

# FAITH ON THE RISE

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072  
Volume XXVI Issue III Monthly **March 2024**

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

## Church Staff

**Interim Pastor:** Pastor Jamie Desai  
**Administrative Assistant:** Julie Moritz  
**Treasurer:** Jessica Jenrich  
**Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Sunday School:** Wendi Wilmes  
**Accompanist/Worship Coordinator:** Cyndi Hill  
**Custodians:** Mark & Sandy Brandvold  
**Council President:** Michael May  
Phone: (701)320-4299  
**Council:** Matt Brandvold, Rick Bredeson, Justin Foell, Kent Gronlie, Erin Metcalf, Sue Milender, Amy Pederson, Nancy Ost  
**E-Mail Address:** office@faithlutheranvc.org  
**Pastor's E-Mail:** pastor@faithlutheranvc.org  
**Cyndi's E-Mail:** cyndi.r.hill@gmail.com  
**Jessica's E-Mail:** treasurer@faithlutheranvc.org  
**Wendi's E-Mail:** wendi.wilmes@gmail.com  
**Sandy's E-Mail:** sandy.brandvold@gmail.com



**Church Office:** (701) 845-4390  
**Fax Number:** (701) 845-5887  
**Website:** www.faithlutheranvc.org

Faith Lutheran Church  
PO Box 606  
309 4th St N  
Valley City, ND 58072-0606  
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## Lenten Services

Lenten services will be **Wednesdays at 6:30pm**. They should last between 30-45 minutes. The theme for this Lenten season is **“Turning the World Around: Bible Anti-Heroes and Villains”**. Hear different pastors give their takes on how God works through some of the Bible’s most colorful characters. The pastors participating are Rev. Jamie Desai (Faith), Rev. Kyle Symanski (Our Savior’s), Rev. Diane Krumm (Trinity), Rev. Sharayah Robinson (Nome, Fingal, Kathryn Parishes). They will rotate each week to a different church. Holy Week each pastor will be at their home church.



Here is the rotation schedule for Faith Lutheran.  
**March 6**—Pastor Diane Krumm from Trinity Lutheran  
**March 13**—Pastor Kyle Symanski from Our Savior’s Lutheran  
**March 20**—Pastor Jamie Desai from Faith Lutheran

**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.

## Holy Week Schedule



**March 24—Palm Sunday**—the Sunday School children will process in with palms and will sing at the **9:30am** worship service.  
**10:45am**—Easter Egg Hunt for preschool-6th graders.  
**March 28—Maundy Thursday**—1st Communion received at the **6:30pm** service.  
**March 29—Good Friday**—Tenabrae service will be at **6:30pm**.  
Good Friday Community service will be at Our Savior’s at **12:10pm**.  
**March 31—Easter Sunday**—Worship service will be at 9:30am.



Lent has begun. The contemplative and reflective season beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding with Easter. We began with ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday hearing the words, *Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return*. Lent reminds us that God is not through with us or the world yet. Amid all the evils in the world we are drawn toward the resurrection and restoration of the world.

We join together on Wednesdays with a meal at 5:30 and worship at 6:30. Our theme is *Turning the World Around: Bible Anti-Heroes and Villains*. Three other pastors and myself are rotating to the various churches reflecting on how the forces of evil threaten to devour us but are thwarted by Jesus suffering, death and resurrection.

The purpose of Lent is to prepare us for the celebration of the resurrection on Easter. We journey with Jesus through the darkness of the last week of his life in order to fully appreciate what God has done for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are not sacrificed on the cross as Jesus was, but we follow Jesus to the foot of the cross and remain with him like Mary and the other faithful experiencing the grief of his death before the gift is given us on Easter morning. There is no resurrection without Jesus' death on the cross. During Lent we remember Jesus' journey that ends in the joy of the risen Christ which we celebrate on Easter.

Join us as we walk the journey of Lent with Jesus preparing our hearts and minds for the resurrection of Easter Sunday.

Pastor Jamie



Sacrament of Communion

### First Communion Class

We invite children 2nd-5th grade whose parents would like them to receive Holy Communion to attend the session that is to welcome them to Christ's table and begin to understand the gifts and meaning of Holy Communion. A letter has been sent out to 2nd-5th grade families with children who have not yet received Holy Communion. If you did not receive a letter and you have a child you would like to receive Holy Communion please contact the office.

