

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
November 28 & 29
in observance of
Christmas.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pages 2 & 3

A Word from the Pastor
Annual Meeting

Page 3

Message from Council
President

2025 Offering Envelopes

Page 4

Community Closet
Valley Troubadours
"Sounds of the Season"
Salvation Army Bells
Christmas Eve Dinner

Page 5

Thanksgiving Baskets
2025 Daily Texts

Page 6

WELCA News
Noisy Offering
December Meetings

Page 7

Mission Team News

Page 8

December Birthdays
& Anniversaries
November Transitions
December Service & Care

Page 9

Windy Rohwedder Bday
Celebration of Life Tree
Poinsettias
November Memorials

Page 10

Sunday School News
SS Christmas Program
Kids Club

Page 11

Confirmation Info
Senior High Youth Group

Page 12

Staff Info

Inserts

Calendar/November Pics

Sunday School Christmas Program

Our Preschool-6th Grade Christmas Program, "*Campfire Carols*" will be **Sunday, December 15** during the **9:30am Worship Service!** We hope you will be able to attend to watch how amazing the kids are at sharing the Christmas story and singing Christmas Carols!



We will have our **Potluck Dinner** after the Christmas Program at approximately **11:00am**. Bring a dish to share and enjoy fellowship together!



Christmas Eve Worship Service



The Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service will be at 4pm on Tuesday, December 24th. This special candlelight service will include special music, favorite hymns, a meaningful message and Holy Communion. The service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Valley City and will also be on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/vcfaithlutheran.

Let us join together to rejoice in the Good News of Jesus Christ!

*Wishing Everyone a Blessed Christmas!
May you be filled with the joy of the love
of Christ Jesus in your heart and may
He shine through you to others!*



Welcome to the season of Advent. This is the month where we prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ who enters the world in the form of a baby.

This year I will attempt to shape our Advent season with patient and joyful expectation for Christmas. Advent in Latin means *arrival*. And so we expectantly wait not with apathy, boredom or despair but rather knowing something significant is about to happen that will give us hope.

We begin Advent on Sunday, December First. Each week I will feature a different character from the nativity. I will begin with Mary the mother of Jesus who waited nine months for her child to be born. Mary demonstrated what happens inside a person when space is created for something special. Each Sunday we will light a candle following the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Waiting allows our hearts to yearn to be formed by these themes.

This season of Advent proclaims the beginning of something new in our world and in our own lives. Hope comes out of the darkness of a broken world to the light which comes to us in the person of Jesus. Let us allow God to work in us this Advent season as we expectantly wait for God to complete in us what has begun.

As you do your preparations and planning for Christmas, take some time to center on the sacredness of the season for there is something waiting for you in the waiting. Advent shields us from the hurried and demanding winds of life trying to blow out the flame of Christ within us. We are waiting for the light of the world that has called us to be a city on a hill. Let us wait together for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Featured Character from the Nativity

December 1—Mary

December 8—Joseph

December 15—Nativity

December 22—Gabriel

December 24—Christ Child

Happy Advent

Pastor Jamie



Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 26, 2025

The annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th at 10:45am in the sanctuary. There will need to be a quorum of 40 active confirmed members present to conduct business. More information will be in the January newsletter. The Annual Reports will be available to pick up from the church by January 16, 2025.



ANNUAL MEETING

For any committee member that is to write a report for the annual report please have it to Julie no later than January 6, 2025. Thank you!

Message from Our Council President

Dear Faith Family,

I thought I would give a little update to everyone about what was discussed at the November council meeting.

The council is working on the 2025 Mission Plan (budget) and should have the final draft completed hopefully by the next council meeting. There has been a lot of discussion on several items that has take time to resolve. We hope to have everything care of at the December meeting.

The Nominating Committee met with the Council to visit about the Audit, Nominating, Council, Cemetery, and Foundation Committees. The Nominating Committee has done an outstanding job looking for people that are willing to step into the committees. They do have names for all the committees, but you still can nominate at the annual meeting. Names will be presented for voting at the Annual Meeting on January 26th.

The last item that we discussed is a Snow/Storm plan for Sunday Worship. It was decided that the Pastor and Council President will communicate and decide if worship will be heled on Storm/Snow days. Communication will be sent to the congregation and community via Facebook page (Faith Lutheran Valley City), Newsdakota Radio, and Social Media Outlets as soon as possible.

