

# FAITH ON THE RISE

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


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

## Church Staff

**Interim Pastor:** Pastor Jamie Desai  
**Administrative Assistant:** Julie Moritz  
**Treasurer:** Amy Johnson  
**Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Sunday School:** Wendi Wilmes  
**Accompanist/Worship Coordinator:** Cyndi Hill  
**Custodians:** Mark & Sandy Brandvold  
**Council President:** Justin Foell  
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Office Closed January 1 in observance of the New Year.

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## Sunday School Christmas Program—Manger Tales



Our kids did a fantastic job putting on their Christmas program, Manger Tales! Thank you to all the teachers, student helpers, and parents for getting the children prepared for their wonderful Christmas program.

### Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 21, 2024

The annual meeting will be held **Sunday, January 21st at 10:45am** in the sanctuary. There will need to be a quorum of 40 active confirmed members present to conduct business. The Annual Reports will be available to pick up from the church by **January 11, 2024**. Reports will only be mailed to the out of area members by request.



For any committee member that is to write a report for the annual report please have it to Julie no later than January 5, 2024. Thank you!

## ANNUAL MEETING

**We will be voting to make 2 changes in our constitution so please read over the proposed changes on page 3.**



Happy New Year! In the church we call this the season of *Epiphany*. We celebrate how the star led the Magi (Three Kings or Wise Men) to the baby Jesus after he had been born. *Epiphany* comes from the Greek word meaning to *reveal*. It is the manifestation of Christ to the world which we celebrate from December twenty-fifth to January sixth. One way we might try celebrating Epiphany is like our Scandinavian sisters and brothers do by submerging themselves in ice cold freezing water or maybe not. Many European countries celebrate Epiphany by having their homes blessed and then sharing a meal of soup or salad, a meat dish with sides of rice or beans, then ending with a *Three Kings Cake*. Epiphany celebrate a span of twelve days between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the Wise Men, sometimes called *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. This inspired the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* in which the singer brags about the cool gifts they received from their *true love* during the twelve days of Christmas.

Epiphany has a deeper spiritual meaning though which often presents itself as a sudden, intuitive perception or insight into a deeper reality or essential meaning, usually initiated by a simple, ordinary or common occurrence. An 'Aha' moment of self-realization that can change the trajectory of a person's life. Have you ever experience an *Epiphany Moment*? In J.K. Rowling's book, *Harry Potter and the Deadly Hollows*, Harry has a moment when he understands that he must sacrifice his own life to destroy his nemesis Voldemort. I often wonder if Jesus had an *Epiphany* realizing that he must give up his own life to defeat the powers of sin, death and the Devil for the sake of humanity.

As we celebrate Epiphany this January, imagine what it might look like to manifest the *spirit* of Epiphany, anticipating your own *Epiphany*? A transcendent moment of revelation in which God speaks to you by illuminating your path as the star did for the Magi from the east leading them to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus. Epiphanies usually result in a feeling of elation, awe or wonder moving us to express our gratitude to God as it did the Wise Men with their presentation of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ child.

My prayer for you this January is that the Lord God would manifest himself in such a way that you would be filled with the same elation, awe and wonder the Wise Men experienced, filling you with a sense of gratitude for all that God has gifted you in your life.

Have a blessed January and may the spirit of Epiphany be with you,  
Pastor Jamie



# Youth News

## Confirmation Information

Confirmation will now be at **Our Savior's Lutheran Church** for the months of **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.



Confirmation will resume on **Wednesday, January 10th!**

- Wednesday, January 3**—NO CONFIRMATION CLASS
- Wednesday, January 10**—we will be at Our Savior's
- Wednesday, January 17**—we will be at Our Savior's
- Wednesday, January 24**—Community Action Night
- Wednesday, January 31**—we will be at Our Savior's



## Jr High/Sr High Youth Groups

We will be helping at the **Feed My Starving Children** event at the Fargodome on **Sunday, January 14th from 1-3pm!** We will leave from Faith at 11:45am and hope to be home around 4:30pm. Please bring money for a snack after the event is done! Parent watch your email for more info soon!

## Confirmation Youth Service Project

Kids in Confirmation from Faith, Our Savior's and Trinity took part in a special community service project this holiday season! These youth went shopping at Wal-Mart in Jamestown and bought presents for children in need in our community. Thank you to Dakota Prairie Associates—Thrivent for providing \$1,000 to use to make this happen! The following Wednesday the kids had a wrapping and pizza party!



## Sunday School

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

Important Dates for Sunday School:

We will resume Sunday School on **Sunday, January 7th** with an Epiphany Party!