The 1st Communion session will be **Sunday, March 10th at 10:45am** in the fireside room. Pastor Jamie will be leading this session. An adult must attend the session with each child. If you plan to attend, please email [office@faithlutheranvc.org](mailto:office@faithlutheranvc.org) or you may contact the office 845-4390 so we can be sure we have enough learning material.

Chalices will be painted by your children on **Wednesday, March 20th at 3:30pm** at Pederson Pottery (location and time are subject to change). The chalices are made and glazed by Dennis & Gail Pederson for the student to use and keep for their 1st communion.

**The students will be blessed and celebrate their 1st Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 6:30pm worship service.**

# Youth News

## Confirmation Information for 7th-9th Graders

April-May we will be at Trinity Lutheran Church.



The schedule looks like this for the month of March (during Lent):

**Wednesday, March 6**—Lenten Service at Faith

**Wednesday, March 13**—Lenten Service at Faith

**Wednesday, March 20**—Lenten Service at Faith

**Thursday, March 28**—Maundy Thursday Service at Faith

**Friday, March 29**—Good Friday Service at own churches—you are encouraged to attend

## Lent Information for Confirmation

We will be having Lent at our own churches during the Lenten season, so Faith kids come to Faith during this time. There will be suppers served starting at 5:30-6:15pm these evenings. The actual service will begin at 6:30pm. Kids are required to attend the Lenten services just like they would come to "normal" confirmation. After the service is over, the kids will meet with a small group leader to discuss some questions that will be presented at this time. This won't take long (maybe 10-15 minutes).

The confirmation youth are also going to take turns helping clean up after the evening meals:

Here is the schedule:

March 6—8th Grade Boys

March 13—7th Grade Girls

March 20—Youth going on New Orleans trip

March 28 (Maundy Thursday) - 7th Grade Boys



## Jr High/Sr High Youth Groups

On **Friday, March 22nd** we will be trying (for the 2nd time ☺) to go to a Fargo Force hockey game! Let's hope we don't have to worry about weather this time! This is open to youth 7th-12th grade. We will leave from Faith at 5pm. The game starts at 7:05pm. The cost will be \$10 for a ticket, and please bring any other money you would like for food and snacks. Parents please watch for the signup genius soon to sign up!



## 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. We are SO excited to have a great year of Bible stories, music, games, and crafts. Each week is a blast together with Jesus. If you haven't signed up yet, that is ok! Please talk to Wendi Wilmes, Sunday School Coordinator, if you still need to register for Sunday School.

### Some Important Dates for Sunday School:

- \***Sunday, March 10**—1st Communion Class at 10:45am.
- \***Sunday, March 17**—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL due to the long weekend!
- \***Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday)**—We will be singing and carrying palms. This will have many youth led parts of the service! Parents, please watch for more info soon!
- Easter Egg Hunt at 10:45am!**
- \***Sunday, March 31**—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL due to Easter weekend!



## 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 March

- Wednesday, March 6**—Kids Club at Faith
- Wednesday, March 13**—Kids Club at Faith
- Wednesday, March 20**—Service Project Day
- Wednesday, March 27**—NO KIDS CLUB (Holy Week)



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

Red Willow Ministries, located near Binford, ND has officially opened registration for their amazing 18th 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!



## Message from Our Council President

Dear Faith Family,

As we move forward into 2024, I would like to say thank you for all the volunteer work that people done with the Souper Bowl of Caring, meals for Lenten Services, ushering, helping in the kitchen on Sundays, and all the new members to the variety of committees within the church.

The council met on Tuesday, February 13th. During the meeting we met with some youth of the church to discuss a possible adventure with social media. This seems to be an exciting thing, but we want to make sure we handle this possible adventure by making sure we do our due diligence with all aspects of it.

One thing I would like to talk about with everyone is giving. Giving isn't just tithing, it is also donating your time. I would ask everyone 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 month because it fits your schedule better, please contact the church office to make the change.

During this time of Lent, I would like to challenge you to give up some of your time to help others in need. Whether your time is donated to the church or within our community, look for opportunities to make a difference.