Don't forget about the Sunday School Christmas Program. It's scheduled for December 15 during the 9:30am worship service. Potluck dinner to follow so bring something to share and enjoy time together.

Just a little update on the organ. We are waiting to see how to tie the organ into our sound system so all the people that stream the services will be able to hear it. I have not heard anything more on this but will keep everyone posted on what we find out.

The 2025 Annual Meeting for the church is scheduled for January 26, 2025. Please mark this date on your calendars. We would like everyone to be there if possible.

Stay Safe and God Bless.

Mike May, Council President



2025 Offering Envelopes

The office will be preparing the 2025 offering envelopes for households to pick up. If you do not use the offering envelopes or would like to have offering envelopes, please let the office know as soon as possible. The envelopes will be available by December 24th so you have them to use on January 5, 2025.

Thank you to all you who have set up online giving. This is a simple way to give to the church even when you are unable to attend in person. To set up online giving go to our website:

www.faithlutheranvc.org and click on the give online button on the upper right side.

Then follow the prompts. If you scan the QR code with your QR Reader on your phone **it will also take you to our website's online giving. A reminder: your contributions are recorded whether you use an envelope, place a check in the offering plate, drop it by the office, mail it or give online. Thank you for your generous, faithful giving!**



Community Closet—December 16

The next opening for the Community Closet will be Monday, December 16, 5-7pm. Volunteers for set up are needed on Sunday, December 15, 6-8pm and also from 7-8pm on Monday, December 16. The Community Closet is open to all **and provided free clothing.** The location is in the basement of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Current donation needs are boots, snowpants, hats and gloves.



The Valley Troubadours 2024 Annual Christmas Concerts



Enjoy the Valley Troubadours in concert this holiday season. This is a talented men's choir that has been sharing their music with us for many years now. It is directed by Maestro John Monilaws and accompanied by our own Cyndi Hill ©. Free Admission—Freewill offering taken. Facilities are handicapped accessible. Schedule: Friday, December 8—4pm, Larry J. Robinson Center for the Arts Building; Monday, December 16—7pm, Barnes County Courthouse also Valley Voices; Tuesday, December 17—6:30pm, SMP Health-St. Raphael.

18th Annual "Sounds of the Season" Brown Bagger Series

Enjoy the "Sounds of the Season" Christmas Holiday music at Our Savior's the Wednesdays in Advent beginning on December 4, from 12:10-12:50pm in the church sanctuary. During this busy month, take time each week to relax over your Wednesday lunch hour. This year the programs will be streamed on Our Savior's Facebook page: Our Savior's Lutheran Valley City, ND, so you can listen from your workplace or home if can't get to the church. Many thanks to Judy Karch for organizing this concert series. Featured performers will be Judy Karch (December 4), Faye Bubach (December 11) and Beth Quick Berge (December 18). So bring your lunch or just come to listen to the music of the holiday season and enjoy provided refreshments. The public is welcome to attend.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing



It's time to spread some Christmas cheer and ring the bells for the Salvation Army! The kettles will be set up at Leavers Foods and Petro Serve USA at the top of the 8th Ave SW hill. Bell ringers are needed for shifts (1 hour each) Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm, through Tuesday, December 24 at 2pm. If you are interested in ringing the bell, please contact Naomi at 701-541-1418 or Lenora at 840-1357 to sign up.

52nd Annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner

St. Catherine's Church Dining Hall—December 24, 5:30-7pm.

For those who will be alone this Christmas, come celebrate Jesus' birthday with other members of our community. Desserts are welcome, No salads please. Financial donations appreciated. If you need transportation: Call 845-0354 by 3pm on Monday, December 23. Sorry—No deliveries except for the love of Jesus to one another!!



