Radke, Chase Tompt, Wendi Wilmes; 15. Brooke Bopp, Janel Richman. Kathy Schlotman; 16. Carter McKay; 17. Karla Ranisate, Krew Thoreson; 19. Stephanie Bopp; 20. Odin Greenley; 21. Kashton Anderson, Kelsey Schulz; 23. Andy Carlson, Jan Johnson, Danny Newton; 24. Samantha Nelson, Sydney Nelson; 25. Orlando Anderson; 26. Ben Bullinger, Jordan Lunn; 27. Dallas Gruebele, Hannah Johnson, Dean Klein, Jacksyn Thornton, Maya Van Bruggen, Elaine Walls; 28. Brianne Foell; Liam Greenley; 30. Jodee Ukestad.

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

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

## March Transitions

**DEATHS:** Our sympathies to Carol Oppegard and family and friends of **Howard Oppegard**. Howard died Wednesday, March 6, 2024. His funeral was held Wednesday, March 13, 2024 here at Faith with Pastor Jamie officiating.

## April Service & Care

\*\*John & Elise Miller

\*\*Tim & Nancy Ost

Greg & Karen Burchill

Val Bolstad

Miranda Erickson

Bob Green

Rick & Robin Idland

Jody Johnson

Dave & Carol Smith

Dan & Emily Thompson

Elaine Walls

Brian & Georgia Welken

\*Thank you for serving!

## March Attendance

March 3 109 98+ online views  
 March 6 (Lent) 119 97+ online views  
 March 10 114 98+ online views  
 March 13 (Lent) 56 81+online views  
 March 17 98 89+online views  
 March 20 (Lent) 62 57+ online views  
 March 24 132 98+ online views  
 Not Included  
 March 28 (Maundy Thursday)  
 March 29 (Good Friday)  
 March 31 (Easter Sunday)

\*online views are households watching

## Offering

January \$16,113.00

February \$22,023.00

March \$18,380.00

(March 28 & March 31 not included)

Needed monthly to meet Mission Plan:  
 \$22,752.25

## Celebration Cake Box Mission

The Mission Committee has a new Faith mission opportunity for April. We will be collecting for Celebration Cake Boxes!

A Celebration Cake Box includes the supplies to make a cake! Since not everyone may have oil or eggs on hand, a can of lemon-lime soda (7-up) will be the substitute. (It really works)! Sunday School students will be collecting candles and sprinkles to add to the fun! All will be included in a 9x13 disposable cake pan with cover.

When together we collect and provide these Celebration Cake Kits, someone can have a birthday cake, celebrate a special family time or a great school conference or report card; just think of the happiness you will be spreading in the Valley City neighborhood!



If you would like to contribute one or some items to this mission, here are supplies needed:

- \*Cake Mix
- \*12oz can lemon-lime type soda (7-up or similar)
- \*Can of ready to use frosting
- \*Candles
- \*Sprinkles

(Mission committee is providing cake pans)

We will have a collection box available in the gathering area for your contributions.

At the end of April, we will put together and provide to the Barnes County Food Pantry. If we get more than they can handle, we may find other places to share the abundance!

Thank you!

Mission committee



## Handbell Choir

An **organizational meeting** for **handbell choir** will be held following the church service on **Sunday, April 7**.

If you have any questions, call or text Val at 840-1652.

## Ladies Craft Day—Saturday, April 6

Enjoy a day of crafting, fellowship and fun! Saturday, April 6 we will have a craft day beginning at 9am here at Faith Lutheran. Bring your own craft project. Bring a friend. Stay all day or for a few hours. Bring a lunch or order in. Contact Julie May @ 490-1143 with questions.



## Valley City Community Closet

The Community Closet is in need of new socks, underwear, and personal items. Male adults is the most needed but items for all ages, both men and women are welcome. We will collect items through the month of April. A donation box will be located in the gathering area.