Sunday, January 21st will be our Youth-Led Service with:

- Preschoolers leading the Dismissal
- Kindergarten-1st Graders helping with Offering
- 2nd-3rd Graders helping with the Call to Worship
- 4th-6th Graders leading the Prayer Petitions

## Kids Club

We welcome all kids going into 4th-6th grade to come to our Wednesday Afterschool program called **Kids Club**! We currently have 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, January 3—NO KIDS CLUB
- Wednesday, January 10—Kids Club at Faith
- Wednesday, January 17—Kids Club at Faith
- Wednesday, January 24—Kids Club at Faith
- Wednesday, January 31—Service Project!



The Kids Club rang the Salvation Army Bells at Leavers and at Petro Serve on December 6th. They had a good time ringing bells and singing as well as giving out candy canes. Thanks Pastor Jamie for joining in on the bell ringing!



## 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**.



## Proposed Changes to Faith Lutheran Church Constitution

Members of Faith Lutheran,

The current FLC council has approved the below constitution changes to be presented for a congregational vote at our January 2024 annual meeting. Please review and reach out to any current council members with questions or comments. **See you at the annual meeting Sunday, January 21st.**

### Change #1

Article \*X - \*Section 1

**Original:** The church council shall consist of the pastor or pastors and nine (9) elected members.

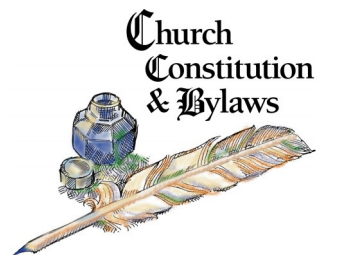
**Revised:** The church council shall consist of the pastor or pastors and seven (7) elected members.

### Change #2

Article VIII - Section 4

**Original:** Their tenure shall be so arranged that one third of the terms expire annually.

**Revised:** Their tenure shall be so arranged that no more than three terms expire annually.



## Message from Our Council President

Happy New Year,

This month brings our annual meeting with election of officers, budget approval and a change to our constitution. There will be a vote to reduce our council to 7 members. Our hope is that this will make it easier to fill our positions as well as still give us a good representation of our congregation demographics. With the new year begins our new budget. We will all need to prayerfully consider our giving this year. To be perfectly honest our church is squeaking by financially and we will need to find a solution.

I pray that as a congregation we may come together to find that solution.

God Bless,

Justin R. Foell, FLC Council President



## We Are Looking for a Treasurer

**Job Description:** record bulk deposits (not responsible for recording to member records), bill entry and payment, payroll, payroll tax deposits & reporting, reports for council meetings and annual meeting, attend council meetings, manage online giving account. Bookwork is done in Quickbooks. Microsoft Office skills, especially Excel, are needed. For more information on the position, please talk to Amy Johnson or a council member.

### Baptismal Keepsake Cross Presentation

Baptismal Keepsake Crosses will be presented to families on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** during the 9:30am worship service. January 7 is Baptism of the Lord Sunday. All children baptized in Faith Lutheran during 2023 will receive their baptismal crosses compliments of Faith Lutheran. These keepsakes are personalized with their names and baptismal dates as a reminder of this special step in their Christian walk of faith.

The following individuals will be recognized:  
**Oliver Jefferey Stearns, Lewis John Stearns, Asher Ray Foell, Jackson Jay Larson, Wrevyn Wynn Friestad, Owen James Houdek, Frankie Sue Ashline, Mari Rose Anderson.**



### Faith Visitation Team

God has certainly blessed the Visitation Team as we visit and share with congregation members in their homes. It is our privilege to spend time each week with our friends who are not able to attend worship services. As we enter a new year, please keep these members of our Faith Family in your prayers.

If you or someone you know would like an in-home visit, please call Val at 840-1652 or Julie in the church office at 845-4390.

We look forward to building more friendships in 2024. God bless you!

Visitation Team Members,  
 Val, Elise, Cheryl and Nancy



### 2024 Offering Envelopes

The 2024 offering envelopes for households are ready to be picked up. If you would like envelopes and don't see any with your name on them please see Julie in the office and she will give you envelopes.

Thank you to all who have set up online giving. To set up online giving go to our website: [www.faithlutheranvc.org](http://www.faithlutheranvc.org) and click on the give online button on the upper right side. If you scan the QR code with the QR Reader on your phone it will also take you to our website's online giving. A reminder that 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.



### December Memorials

In memory of **Amy Foell Harbough** given by Dave & Jeanne Johnsen (Undesignated).

