

# FAITH ON THE RISE

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

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

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**Interim Pastor:** Pastor Jamie Desai

**Administrative Assistant:** Julie Moritz

**Treasurer:** Jessica Jenrich

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## Ash Wednesday—February 14

We begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday worship service will be at **6:30pm**. The service will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. The service will also be livestreamed. A freewill offering of soup and sandwiches will be served by the FLC Council prior, **5:30-6:15pm**.

### Lenten services will be Wednesdays at

**6:30pm** and should be 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. Ash Wednesday and Holy Week each pastor will be at their home church.




## Souper Bowl of Caring—February 11



Sunday, February 11 is "Souper Bowl of Caring". We will receive a **noisy offering** with the money received going to the Barnes County Food Pantry. The kids will come around during the Children's Word with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills. **This year we**

**are also asking you to bring cans of soup to donate to the Food Pantry.** We will have a container for you to put them in. **The Youth will be serving soup to go for "Souper Bowl of Caring" from 10:30am-12pm.** It will be freewill offering with all proceeds going to the Barnes County Food Pantry. Thank you for your concern and caring for those in need of food to eat. God bless you!

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February is upon us, and you know what that means? We can smell spring. We just need to get through the next couple of months and we will soon see the trees budding and the earth regenerating new life.

How shall we endure this time of anticipation, how about we do Lent? Lent is a time of repentance, contemplation and prayer, probably not the most timely of things to do in the darkest and coldest months of the year.

Lent this year begins with Ash Wednesday on the fourteenth of February which is Valentines Day. So, bring your sweetheart for a meal and a worship service where we are reminded of our mortality with the words *ashes to ashes dust to dust*.



This year's Lenten theme is *Turning the World Around, Bible Anti-Heroes and Villains*. Area pastors from four different ELCA congregations will be rotating from church to church introducing you to colorful villains from the scriptures whom you may or may not know.

The Evil One is known by many names in the Bible and appears in many places, some obvious and some not so obvious, but the Devil's purpose is always the same: To disrupt and confuse people so they turn from God and seek to become their own Gods. The scary part is that this Evil One is still active today.

Join us for a fine Lenten meal at 5:30pm each Wednesday night followed by a forty-minute worship service, where we delve into the darkness of God's anti-heroes hopefully coming out the other side with the knowledge that God is in control and the Devil has been conquered.

Have a joy-filled February!

Blessed be the Name,  
Pastor Jamie

# Youth News

## Confirmation Information

February-May we will now be at Trinity Lutheran Church (except for Lent).

The schedule looks like this for the month of February:

Wednesday, February 7—Class at Trinity

Wednesday, February 14—NO CONFIRMATION

\*Ash Wednesday Worship at own churches

Wednesday, February 21—Lenten Service at own churches

Wednesday, February 28—Lenten Service at own churches



## 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:

February 14—9th Grade Girls

February 21—9th Grade Boys

February 28—8th Grade Girls

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



## Lenten Prayer

GOD OF GOODNESS AND MERCY,

HEAR MY PRAYER AS I BEGIN THIS LENTEN JOURNEY WITH YOU.  
LET ME BE HONEST WITH MYSELF AS I LOOK INTO MY HEART AND SOUL,  
NOTICING THE TIMES I TURN AWAY FROM YOU. GUIDE ME AS I HUMBLY SEEK  
TO REPENT AND RETURN TO YOUR LOVE.

MAY HUMILITY GUIDE MY EFFORTS TO BE RECONCILED WITH YOU AND LIVE FOREVER  
IN YOUR ABUNDANT GRACE.

TRANSFORM ME THIS LENT, HEAVENLY FATHER. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO  
COMMIT MYSELF TO GROW CLOSER TO YOU EACH DAY.

AMEN.



