

FAITH ON THE RISE

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072
 Volume XXV Issue V Monthly May 2023

"Rejoice! The Lord is near." *Philippians 4:5*

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Faith Lutheran Church
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The office will be closed
 Monday, May 29 in
 observance of Memorial
 Day.

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First Communion Received Maundy Thursday

We welcomed 13 children to the communion table to receive their First Communion during the Maundy Thursday service on April 6th. God bless these youth as they have made this milestone and grow in their faith in Christ Jesus.



Pictured: (back row, l-r) Hadley Rischmiller, Drew Kohler, Max Rischmiller, Brooke Bopp, Carter Bopp, Kenzington Pilgrim, Pastor Jamie; (front row, l-r) Braeden Schulz, Jack Altringer, Carter McKay, Harper Van Bruggen, Christian Pilgrim. Not pictured: Ivory Erickson, Anna Metcalf.

We Welcome You to Join Us for Worship!

Sunday, May 7—We will recognize our **Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation Guides** during worship for their dedication and commitment to our children and youth.

Sunday, May 14—**Happy Mother's Day!** Our Sunday School kids will be singing during the worship service. We will bless our **Graduating High School Seniors** and they will each receive a quilt from our quilters and our congregation.

Sunday, May 21—**Men's Group Pancake Brunch!** They will be serving pancakes, sausage, fried potatoes, applesauce, milk, juice and coffee from **9:30am-12:30pm**. This is a freewill offering fundraiser. To-go containers will be available.





And they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers. Acts 2:42

In these days of the breakdown of community and political polarization, we are asking ourselves, "What does it mean to BE the Church"? In an attempt to understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus today; we turn back to the Book of Acts where it all started with the first Christians and what defined them as a community.

The first century Christians had four essential practices that defined them as the newly formed Christian community: 1) Apostles' teachings 2) Fellowship 3) Breaking of bread 4) Prayer. In a culture where we are surrounded by people who do not necessarily believe the same things as we do, it is crucial that we understand what we believe. Therefore, as the first followers of Jesus did, we too devote ourselves to the teachings of the apostles.

Fellowship. Christianity is not an individual religion, we are called *The Body of Christ*. During COVID we experienced what it was like to be separated from each other and we are still dealing with gathering back together in person without the fear of being in contact with one another. To be *The Church* however we need to be with each other.

Breaking of Bread, in the breaking of the bread we commune together with God through worship which is vital in these times of confusion. Together we: *Receive the Body of Christ, the Forgiveness of Sins, Proclaim the Lord's Death until He Comes Again and Remember Jesus.*

Prayer, in praying together we; Give ourselves to God, Receive God fully, Praise God, Plead for Mercy and Justice and Listen to God's Voice in our Lives.

It's time as a Church that we recover a sense of faith in God and realize that faith is more than just an intellectual assent to believing what's right. The time is urgent to gather together in Christ-like community remembering what it means to be followers of Jesus in this day and age. Christ is calling us to be the community that he intended us to be by devoting ourselves to the apostle's teachings, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.

Let us join together in our Faith community to break down the barriers that divide us forming a community that models that of the first followers of Jesus so that the world might know us by our love.

Happy May and God bless and keep you,

Pastor Jamie

They were continually devoting themselves to.....

- the apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer

Acts 2:42

knowing-jesus.com

Youth News

Confirmation Information for 7th-9th Graders

Last day of Confirmation for the 2022-2023 school year is **Wednesday, May 7th!**

We will be meeting up at Jefferson School to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk. Parents please watch your emails for more information about this event.



Boundary Waters Trip

Scott Tichy and John Samuelson are leading a Boundary Waters trip for kids in 7th-12th grade! This year's adventure will be **July 25-31**. Cost for the trip will be \$160 person. Please contact Scott Tichy at 840-8561 or John Samuelson at 490-2888 if you are interested in participating!



Thank You Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation Guides!

We are thankful for this dedicated group of adults and youth who have given their time and commitment to support our children and youth and to teach them God's Word. They will be recognized on **Sunday, May 7th** during worship.

Thank you Sunday School Teachers: Jessica Jenrich, Amanda Pilgrim, Brenda Rohde, Angela Van Bruggen, Ellie Altringer, Audrey Jacobson, Cassidy Schulz, Abby Wilmes, Alyssa Wilmes, Kylie Van Bruggen. Thank you Patty Gronlie, Julie May, Tyler Van Bruggen for your commitment to our confirmation students as we learn together with Our Savior's and Trinity Lutheran Churches. A special Thank you to Wendi Wilmes for all she does with our Sunday School kids, Faith Kids Club, Confirmation students, Jr/Sr High Youth and Events at Faith. She is such a blessing to our congregation. We are thankful for her planning, organizational skills and all the extras she does!