Community Thanksgiving Baskets Thank You

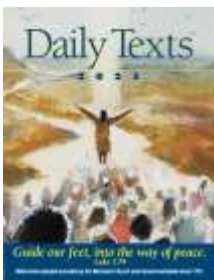
A BIG THANK YOU to volunteers and donors who helped make our 2024 community Thanksgiving basket project a success! Individuals from Faith Lutheran, Our Savior's Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran churches came together for two nights to pack 125 Thanksgiving boxes, make home deliveries and load cars for pick-up. What a wonderful mission to share with other local ELCA congregations. We received so much appreciation and gratitude from recipients. It really reinforces the purpose and need for this project. Thanks again for your time, talents, treasures, thoughts and prayers. **This event wouldn't be possible without all of you.**

Hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving! God Bless!

- The 2024 Thanksgiving Basket Committee
(Krista Johnson, Mary Rausch, Brenda Rohde,
Erin Metcalf)



2025 Daily Texts Are Here!



The 2025 Daily Texts have arrived! The cost of each book will be \$12.50. If you are interested in purchasing the Daily Texts, they are on the gathering area table. If you would like to purchase the Daily Texts directly you may go to their website: www.groundupgrace.com. **This is the book the Faith's Friendly Friday Note devotion is found.**

You may go to the GroupUpGrace.com/podcasts to listen to their podcasts.

Contact Information

Please let the office know if you have moved or have new phone numbers. We try to keep our system up to date as much as we can. Also if a birthday or anniversary is wrong please let Julie know so she can correct that.



WELCA News

WELCA ladies met on Wednesday, November 13 at Faith Lutheran Church.

November is the month we disperse the monies we made at the Fall Festival. Almost \$7,000 was collected and given out to many causes and charities. Most of our donations stay local. We were able to keep the donations pretty much the same as last year.

We discussed how we could change thanks for next year's bazaar. We had good suggestions and will implement them next year. There is always room for improvement.

Some items were purchased for the quilters and the kitchen. A small vacuum was purchased for the quilting ladies. A new step ladder was purchased for the kitchen. Two new white tables were purchased to be used for the fall bazaar.

On Sunday, November 24 after coffee we decorated the church for Christmas. December 1 is the First Sunday of Advent.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 11 at 3:30pm in the Fireside Room. All women of Faith Lutheran are welcome to join us.

Sincerely,
Carol Smith, WELCA President



Noisy Offering—Mission Christmas Fund

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, December 15. The offering received will be going to the Mission Christmas Fund. The kids will come around during the Children's Word with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills. In November \$345.31 for the Thanksgiving Baskets was received for the noisy offering! Thank you for your generous giving!

DECEMBER TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets Wed, Dec. 11
at 5:30pm

Endowment Foundation—
Meets Tue. Dec 3 at 5:15pm

FLC Staff—Meets Wed, Dec. 4 at 1:30pm
& Wed, Dec. 18 at 1:30pm



Men's Group—Meets Sat, Dec 14 at 8am

Mission Team—Meets Tue, Dec 3 at 5:00pm

January Service & Care— Meets Sun,
Dec. 22 after worship & by emails
texts/ phone

WELCA—Meets Wed, Dec. 11 at 3:30pm

Mission Team News

The Mission Committee met in November to plan the Christmas missions we bring to the congregation each year. We also sent birthday cards to members who are no longer able to join us in fellowship.



The Christmas Family Giving Tree—We have worked with the Valley City elementary principals to receive names of families who could use a little extra help during the season. Our Christmas Family Giving Tree has been up in the gathering space for two Sundays and will be up the first Sunday in December with the remaining ornaments. Two Ornaments are on the tree for each child: one a clothing wish and one a toy idea or for an older child a personal idea, such as bubble bath, hair ties or fleece blankets or other fun personal items. We will also be including two ornaments for each family which will be gift cards to be used by the family. Mission members will be at the Tree December 1 (and 8 if any remaining) to hand out the ornaments and answer any questions. The wrapped gifts are to be returned by December 15.

Another Christmas mission we offer this year is collecting for SMP Health-St. Raphael for Christmas gifts given to the residents. **The items we will be collecting include Gripper Socks, Sweatshirts, Sweatpants, Sweaters/Cardigans, Men's Undershirts, Men's Socks, Lotions and of course Candy, regular and sugar free.** These Unwrapped items can be dropped off in the collection box at church by December 15.