I CAN DO  
ALL THINGS  
THROUGH  
HIM WHO  
GIVES ME  
STRENGTH.  
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

## Jr High/Sr High Youth Groups

On Friday, February 16th we will be heading to Detroit Mountain in Detroit Lakes, MN for a night of LAZER tubing! We will leave from Faith at 3pm! We will tube from 5:30-7:30pm and then we will stop



for a quick snack before coming home. The cost for the event is \$32 for tubing and any extra money you want for food! Thanks to Pat Edinger for driving the bus for us, so we can attend this evening with kids from Our Savior's and Trinity also! Parents please watch your emails for a sign-up genius soon!

## 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, February 4**—We will be doing our annual Blanket Tying event for Project Ignite Light with the Mission Team and congregation!

**\*Sunday, February 11**—We will have our monthly Youth Led Service!

**Sunday, February 18**—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL due to the 4 day weekend.



## Kids Club

We welcome all kids going into 4th-6th grade to come to our Wednesday Afterschool program called **Kids Club!** We currently have around 19 kids from Faith, Our Savior's, and Trinity signed up. 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 January

**Wednesday, February 7**—Kids Club at Faith

**Wednesday, February 14**—Kids Club at Faith (Special Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday Project)

**Wednesday, February 21**—NO KIDS CLUB—Wendi is on vacation

**Wednesday, February 28**—Service Project Day



## Family Fun Hour

Would you like to get to know other parents while enjoying a creative activity with your toddler or preschooler? Join us for art activities, supervised play, refreshments, and time for parents to visit and discuss parenting-related topics of interest. **This ongoing group meets the fourth Tuesday each month, 10:30-11:45am at Faith Lutheran Church.** Sponsored by NDSU Extension—Region 6 Parent and Family Resource Center and funded in part by ND Dept. of Health and Human Services. Contact Amy Tichy at Barnes County Extension, 701-845-8528, for more information.



## 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**.

## Message from Our Council President

I would like to start off by saying thank you to the council for electing me to be this year's President and Matt Brandvold as Vice President. This is my third year serving on the council and I have learned a lot about Faith and believe I'm ready to take this position on. A lot of you might already know me but for those who don't know me, my name is Michael May. I'm a Valley City native and have been a member of Faith Lutheran since 2000. I work for a Civil Engineering company in Jamestown ND. I'm married to my beautiful wife Julie and have three awesome kids, one daughter in law, and three wonderful grandchildren.

One big change that happened at the Annual Meeting this year (if approved by the Synod) was that the council will go from 9 to 7 members. With this happening the 7 members are going to have to take on more duties than usual, but with the council members that are in place I don't see this as a problem. I would like to give a special thank you to Kent Gronlie, Sue Milender and Paulette Everson for everything they did while serving on the council, and a special thank you to Rick Bredeson for joining the council once again.

My goal as council president is to find ways to make the church grow and balance the budget. I'm open to suggestions and comments so please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas or comments that you might have. Remember there is no such thing as a bad idea. I look forward to hearing from everyone and would like to challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and maybe joining a committee, help with church activities (whether it's making a pan of brownies, ushering, greeting, or even looking at your finances) and if possible, look at giving more in tithing to the church. Anything you can do is very much appreciated and remember the Council is here to serve the Faith Family.

Michael May, Council President

## Thank You For Serving!



We would like to thank and acknowledge those who went off elected boards/committees. Thank you Paulette Everson, Kent Gronlie and Sue Milender for your leadership and guidance while you served on the Faith Lutheran Council. Thank you Joe Lunde for your years faithfully serving on the Endowment Foundation. Thank you Nancy Sorensen for completing the remainder of Robin Idland's Term on the Nominating Committee. Thank you Mark Brandvold for your years faithfully serving on the Cemetery Board. We are blessed to have such dedicated and devoted members serving at Faith Lutheran.

We welcome those newly elected at the annual meeting to serve on to the boards/committees. We welcome Rick Bredeson to the FLC Council, Al Sorensen to the Endowment Foundation, Deb Horner to the Nominating Committee, Mike Metcalf to the Cemetery Board. Thank you each for your dedication and willingness to serve. May God bless you and strengthen you as you serve on your boards/committees.