Michael May, Council President



## Your 2024 Elected Church Council

Your 2024 Council members were installed on Sunday, February 25. Please pray for them as they work diligently to keep our church moving forward in God's work.

If you have any questions, suggestions or ministry ideas please speak to any council member.



Pictured: (l-r) Pastor Jamie, Matt Brandvold, Rick Bredeson, Nancy Ost, Amy Pederson, Mike May, Justin Foell. Not pictured: Erin Metcalf



Faith Visitation Team Update



Taking advantage of the beautiful weather, we have been able to visit our members who are now residing out of town.

Carol Smith and Val Moritz enjoyed lunch with Karen Nitschke in Jamestown. Karen is recovering from Covid and feeling much better and stronger. She is thankful to be closer to her Mother and other family members. Even though she misses worshipping with her Faith family, Karen is thankful for the online streaming of services.



Elise Miller and Val Moritz traveled to Mayville for a visit with Mary Ann Anderson. She is very happy in her new home although she misses Valley City and her Faith Lutheran family. Mary Ann enjoys taking part in a weekly Bible study.

Please contact Val at 840-1652 or Julie in the office if you would like to be added to our visitation schedule or know of someone who would appreciate a visit.

Handbell Choir



We'd like to reactivate the handbell choir at Faith Lutheran. In order to move forward, we need to know if there are enough people willing to make this a possibility.

We're looking forward to providing special music periodically for our worship services. Rehearsal time will be determined to accommodate the schedules of those participating. All ages are welcome and encouraged! If you read music and are interested in joining the handbell choir, please call or text Val Moritz at 840-1652.

Noisy Offering—BC Ministerial Fund

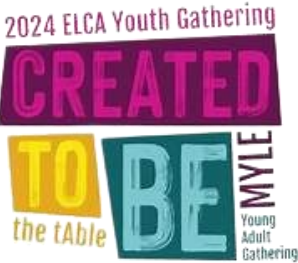


We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, March 17. The offering received will be going to the Barnes County Ministerial Fund. This is a community fund set up by the local churches and is used to help those who are in need of assistance. The kids will come around during the Children's Word with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills.

In February we received \$223.65 as part of Souper Bowl of Caring! The noisy offering was for the Barnes County Food Pantry and Hi-Line Pantry. Thank you to everyone who purchase the Soup-to-Go for Souper Bowl of Caring also. We received \$1,033 in free will donations! The donations were split between the BC Food Pantry and Hi-Line Pantry also. Thank you for helping fight hunger in our local community! Your generosity is greatly appreciated and you are making a difference in people's lives!

New Orleans ELCA National Youth Gathering

Our congregation here at Faith has been so loving and generous with helping our youth get to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer! Please know that we thank you all so much for your willingness to contribute to this amazing and lifechanging opportunity for our youth!



We have 2 more ways of helping them coming up in March:

- 1. **Sunday, March 3rd** is a "A Night in New Orleans" fundraising supper at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. You can enjoy a night out with friends/ family, and have a multi-course New Orleans themed meal to help raise money for youth from Faith, Our Savior's, and Trinity Lutheran Churches to attend the gathering in July.
- 2. **Sunday, March 10th** our youth here at Faith will have a table set up so you can purchase the yummy Butter Braid pastries that we all know and love!



Again, thank you all so much for helping our youth!

February Memorials



In memory of **Mike Brand** given by Karen Nitschke (Foundation); by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Undesignated).

In memory of **Mavis Johnson** given by Virgil & Tami Kratz (General Fund); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated).

In memory of **Verna Larson** given by Larry & Deloris Welken (General Fund).

In memory of **Grant Lebahn** given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Undesignated).

In memory of **Jerome Miller** given by Randy & Kay Bostrom (Foundation); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen ((Undesignated).

In memory of **Marlys Peterson** given by her Family (Altar Guild—Desk Stand).

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

In memory of **Randy Schober** given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated).

In memory of **Jean Tabor** given by Gary & Diane Sommerfeld (Backpack Program).