Vacation Bible School - June 28-30!

Once again, we will be partnering with Our Savior's and Trinity to offer VBS through Red Willow June 28-June 30 this summer!

If your child will be going into 1st grade-6th grade this coming school year, VBS will run from 9am-3pm June 28 and 29. If your child will be going into PreK or Kindergarten, VBS will run from 9-11:30am on June 28 and 29. All groups will meet from 9am-11:30am on June 30, with a program starting at noon. Parents should have received an email from Wendi with the info and the registration sheet. There are also some registration forms on the table by Julie's office.



Registration forms are due back to Wendi by **Sunday, May 7th!**



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, May 14th we will be singing in church!**

***Sunday, May 14th will be our last day of Sunday School for the 2022-2023 school year!**



Palm Sunday the Sunday School kids processed in with palms waving and then sang with joy for the congregation "Hosanna Rock."

Faith 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 once a month we go do a service project around the community. The kids are picked up with the church van from Washington School and parents then pick them up from Faith. Please contact Wendi to sign up if you haven't done so yet!

May 3—at Faith May 10—at Legacy Place
May 17—Last Day of Kids Club for the 2022-2023 school year! (Extra Fun Day!)



Early Dismissal Day—Fun and Games for K-6th Graders at Trinity

A Message from Our Council President

Welcome to May! Summer is right around the corner, hopefully, and our rummage sale is coming up fast! Be sure to save your spring cleaning items to bring in on Thursday, May 18th!

The Men's Group French toast feed and WELCA bake sale had a great turn out and raised \$1,960.91 and \$1,304.50 respectively for a total of \$3,265.41. Thank you to everyone that helped and contributed.

I have see lots of new faces in church over the last month and the pews have been full. I continue to encourage everyone to invite new members and visitors in and reach out to those we have been missing.

God Bless!
Justin Foell, Council President



Holy Humor Sunday Highlights!

Holy Humor was a day full of laughter and joy as we celebrated the joy we have in the risen Lord! We began worship with beachballs tossed about. We celebrated the baptism of Jackson Larson. The Sunday School children sang with gusto "Father Abraham" and "J-E-S-U-S". A Noisy Offering was collected for the VCPS Lunch Program. We sang joyful Christmas tunes with Easter words. This was all during worship!



We also had our fundraiser for Faith's General Fund. The Men's Group had a French toast feed and WELCA had a bake sale. What could be better than breakfast and fresh baked goods? Everyone had a great time and were very generous! God is Good All the Time! All the Time God is Good!



RENEWING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EARTH

Since, hopefully, spring has arrived Cheryl Foell would like to share this Daily Grace devotion from the WELCA's website:

We know about the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. But "reduce" can no longer be where our efforts begin. I invite us all to Rethink, Revisit and Refuse.

We must "rethink" our overly affluent consumer lifestyle. Rethink how we mass-manufacture and mass-produce. Rethink our purchases by considering the product's origin and packaging.

Then, "revisit" our values, our beliefs, and what it is that we truly need. As Luke 12:15 reminds us, we'd "take care [and be on] guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Most powerful, we'd "refuse" - refuse to be an uneducated participant in a dominate consumer culture that mounts millions of landfills. We'd refuse to squeeze nature out just so we can have a larger home, a closer parking lot, an additional tennis court or the most beautiful golf course.

Rethink. Revisit. Refuse. Then Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Let's renew our relationship with God's earth.

This message is excerpted from "Pray for me. Pray for the earth." by Venice Williams in the September/October 2022 Gather magazine. Today is Earth Day (April 22).

Special note: The Daily Grace app will soon be retired. To avoid interruption, those who read Daily Grace in the app are encouraged to subscribe to receive Daily Grace via email.



Library Assistant Needed

We would like to have a volunteer or two who would like to spend some time sorting and placing the books we have received onto the book shelves. The books will need to be categorized and marked. Please let Julie in the office know if you are interested. You would be able to do this when it works with your schedule. Once the books that haven't been placed on the shelves yet are in place it would be more of an upkeep situation.

The library is in the fireside room. We do have a nice selection of books in our library for people to check out. We have books for children as well as adults.



FLC Spring Rummage Sale Notice!



Our Spring church rummage sale is almost here! If you feel called to participate, below are a few ways you can help. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be placed into the FLC General Fund. Thanks for your time, talents, treasures, and prayers! Contact Erin Metcalf with questions.