Thank you Amy Johnson for serving as Faith Lutheran's Treasurer for the last 15 years or so. Your dedication and commitment is greatly appreciated. We thank Jessica Jenrich for taking on the responsibility of serving as Faith Lutheran's new Treasurer!

### Faith Visitation Team

As schedules and weather allows, we're going on the road to visit our members who are now residing out of town. Carol Smith, Cheryl Foell and Val Moritz traveled to Fargo for a visit with Windy and Lila Rohwedder.

Windy continues to play pool every week and Lila is still sewing. She finished another quilt top and sent that back for the Faith Lutheran quilters. We enjoyed a great visit and Lila treated us to homemade Apple Crunch Pie!

Please contact Val at 840-1652 or Julie in the office if you would like to be added to our visitation schedule.



Windy and Lila Rohwedder



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to the Visitation Team for taking the time out of your day and coming to visit me! I really appreciate it and it really makes my day!

God bless you all!  
Illa Glandt

### 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 \$1,970 during the 2023. Thank you!

A reminder that each Thrivent member who has a policy has access to two \$250 Thrivent Action cards a year. You can use the cards for a fundraiser led by a client with membership or organize your own. When a charitable activity is approved, volunteers may then use the cards to purchase supplies for a wide range of events. The three categories are fundraisers, service projects and educational projects. Members of our congregation have applied for and received cards that have been used for the following purchases: fleece for making tied blankets and pajamas for Project Ignite Light, school supplies, items for the Hi-Liner Pantry, items for the quilters who make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Christmas gifts for those in need in the community, WELCA fundraisers, Men's Group fundraisers, Back to School Luau, etc.

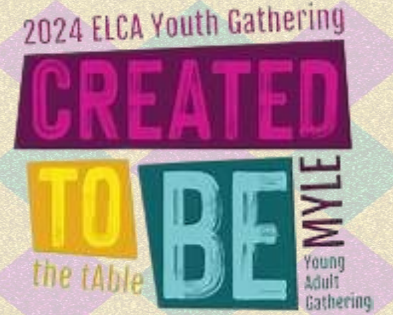
If you would like more information about Thrivent Financial contact their office at 845-2897 to set up an appointment. The office is located at 213 Central Ave N. Members of our congregation who work with Thrivent are Scott Wilmes, Market Developer; Adam Brandvold, Financial Associate; Nicole Larson,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

### "A Night in New Orleans"—National Youth Gathering Fundraiser

We will gather at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 3rd at 5:30pm for a night out with friends and family, and enjoy a multi-course New Orleans themed meal to help raise money for Youth from Faith, Trinity, and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches to attend the ELCA Youth Service Trip this July.

Because of the anticipated food costs, this will be a ticketed event. The cost of a ticket is \$25 (ages 12 & up) and \$15 (ages 11 & under). Money from ticket purchases should eventually make their way to Faith Lutheran, earmarked for the National Youth Gathering.

The tickets are for sale in church offices and Sundays through Sunday, February 25th. For those who purchase tickets, remember to bring your ticket with you the night of the dinner. This will be a really fun event for the whole family!



### Meals During Lent



We will be having a simple meal each week served **5:30-6:15pm** before our Lenten services. We will be relying on volunteers to prepare and serve meals each Wednesday (and Maundy Thursday) throughout Lent. If you or your church committee are interested in serving the congregation in this way there is a signup sheet on the table in the gathering area or you may contact Julie in the office to sign up. The meals should be prepared for 50-60 people. The confirmation youth will help with the dishes and clean up. We are thankful for those who have signed up already to prepare and serve a meal. Thank you!

### January Memorials



In memory of **Mike Brand** given by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Dave & Jeanne Johnsen (Undesignated); by Margie Lima (Undesignated); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (General Fund).