## WELCA News



Women  
of the  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA

WELCA met Wednesday, March 13 at Faith Lutheran Church. I want to thank those of you who have donated to the Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. We will be putting them together and packing them with the Kids Club on Wednesday, April 10.

We ordered 30 new sets of salt and pepper shakers that will be easier and more convenient to wash and fill.

Election of officers was held. The new officers are:

President: Carol Smith

Vice-President: Cheryl Foell

Secretary: Val Moritz

Treasurer : Leona McPherson

Installation will be April 10.

I want to thank my Board for all the wonderful support I have received as President. They have made my job much easier. I have also appreciated the support from our Congregation. We have a generous and giving Faith family, always willing to donate and help out, Thank you.

I am looking forward to the WELCA Spring Roundup, Saturday, April 20, at Riverbend Farm. We have several attending from Faith. If anyone would like to sign up to go, I am sure they will accept late RSVPs. You can email [jbhuso@hotmail.com](mailto:jbhuso@hotmail.com).

I encourage you to read the thank you's posted on the small bulletin board above the water fountain in the gathering area. They are from some of the recipients of the monies raised at the Fall Festival. It is very heartwarming to hear about the good things that are happening because of our collective talents and donations. Once again thank you for all the support given to the Fall Festival.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 10 at 3:30pm.

Happy Spring,  
Cheryl Foell

## Noisy Offering—Crop Walk for Hunger

We will be receiving a noisy offering on **Sunday, April 21**. The offering received will be going to Crop Walk for Hunger. This is an annual community event with the funds raised helping fight hunger and food needs locally and globally. The kids will come around during the Children's Word with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills.



In March we received **\$255.93** for the Barnes County Ministerial Fund! Thank you for your generous giving.

## Mission Committee News

Mission Committee met on March 5, 2024, and reviewed the Lenten supper served in February. We had a roaster left over of our chili that was frozen and served the following week by the council. We reviewed the information for our new mission to provide Celebration Cake boxes to the food pantry and we will be collecting for those during the month of April. Details on that mission opportunity are in the article on page 5 in this newsletter.



**CROPWALK:** On March 12 Elise attended the organizational meeting for the Crop Walk for this year. It will again be the Jefferson Mile, held at Jefferson School on **Wednesday, April 24 at 7pm** with registration just prior to 7pm.

As you walk the mile, there will be music, fruit, and water to make it a fun time for all. Also, there will be educational tables with information about hunger and food needs both locally and globally that bring awareness to our hearts. As a community when we share that mile walk and information, we can prayerfully consider what more we can do to help. Watch for posters and bulletin inserts in April. Mission committee will be available after church services on April 14 and 21 for any questions and to accept donations if you are not able to walk and would like to give a donation to our walkers. Donations received on our Crop Walk are used locally and globally and details will be coming in future bulletin information so watch for that in April.

Again, we extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join our Mission Committee to come to the first Tuesday, April 2 meeting at 5:30pm at the church or next month's meeting on May 7 at 5:30pm.

## Men's Group News

Faith Lutheran Men's Group did it again! We held our 2nd (hopefully annual) French Toast & Sausage Brunch.

This event turned out to be very successful and we were able to raise funds to give to our Church Treasury!

Thanks go out to Mike May, Mark Brandvold, and Joe Lunde for being in charge of this fundraiser. Also Thanks to Al



Sorensen and Greg Burchill for doing some of the preliminary work, along with special thanks to the guys from Men's Group for all of the wonderful help to put on the Brunch! Special Thanks to Julie in the office for her assistance once again. Once again this Brunch wouldn't be successful if it weren't for the support of our members from Faith and members from our neighboring congregations.

We invite any of the men from Faith Lutheran to come and join us at our Breakfast meetings and/or our Pancake Brunch. Our next meeting will be on Saturday morning April 20th at 8am and our next Pancake Brunch Fundraiser will be on Sunday, May 19th. Come and join us for 'Food, Fun & Fellowship.' We would Love to see you at either or both.