1. Donate your stuff!

- Donations accepted **Thursday, May 18th—8am-5pm**
- Inspect all donations to ensure they are in good working condition and clean
- Please no televisions, microwaves or outdated infant carriers
- All donations must be brought into the church, make arrangements for large/oversize items
- **PLEASE** no early donation drop-offs as we don't have storage space

2. Volunteer

- There will be a volunteer sign up sheet at the church. You can fill it out in person or contact Erin Metcalf, 701-840-8957, to fill a spot or two.
 - **Thursday, May 18th**—Donations accepted 8am-5pm
 - **Friday, May 19th**—Rummage sale open 9am-5pm
 - **Saturday, May 20th**—Rummage sale open 9am-3pm
 - **Sunday, May 21st**—Rummage sale open 9am-Noon

3. Promotion & Marketing

- Tell all your friends and family about the sale. Word of mouth, e-mail, social media, etc. The more people who walk through the door, the more successful the event will be.



May Memorials

In memory of **Phyllis Machtell** given by Al & Nancy Sorensen (General Fund).

In memory of **Judy Peterson** given by Dave & Carol Smith (Undesignated).

In memory of **Gladys Stevens** given by Dean & Amy Pederson (General Fund).

In memory of **Richard Wahl** given by Margie Lima (General Fund); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated).

APRIL TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets **Tue, May 9**
at 5:30pm

FLC Staff—Meets **Wed, May 10**
& **Wed, May 24** at 1:30pm



Team Meetings

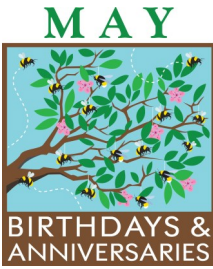
Men's Group—Meets **Sat, May 20** at 8:00am

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

May Service & Care— Meets **Sun, May 21**

after worship and through emails/texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets **Wed, May 10** at 3:30pm



MAY BIRTHDAYS:

1. Karen Nitschke, Harper Van Bruggen;
2. Mark Brandvold, Mark Hill, Kellie Schulz;
3. Erin Metcalf, Wade Sorensen;
4. Sam Carlson, Darlene Friestad, Nick LeMier;
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;
10. Michael Pedersen;
11. Rodger Johnson, Tricia Mikkelsen;
12. Randy Bostrom, Jacob Johnson, Connie Ronholm;
14. Jan Arneson, Jesse Johnson;
15. Morgen Saylor;
16. Mary Ann Anderson;
17. Nicki Brockopp, Rick Idland;
18. Verna Anderson;
19. Sheila Kinney;
20. Alexis Horner, Arlene Larson, Mercidez Lunn;
21. Tom Kellogg, Kassidy Schulz;
22. Riley Miller, Braeden Schulz;
23. Leona McPherson, Nancy Ost;
24. Doreen Vangerud, Laurette Zachrison;
26. Lexi Thoreson;
27. Jeremy Smith, Wayne Thoreson;
28. Deb Horner, Ethan Miller;
31. Devin Anderson, Austen Dahl, Wayne Eggert, Janie Larson.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

3. Mark & Sandy Brandvold;
20. Jeff & Jennifer Bergner;
24. Dave & Carol Smith;
27. Jarin & Gina Thornton;
31. Rydell & Suzy Becker.

April Transitions in Our Parish

BAPTISMS: We celebrated God’s promise in Holy Baptism for Jackson Jay Larson, born June 27, 2022 and baptized on Sunday, April 16, 2023. His parents are Brandon & Nicole & big sister is Ellie. God bless Jackson and his family.

We celebrated God’s promise in Holy Baptism for Asher Thomas Altringer, born June 22, 2021 and baptized on Sunday, April 30, 2023. His mother is Carly Larson & siblings are Kinley, Emmy & Oakley.

Dear Faith Family—
Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, texts, and cards I received during and after my surgery. My family and I appreciated it all.

God’s blessing to all of you
Mary Johnson and family



May Service & Care

****Doug & Leona McPherson**

- Alice Bergan
- Randy & Kay Bostrom
- Brent & Lynn Gustafson
- Deb Horner
- Nick & Ashley Horner
- Lance & Elaine Jenison
- Doug & Becky Kratz
- Virgil & Tami Kratz
- Mike & Julie May
- Bonnie Schumacher
- Jeremy & Kara Wiebe

*Thank you for serving!

April Attendance

April 2 (Palm Sunday)	151	
		88+online views
April 6 (Maundy Thursday)	135	
		77+ online views
April 7 (Good Friday)	28	
April 9 (Easter)	262	198+ online views
April 16	142	87+online views
April 23	128	95+online views
April 30 (not included)		

*online views are households watching

Offering

January	\$18,442.00
February	\$15,343.00
March	\$22,544.00
April	\$22,570.00
(April 30 not included)	

Needed monthly to meet Mission Plan:
\$21,265.25



The Valley Troubadours
Spring 2023 Concert
“Let the Men Sing” will be
Sunday, May 7 at 7pm at
VCSU Center for the Arts.

Free admission—Freewill offering.