In memory of **Kim Foell** given by Rick & Robin Idland (Undesignated).

In memory of **Terry Glandt** given by Rick & Robin Idland (Undesignated).

In memory of **Perry Ronning** given by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated).

In memory of **Paul Vangerud M.D.** given by Margie Lima (Undesignated).

### FEBRUARY TEAM MEETINGS

**Council**—Meets **Tue. February 13** at 5:15pm

**Mission Team**—Meets **Tue, Feb 6** at 5:30pm

**FLC Staff**—Meets **Wed, Feb 7**  
at 1:30pm



**March Service & Care**— Meets **Sun, Feb 18**  
after worship & by emails texts/ phone

**Men's Group**—Meets **Sat, Feb 17**  
at 8am

Team Meetings

**WELCA**—No February meeting

**FEBRUARY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:**



1. Rylee Gray, LaVonne Lee; 2. Shay Pilgrim, Dan Pullen, Samantha Sayler, Don Schlotman; 3. Chris Botz, Leighton Smith; 4. Dave Smith, John Stearns; 7. Brian Larson; 8. Peggy Drabus, Sarah Friestad; 9. Bonnie Kramer, Carol Smith; 10. Auston Jewett, Cardar Jewett, Darci Jewett, Jeff Johnson, John Johnson, Josh Tulp; 11. Matt Brandvold, Cole Brockopp, Lux Nielsen, Jasmine Roberts, Traeson Sorola; 15. Ryan Nelson; 16. Tiffany Greenley, Abigail Roberts, Emma Tichy; 17. Patty Lloyd, Janet Thornton; 18. Jody Johnson, Margie Lima, Gary Wieck; 19. James Thornton, Abby Wilmes, Alyssa Wilmes; 20. Nick Holm, Ashley Roe; 21. Dixie Tompt; 23. Troy Miller, Jenelle Mulvaney, Ron Peterson, Leah Thoreson, Gina Thornton; 24. Karen Burchill, Keltie McCullough, Chuck Shape; 25. Amanda Nielsen; 26. Wanda Auka, Brenda Bong, Paula Thomsen; 27. Allison Anderson, Jill Berg-Foss, Scott Wilmes, Brian Yanish; 28. Gage Thompson.

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

4. W.E. (Windy) & Lila Rohwedder; 7. Mike & Loree Morehouse, Gilbert & Shelly Rodriguez; 9. Tim & Nancy Ost; 18. Ray & Wanda Haugen, Ryan & Erin Metcalf; 27. O'Neil & Jan Oppegaard.

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.

- Karen Nitschke**— 1115 7th Ave SW  
Jamestown, ND 58401
- Arlene Larson**—1120 5th St NE #408  
Valley City, ND 58072
- Illa Glandt**—570 13th St NE #22  
Valley City, ND 58072
- Gordon Reitan**—570 13th St NE #26  
Valley City, ND 58072
- LaVerne Bjornson**—570 13th St NE #32  
Valley City, ND 58072

**February Service & Care**

\*\*needs chair

- Scott & Deb Beilke
- Rick & Audrey Bredeson
- Tom & Ashley Kellogg
- Mark & Patty Lloyd
- Jasen & Kathy McGough
- Brad & Megan McKay
- Amanda Nielsen
- Steve & Karolee Ondracek
- Dave & Vicki Pedersen
- Melissa Pedersen
- Adam & Amanda Pilgrim
- Cheryl Storhoff
- Warren & Brenda Ventsch

\*Thank you for serving!

**January Attendance**

January 7	129	93+ online views
January 14	No Service	—Weather
January 21	119	97+ online views
January 28	114	98+ online views

\*online views are households watching

**Offering**

January \$16,113.00

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

**January Transitions**

**DEATHS:** Our sympathies to the family & friends of **Mike Brand**. Mike died December 28, 2023. His celebration of life was held Thursday, January 11, 2024 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN. His prayer service was held here at Faith on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Our sympathies to the family & friends of **Randy Schober**. Randy died January 13, 2024. A private funeral was held with only close family members present.