Mission Christmas



Our third is the Mission Christmas Fund. This is a collection of funds received throughout the year through special offerings, memorials, and **other church missions from WELCA, Men's Group, and Faith Endowment Foundation.** In December, we help families that are experiencing something difficult in their lives. Some of the situations we have helped families or individuals with are travel expenses for medical appointments, long term illness with loss of employment, and many other struggles that we may have known about. We help with gift cards for gas, groceries, general shopping needs, a restaurant/pizza, distributing based on their greatest needs. Recipients are identified by Pastor, committee members and other congregation members who may know of a need. If you know of someone, please call Julie at the church office with information.

Thank you to all who find it in your hearts to help bring the message of love and caring for each other, especially during the Christmas season.

Again, we thank our congregation for your generosity in supporting the missions we bring and the blessings to those we touch through each mission.

We hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday and have a Blessed Christmas Season!

Faith Mission Committee

P.S. Come joy our group—you will have fun!!

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 3 at 5:pm. Note the time change.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1. Terri Dalgliesh, Ilene Hetler, Alaina Rodin, Deloris Welken;
2. Ali Rodin, Joshua Smith;
3. Brady Anderson, Ashley Horner, Ethan Kapaun, Weston Smith;
4. Linda Lane;
6. Nikki Moen, John Samuelson, Georgia Welken;
7. Doug Kratz, Larry H. Saylor, Gary Sommerfeld, Angela Van Bruggen;
8. Kalyn Botz, Bonnie Schumacher;
10. Val Moritz;
11. Gabe Jenison, Brenda Klein;
13. Taylor Yanish;
14. Laura Klevgaard;
16. Lance Jenison;
17. Krista Johnson, Dylan Rafferty, Ranetta Starr;
18. Riley Gerhardt, Drew Kohler;
19. Markus Kratz;
20. Aaliyah Torbenson;
21. Joe **Martin, Tony Moritz, W.E. "Windy" Rohwedder;**
22. Landon Heide, Cale Ludwig;
23. Ashley McClaflin, Julie Opdahl, Tim Ost, Megan Tichy;
24. Owen Johnson, John Kohler;
26. Marsha Saylor;
27. Viola Johnson;
28. Scott Limesand, Randy Reiser;
29. Brandon Moen, Zach Rischmiller, Warren Ventsch;
30. Kayla Holm, Ben Shape;
31. John Tompt.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

3. Matt & Allison Anderson;
9. Rick & Robin Idland;
10. Lyle & Angi Hansen;
12. Mark & Cyndi Hill;
13. Bruce & Julie Moritz;
14. Nathan & Mary Rausch;
16. Troy & Jodi Miller;
21. Ed & Betty Overby;
22. Don & Kathy Burke;
23. Tyrone & Katie McCullough;
24. Travis & Kim Gray;
26. Doug & Patty Altringer;
31. Ron & Lee Ann Peterson.

November Transitions

DEATHS: Our sympathies to Cheryl Peterson and Ron & Lee Ann Peterson and family on the death of their brother, Kim Homan. Kim died Monday, October 28, 2024. His funeral was held here on Monday, November 4 with Pastor Jamie officiating.

Our sympathies to Marlys Hilborn, Paul & Nancy Hilborn and families and friends of Russ Hilborn. Russ died on Wednesday, November 20. His service will be held at a later day.

December Service & Care

**Tyler & Angela Van Bruggen

Mark & Sandy Brandvold

Matt Brandvold

Andy & Sam Carlson

Mike & Pamela Egan

Matt & Jessica Jenrich

Duane & Diana Larson

John & Tonya Samuelson

Leighton & Dianne Smith

Gary & Diane Sommerfeld

Mark & Paula Thomsen

James & Janet Thornton

Jarin & Gina Thornton

Scott & Amy Tichy

John & Dixie Tompt

*Thank you for serving!

November Attendance

November 3	140	73+ online
November 10	127	82+ online
November 17	137	53+ online
November 24	124	75+ online

Offering

January	\$16,113.00
February	\$22,023.00
March	\$24,553.00
April	\$14,355.00
May	\$16,831.00
June	\$19,084.00
July	\$13,346.00
August	\$19,604.00
September	\$19,801.00
October	\$16,263.00
November	\$18,440.00

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



W.E. (Windy) Rohwedder is turning 100 Years Old!

Saturday, December 21, Windy will be celebrating his 100th birthday!