In memory of **Willis Johnson** given by Mavis Johnson (Undesignated).

In memory of **Dr. Paul Vangerud** given by Randy & Kay Bostrom (Building Fund); by Lois Brandvold (Undesignated); by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by Dennis Hoye & Linda Lane (Undesignated); by John & Elise Miller (Foundation); by Jack & Val Moritz (Undesignated); by Jerry & Carol Moritz (Undesignated); by Julie Moritz (Undesignated); by Roger & Sandy Mulvaney (Undesignated); by Joan Noeske (General Fund); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (General Fund); by Brenda Stearns (Undesignated); by Elaine Walls (Altar Guild); by Larry & Deloris Welken (Undesignated).

### Celebration of Life Tree



Our youth would like to thank everyone who purchased a bells ornament for the Celebration of Life Tree in memory or in honor of their loved ones. This is a youth group fundraiser. We had over 100 bells on the tree! Thank you Paulette Everson for making all the ornaments.



If you purchased any ornaments, don't forget to take them home with you.

### Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. The poinsettias adorning the chancel area added to the Christmas atmosphere.



### JANUARY TEAM MEETINGS

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

**FLC Staff**—Meets **Wed, Jan 3 & Wed, Jan 17** at 1:30pm

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



Team Meetings

**Mission Team**—Meets **Tue, Jan 9** at 5:30pm

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

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



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

- 1. Yvonne Arneson; 2. Chase Roberts;
- 3. Amy Pederson, Audrey Peterson, Brett Stearns;
- 4. Rowan Horner, Elaine Jenison;
- 5. Jordyn Adamietz; 7. Tami Kratz;
- 8. Amy Johnson, Brenda Rohde, Brenna Storly;
- 10. Mara Thompson;
- 11. Jax Hejtmanek, Joan Noeske;
- 12. Jackie Heroux;
- 14. Jan Kamstra, Faye Ranisate Heley, Tyler Stearns;
- 16. Bristol Carlson;
- 17. Jill Rischmiller;
- 18. Hayden Botz, Kael Jenison, Mark Johnson, Dani Sorensen, Brooke Yanish;
- 19. Mackenzie Pederson;
- 21. Breana Buringrud, Parker Rodin;
- 24. Jill Pederson;
- 25. Rydell Becker, Tricia Germann;
- 26. Addie Gerhardt;
- 27. Linda Gruebele;
- 29. Morgan Larson;
- 30. Frank Larson;
- 31. Cali Anderson, Clayton Newton, Sam Ranisate.

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 9. Richard & Marsha Anderson;
- 18. Mike & Pamela Egan, Dallas & Linda Gruebele;
- 29. Randy & Teri McClafflin;
- 31. Nick & Kayla Holm.

**December Transitions**

**DEATHS:** Our sympathies to Doreen & family & friends of **Dr. Paul Vangerud**. Paul died December 1, 2023. His funeral was held Thursday, December 7 at Faith with Pastor Jamie officiating.

Our sympathies to the family & friends of **John “J.O.” Lutjens**. J.O died Friday, December 22, 2023. His memorial service was held Saturday, December 30 at Faith with Deacon Jim McAllister officiating.

Here are a couple of addresses of our Faith Family who live out of Valley City if you would like to send them a note or card. If you would like an address for someone please ask Julie in the office.

**Lois Brandvold**— 220 South Maple Apt. 206, Watertown, SD 57201

**Howard Oppgard**—Roseadele 1505 3rd St SE Jamestown, ND 58401

**Dan & Bea Faust**—The Glenn of Minnetonka, Apt 132 5300 Woodhill Rd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

**Mary Ann Anderson**—36 8th Ave SE #215 Mayville, ND 58257

**W.E. (Windy) & Lila Rohwedder**—2890 Saffron Dr Apt 2005 Fargo, ND 58104

**December Service & Care**

**\*\*Dean & Brenda Klein**

Jill Berg-Foss

Chris & Kalyn Botz

Jason & Kirstin Gerhardt

Jackie Heroux

Bob & Ilene Hetler

John & Jan Johnson

Scott & Lisa Limesand

Mike & Vicki Z. Metcalf

Howard & Carol Oppgard

Larry & Deloris Welken

\*Thank you for serving!