**Baptismal Keepsake Cross Presentation**

Sunday, January 7, the Baptism of our Lord Sunday, we recognized and presented Baptismal Keepsakes to those who were baptized in 2023. Cheryl Foell presented the crosses which have children's name, baptismal date and a Bible verse as a reminder of their special step in their Christian walk of faith. The Baptismal Keepsakes are compliments of WELCA and Faith Lutheran.



Pictured (l-r) Nicole (holding Ellie) & Brandon Larson (holding **Jackson**); Brianne Foell (holding **Asher**); Brett (holding **Oliver**), Ellie, Em (holding **Lewis**) Stearns; Tori (holding **Owen**) Houdek; Pastor Jamie; Allison (holding **Mari**) & Matt (holding Joanna) Anderson.

Unable to attend were **Wrevyn Friestad** and **Frankie Ashline**.

**Giving Hearts Day—February 8**

Founded in 2008, Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour event for charities in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. Each year, Giving Hearts Day provides a platform for charities to fund their missions through an ever-increasing community of donors, many of who get to experience the joy of giving for the first time. Giving Hearts Day has helped participating charities raise more than \$165 million since its founding. This year there are over 600 charities participating. You can give to as many charities as you would like. Your giving will make an impact on the charities you choose no matter the size of your donation.



To schedule your gift go to [www.givingheartsday.org](http://www.givingheartsday.org). You may schedule your gift for Giving Hearts Day on or prior to February 8th. When you go to add a charity to your cart make sure "Pay on Giving Hearts Day" is checked. Most of the charities have matching funds up to \$3,000 to double your impact when you give.

We encourage you to give to our partners in ministries: Eastern North Dakota Synod, Red Willow Bible Camp Ministries, Park River Bible Camp Ministries. The goal for the EaND Synod is \$80,000 so let's try to help make this happen. They already have raised \$40,000 in match dollars.

## WELCA News



Women  
of the  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA

WELCA met on Wednesday, January 10. Once again, we will be putting together personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will be asking for donations from the congregation during the month of March. 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



### SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to shop for light or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52"x27" listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20"x40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

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

We are not planning on meeting in February unless something should come up necessitating a regular meeting. Our next regular meeting will be March 13.

Peace to all,  
Cheryl Foell, WELCA President

## Ladies Craft Day—Saturday, February 3



Enjoy a day of crafting, fellowship and fun! Saturday, February 3 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.

## Mission Team News

After a busy December, the Mission Team met on January 9 to review the December projects and discuss what went well and if any changes for this coming year.



We also planned the Project Ignite Light blanket tying event for this year. We will do this on **Sunday, February 4** during the fellowship time and invite all to help with the tying of these blankets. The Mission Team would like to thank Nancy Sorensen for cutting the blankets and getting them ready to be tied. Thanks to her help, we get the correct measurements for the blankets and all of us can help with the tying on Sunday.

We continue to collect 2 piece pajamas for Project Ignite Light through the month of February. All sizes are needed. You may buy sleep pants and a top especially for the older youth since pajamas may be harder to find in the larger sizes. Please note that they do not take one-piece sleepers/pajamas. A container is in the gathering area. Thank you to all who have already dropped off pajamas.



Project Ignite Light is a faith-based organization that provides children with important items needed when examined at Local Advocacy Centers around the United States for physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and human trafficking. Project Ignite Light is located at the former Barnes County North school near Rogers. If you would like to learn more about Project Ignite Light go to their website: <https://ignitelight.org>.

It was discussed to volunteer to make and serve a Lent Supper of homemade chili and all the fixings, cornbread, French bread, and of course dessert on February 21. This was a hit last year with the congregation so we invite you to enjoy it again this year!

The next Mission Team Meeting will be Tuesday, February 6 at 5:30pm.

## Handbell Choir



### 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.