MARCH TEAM MEETINGS

**Council**—Meets **Tue. Mar 12**  
at **5:15pm**

**FLC Staff**—Meets **Wed, Mar 6**  
at **1:30pm & Wed, Mar 20**  
at **1:30pm**

**Men's Group**—Meets **Sat, Mar 16** at **8am**



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

**April Service & Care**— Meets **Sun, Mar 17**  
after worship & by emails texts/ phone

**WELCA**—Meets **Wed, Mar 13** at **3:30pm**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

1. Paulette Everson, DeeDee Jewett; 2. Wayne Eggert, Gavin Gerhardt, Taylor Johnson, Katie Smith; 3. London Herbert, Tori Houdek; 5. Jennifer Bergner, Samantha Nathan, Skylar Thornton; 6. Suzy Becker; 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. Kylie Anderson, Katie Bolstad, Audrey Bredeson, Taylor McKay, Ryan Metcalf; 17. Patty Gronlie; 19. Marlene Bartz, Marlys Freadhoff, Zoey Greenley, Kaidence Harstad, Mikayla Newton; 20. Talon Klevgaard; 21. Nathan Johnson, Julie May; 23. Paul Hilborn, Olive Mallette; 26. Finley Foell, Jacob Miller, Caius Williams; 27. Jack Rohde; 28. Asher Foell, Angela Gentzkow; 29. Dallas Cooley; 30. Emily Thompson; 31. O’Neil Oppegaard, Grady Samuelson.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

1. Mark & Krista Johnson; 7. Greg & Karen Burchill; 15. Jack & Val Moritz; 18. Damon & Brenda Bong; 21. Doug & Leona McPherson; 23. Robert & Carol Grenz.

February Transitions

**BAPTISMS:** We celebrated the Holy Baptism of Della Elizabeth, Claire Josephine, Landon Jerrold Heide on Sunday, February 4, 2024. Their parents are Jerry & Erin Heide. God bless this family.

**DEATHS:** Our sympathies to the family & friends of **Mavis Johnson**. Mavis died Sunday, February 4, 2024. Her funeral was held Sunday, February 11, 2024 at Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel with Pastor Jamie officiating.

Here are a couple of addresses of our Faith Family who live out of Valley City or are in assisted living here in town if you would like to send them a note or card. I will try to put in a few addresses each month. If you would like an address for someone please ask Julie in the office.

**Marlys Freadhoff**— 979 N Central Ave #1113  
**Laurette Zachrison**— 979 N Central Ave #3117  
**Mark Hill**— 979 N Central Ave  
**Paula Krall**—979 N Central Ave  
**Clara Bredeson**—979 N Central Ave  
All of these are at SMP Health—St Raphael in Valley City

March Service & Care

\*\*Mikkal & Wanda Auka  
\*\*Scott & Amy Johnson  
  
Gene & Nancy Bjerke  
Scott & Nicki Brockopp  
Greg & Sarah Friestad  
Dave & Lara Mairs  
Jenna Mairs  
Tim & Alyssa Miller  
Troy & Jodi Miller  
Mike Nix  
Ed & Betty Overby  
Dean & Amy Pederson  
Shawn & Karla Ranisate  
  
\*Thank you for serving!

February Attendance

February 4 109 98+ online views  
February 11 119 97+ online views  
February 14 (Ash Wednesday) 114  
98+ online views  
February 18 74  
February 21 (Lent) 56 81+online views  
February 25 98 89+online views  
February 28 (Lent) not included

\*online views are households watching

Offering

January \$16,113.00  
February \$21,713.00  
(February 28 not included)  
  
Needed monthly to meet Mission Plan:  
\$22,752.25



Thank you to all who sent cards, gave hugs, and prayed for our family when we lost my Dad. Thank you also for the beautiful flower bouquet sent for the funeral. It’s hard to lose loved ones, but the support from our church family eases the pain. We appreciate all of you! God bless,  
Amy, Scott & family



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 in March and April. A donation box will be located in the gathering area.

**The Community Closet will be open on Monday, March 11, 5-7pm at Our Savior’s.**  
Volunteers are encourages to come to help set up on **Sunday, March 10, 6-8pm** and to help on **Monday, March 11, 5-8pm.**

Want to Make a Difference in Your Community—  
Volunteer as a Senior Companion

**Tuesday, March 12, 11:45 at South Central Adult Services, 845-4300.** Come to the in-person information session for questions and more about the program with the Southeastern, ND coordinator Justine Irakiza. You can also reach her by calling 701-205-2690 or email Justine.irakiza@lssmn.org.