All are welcome to enjoy coffee & cake beginning at **2pm** to celebrate with him at his home. Windy & Lila's address is 2890 Saffron Dr Apt 2005, Fargo, ND 58104. He would enjoy receiving cards/notes from you! **Happy Birthday Windy!!**

Celebration of Life Tree

The Youth Ministry of Faith continue our tradition of the "Celebration of Life" tree. Buy an ornament for \$5 in memory or in honor of a loved one to celebrate their life. Paulette Everson has made the beautiful butterfly ornaments. Forms are in the church office and in the bulletin. Fill it out and return the form and money. Your loved one's name will be on the ornament hanging on the tree.

Names received by **December 16th** will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



Christmas Poinsettias

We would like to have around 15 poinsettias to adorn our altar on Christmas Eve. If you would like to purchase a plant the suggested amount is \$25 (the price of the poinsettias has gone up) or bring a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one there is a sign up sheet on the table in the gathering area.

You may also contact Julie in the office.

Names received by **December 16th** will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



November Memorials

In memory of Larry Behm given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Backpack Program).

In memory of Betty Bostrom given by Randy & Kay Bostrom (Thanksgiving Baskets); by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Margie Lima (Undesignated); by Julie Moritz (Thanksgiving Baskets); by Dave & Carol Smith (Undesignated).

In memory of Dan Faust given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Backpack Program).

In memory of Mike Kainz given by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Julie Moritz (Thanksgiving Baskets).

In memory of Audrey Gaukler given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Backpack Program).

In memory of Kim Homan given by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Margie Lima (Undesignated); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Jerry & Carol Moritz (Undesignated); by Julie Moritz (Thanksgiving Baskets); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated); by Dave & Carol Smith (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated).

In memory of Grant Lebahn given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Backpack Program).

In memory Don Lemnus given by Margie Lima (Undesignated).

In memory of Allen Marler given by Jerry & Carol Moritz (Undesignated).

In memory of Olive Murray given by Margie Lima (Quilters).

In memory of Don Nelson given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Backpack Program).

In memory of Jerry Rufsvold given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Backpack Program).

Sunday School News

Sunday School runs from **10:45- 11:45am.**

Important Dates for Sunday School:

Sunday, December 8—Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School

Saturday, December 14—Christmas Program Practice/Dress Rehearsal

*times will be shared soon!

Sunday, December 15—CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

Sunday, December 22—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, December 29—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, January 5—Sunday School Resumes after Christmas Break



Sunday School Children's Christmas Program

Our Christmas Program, "*Campfire Carols*" is scheduled for **Sunday, December 15th** during the **9:30am worship service!**

We will be having a Potluck Dinner after the program so bring a dish to share and enjoy a time of fellowship with others!



Wendi reading the Christmas story to the Sunday School children.

Kids Club!

We welcome all kids going into **4th-6th grade** to come to our Wednesday Afterschool program called **Kids Club!** Kids Club meets Wednesday 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 December

Wednesday, December 6—Service Project

Wednesday, December 11—Christmas Party!

Wednesday, December 18—NO KIDS CLUB

Wednesday, December 25—NO KIDS CLUB—Merry Christmas!



Youth News

Confirmation News

Confirmation will now be at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
November-January from 6:30-8pm.

A light snack will be offered from 6-6:30pm for kids who are hungry
after school and sports.

Wednesday, December 4—We will be doing a special Service Project
Wednesday, December 11—We will be finishing our Service Project

There are NO Confirmation classes on Wednesday, December 18 or December 25.



Senior High Group

Senior High Youth attended a UND Hockey Game on Friday, November 22nd!
They had a blast and UND won!



*Erin Metcalf, Amy Pederson,
Rick Bredeson, Justin Foell,
Council: Kalyn Botz, Matt Brandvold,
Phone: (701)320-4299
Council President: Michael May*

Custodians: Mark & Sandy Brandvold

Accompanist/ Worship Coordinator: Cyndi Hill

*Coordinator of Youth Ministry and
Sunday School: Wendi Wilmes*

Treasurer: Jessica Jenrich

Administrative Assistant: Julie Moritz

Interim Pastor: Pastor Jamie Desai

Church Staff

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Fax Number: (701) 845-5887

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Sandy's E-Mail: sandy.brandvold@gmail.com*

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