**December Attendance**

December 3	136	103+ online views
December 10	87	91+ online views
December 17	127	93+ online views
December 24	44/227	167+ online views
December 31	(not included)	

\*online views are households watching

**Offering**

January	\$18,442.00
February	\$15,343.00
March	\$22,544.00
April	\$25,704.00
May	\$12,775.00
June	\$14,732.00
July	\$20,576.00
August	\$12,836.00
September	\$17,497.00
October	\$18,864.00
November	\$20,359.37
December	\$23,380.00
(December 31 not included)	

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

**Enjoy These Photos from Manger Tales—We Love Our Children!**

The Manger Tales is the Christmas story told through the eyes and thoughts of the animals on a talk show called Larry Prince Live. We heard from the donkey, cows, sheep, and camels. Our narrators told the Christmas story. If you would like to see the Christmas Program you can watch it on our YouTube channel: vcfaihlutheran or find it on our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City. You will enjoy it!



Larry Prince—Maya Van Bruggen  
Doug the Donkey—Jack Altringer



Clara the Cow—Harper Van Bruggen  
Cleo the Cow—Cali Anderson



Sonny the Sheep—Kenzington Pilgrim  
Sam the Sheep—Anna Metcalf



Cody the Camel—Hadley Rischmiller  
Cooper the Camel—Max Rischmiller



### WELCA News

WELCA did not meet in December. 2023 was a good year for Faith's WELCA. We had a successful Fall Festival and together with the congregation and kids group sent many personal health kits to Lutheran World Relief among other smaller projects. We appreciate all the support we get from our Faith family. Along with the successes, we also experienced losses within our Faith Family and our personal lives and helped one another through those losses.

As I write this, sitting in my recliner in my warm, cozy house and look out at the icy conditions I count my many blessings, including my family, friends, and my faith.

Even in the icy conditions I can see beauty and am sharing some of the pictures Justin took today out at Foell's Meadow. I pray you all had a joyous Christmas, making wonderful memories, and that you stay safe as we slide into 2024. Wishing you all a VERY Happy New Year.

Peace to all,  
Cheryl Foell, WELCA President

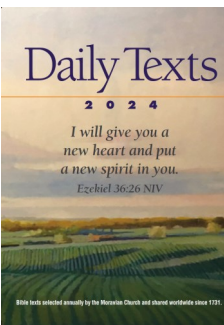


### Ladies Craft Day—Saturday, January 6



Enjoy a day of crafting, fellowship and fun! Saturday, December 2 we will have a craft day from 9am-8pm here at Faith Lutheran. Bring your own craft project or work on card kits (cards will be used by the visitation team). Bring a friend. Stay all day or for a few hours. Bring a lunch or order in. Contact Julie May @ 490-1143 with questions.

### 2024 Daily Texts



The 2024 Daily Texts are here! The cost of each book will be \$11.95. 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 the website: [www.groundupgrace.com](http://www.groundupgrace.com). You may go to the [GroundUpGrace.com](http://GroundUpGrace.com)/podcasts to listen to their podcasts.

The Daily Texts is where the devotions sent out each week are found.

### Mission Team News



A huge THANK YOU from the Mission Committee to Faith members who helped make our Christmas mission opportunities successful.

Again, this year, we partnered with the elementary schools. Your gifts provided a clothing item and toy for each of the 13 children and two gift certificates for any additional needs for the eight families. The parents were very appreciative and excited for their families as they picked up their gifts.

We also continued the mission opportunity this year with gift donations for residents of SMP Health -St Raphael (Sheyenne Care Center). Your gifts filled more than two big tubs and were greatly appreciated by the nursing home and residents! Every resident at St Raphael received Christmas gifts through these and other donations.

### Mission Christmas



Throughout the year and with Noisy Offering, Faith members support our Christmas Family Fund. This year with those generous offerings and other committee contributions, Faith helped 7 individuals or families. We sent a Christmas Card greeting from Faith Lutheran with gift cards to them.

January and February we will be collecting 2-piece pajamas (please note, they do not take one-piece sleepers/pajamas) for Project Ignite Light. A container will be in the gathering area for pajamas and all sizes are needed. You may buy sleep pants and tops for larger youth sizes.



We will have a fleece blanket tying event for Project Ignite Light probably in February with a date to be announced later. More information will follow.

Again, thank you for your continued participation in the mission opportunities our committee brings to our congregation. It is all of us working together to bring Christ-like missions to others and share the Faith Good News!

The next Mission Team meeting will be **Tuesday, January 9th at 5:30pm**. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Mission Team or would like to be a part of the committee is welcome!

### Noisy Offering—Project Ignite Light



We will be receiving a noisy offering on **Sunday, January 21**. The offering received will be going to Project Ignite Light. The kids will come around during the Children's Word with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills. In December we received \$330.40 for the Stocking Stuffer Program! Your generosity continues to make a difference in people's lives. Thank you!