- Volunteer Companions are a bridge to fuller, more active lives for older adults in their community.
- Offering assistance with simple household tasks and correspondence.
- Provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, or community events.
- Help older adults remain living in dependently
- Enjoy similar hobbies and activities such as playing cards, going on walks, or just a meal or conversation.
- Be someone’s ADVOCATE!

Volunteer Benefits

Senior Companion Volunteers need to be 55+ years of age. Earn \$4/hr tax-free stipend for senior companion volunteers when serving 10+hours per week.  
Mileage is reimbursed! Training and service recognition. Find purpose and meet new people.

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars ®

The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities. Thrivent Financials members, remember to designate where you would like your 2023 Choice Dollars to go. The 2023 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2024. Don’t let your Choice Dollars expire. Thrivent Financial members go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to make your choices for your Choice Dollars.



We would like to thank you Thrivent members who designate their Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran. Thanks to your generosity Faith Lutheran receive \$2,457 during the 2023. Thank you!

If you would like more information about Thrivent Financial contact their office at 845-2897 to set up an appointment. The office is located at 213 Central Ave N. Members of our congregation who work with Thrivent are Scott Wilmes, Market Developer; Adam Brandvold, Financial Associate; Nicole Larson, Financial Associate.



## WELCA News



WELCA did not meet in February. We will be meeting Wednesday, March 13 at 3:30pm. All women of Faith are welcome to attend.

During March we will be collecting items for personal care kits to send to Lutheran World Relief. There will be a tote in the gathering area to drop off your donations. We encourage you to join us in making a difference in someone's life and thank you in advance.

### The items needed for a kit are:

- ◆ 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



We will be celebrating Bold Women's Day on Sunday, March 3. In Women of the ELCA, we're all about acting boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. And at least once a year we celebrate that boldness, whether it's a quiet and persistent bold or a loud and brash bold.

You will be receiving Thankoffering envelopes in this newsletter, please consider giving a gift of thanksgiving to the Women of the ELCA.

The WELCA board will be serving Lenten Service supper on March 6. We hope to see you there for soup and sandwiches.



I hope you have all been enjoying our nice winter, spring is around the corner.

Peace,  
Cheryl Foell, WELCA President



## Ladies Craft Day—Saturday, March 2

Enjoy a day of crafting, fellowship and fun! Saturday, March 2 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.

## French Toast Brunch Fundraiser—Sunday, March 3



Faith Lutheran Men's Group is at it again! Last year, we sponsored a French Toast Brunch to help raise funds for our church. That went over so well that we decided to do it again this year. On Sunday, March 3rd we will be serving French Toast, Sausage, Apple Sauce, Juice and Coffee. The charge is Free Will Donation with the net proceeds going to our Church General Fund.

We hope to have a good turnout for this Brunch so we invite all to come enjoy our meal. We also invite any men in our congregation to come help us serve this meal or just to check out all of the Fun that we have serving others. Our regular March Breakfast meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 16 at 8am**, if anyone is interested in attending. We invite all of the men to come check out the *'Food, Fun & Fellowship'*.

## Mission Team News

Thank you to all who helped with another successful blanket tying for Project Ignite Light. Together we completed 25 fleece blankets! Also, that day we packed up 53 pairs of pajamas to deliver with the blankets. We have received a few more pairs of pajamas through the rest of February that will be included. A special thank you to Nancy Sorensen and Krista Johnson who did early preparation to help us accomplish more on Sunday, February 4. Thank you Al & Nancy Sorensen and Jerry & Carol Moritz for delivering the blankets and pajamas to Project Ignite Light.

Mission committee served the Lenten supper on February 21. They made homemade chili with all the trimmings, corn bread, French bread and Mexican ice cream dessert. Everything was delicious!



We are planning for a new fun mission opportunity of a Celebration Cake Box for the food pantry. We will pack together a kit to include everything to make a Birthday/Celebration cake. Look for all the information in the April Newsletter. In May we will be collecting diapers and wipes again.

Mission Team meets each month on the first Tuesday at 5:30pm; if you would like to join our team, Our next meeting is **Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30pm**.