Men’s Group News

Faith Lutheran’s Men’s Group was asked if we would sponsor an extra Pancake Brunch to help raise funds for our Church. We decided that instead of doing a back to back Pancake Brunch, we would do a French Toast Brunch on April 16th. This turned out to be a very successful fundraiser for our Church and much fellowship, fun and laughter was shared by all. Thanks to Mark Brandvold and Joe Lunde for being in charge of this event and Thanks to all of our Men’s Group members for all of the work put in to make this Brunch so successful. Also special Thank to Julie Moritz in the office, Tami Kratz our unofficial photographer and Diane Sommerfeld for volunteering to the Laundry. Also Thank You to all who support us by donating and enjoying the meal.



Pictured: (Back row, l-r) Mark Brandvold, Virgil Kratz, Chuck Shape, Larry Saylor, Greg Burchill, Gary Sommerfeld, Mike May; (Middle row, l-r) Doug Kratz, Matt Brandvold, Duane Larson, Al Sorensen, Randy Bostrom, Larry H. Saylor; (Front row) Joe Lunde.

Not pictured: Bob Green, Jake Rohde.

Next up will be our **Pancake Brunch on Sunday, May 21st.** We invite you to enjoy a delicious Brunch and great fellowship! We will be serving **9:30am-12:30pm.** This will be a freewill offering fundraiser. We will be serving Pancakes, Fried Potatoes, Sausage, Apple Sauce, Milk, Juice & Coffee. We will also have To-Go Containers available.



We will have our regular Men’s Group Breakfast meeting on **Saturday, May 20th** where we will do the preparations for the Brunch. We invite any of the Men from Faith Lutheran to come and join us for this meeting and/or the Pancake Brunch. We are a very low key group but we like to have Fun and share good Fellowship. Our motto is ‘Food, Fun, Fellowship’. May GOD Bless all of you!



WELCA News

The WELCA Board met on Wednesday, April 12. We put together 42 Personal Care Kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief in May. Thank you to the Kids Club for helping put the kits together. Thank you to all of you who donated items.

Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA



Our Bake Sale on April 16th was a huge success. We were able to give over \$1,300 to Faith's General Fund. Once again, thank you to all who donated baked items. We are fortunate to have such a giving congregation that always pulls together. Thank you to the Men's Group for a delicious breakfast. I loved the sausage patties and heard many positive remarks about them—way to go guys!!

We are finishing up plans for the Spring Luncheon which will be history when you read this as it is April 29. We are proud to show off our Faith Family talent with Kylie Van Bruggen presenting on her trip to the Netherlands and Brenda & Alex Rohde entertaining us with their beautiful voices.

Upcoming Dates:

May 6—Jamestown Cluster Meeting **9am-1:30pm** at Medina English Church, Medina, ND

September 21-24—Triennial WELCA Convention, Phoenix, AZ

The next WELCA board meeting will be **Wednesday, May 10 at 3:30pm.**

Think Spring,
Cheryl Foell, WELCA president

Coffee Party at the Legacy Place!

The Faith Lutheran Visitation Team is hosting a coffee party at the Legacy Place on **Thursday, May 18th, at 2:30pm.** We're hopeful that we can bring our members who reside at Bridgeview Estates and the Rudolph Square to the Legacy Place that day, also. Please feel free to join us and enjoy the fellowship.



Mission Team News

The Mission Team meeting was April 11, a week later due to another April snowstorm but that was not the last we survived in April.



CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 3** and will again be the Jefferson Mile Walk.

All Walkers are welcome to join us on **Wednesday, May 3 about 6:45pm** at Jefferson School to register and begin the Jefferson Mile walk at **7pm.**

Information has been included in the Sunday bulletins and weekly emails. Donations can be made Sunday, April 30 at Faith and the CROP Hunger Walk. Mission Team will have a Table at the CROP walk and will be on the corner across from the Dairy Queen so be sure and stop as you walk by.

During the month of May, we will be collecting **disposable diapers and wipes**, so watch for the port-a-crib by our Mission Closet doors and drop off your donation. All sizes of baby disposable diapers/pullups and wipes are needed and will be donated to community agencies at the end of May.



Coming up we will be attending the meeting for the **summer lunch program** for kids and families for food groceries. Watch for more information to help meet community hunger during the summer when kids are home from school. We all know how those food needs increase for families during the summer months.

Later in the summer, as we start thinking back to school, we plan to again collect **school supplies** for students at the Elementary Public Schools during July and August.

The Mission Team's next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 3** at 5:30pm.

New members are always welcome!

Faith Mission Team

Noisy Offering—Barnes County Food Pantry



We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, May 21. The offering received will be going to the Barnes County Food Pantry to coincide with CROP Walk. The kids will come around during the Children's Message with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills.

In April we received \$242.30 for the VCPS Lunch Program!
Your generosity makes a difference in people's lives. Thank you!