

FAITH ON THE RISE

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072
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"Rejoice! The Lord is near." *Philippians 4:5*

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The office will be closed Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.



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We Welcome You to Join Us for Worship!



Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30am as we come together to worship! If you are unable to attend in person please join us online. During the summer we will livestream the services at least twice a month on our Facebook page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City. Services may also be found on our YouTube channel: vcfaithlutheran. If we don't have anyone available to run the camera we won't be able to livestream that Sunday.

During the summer months many of you are out of town on the weekends. Remember you can set up your giving online on our website: www.faithlutheranvc.org. The QR Code will take you to our website to the online giving. This is a way you will be able to continue to give your offering to support Faith Lutheran and our ministries. Thank you for supporting Faith Lutheran Church through your time, talents and giving!



Faith Cemetery Update

The Cemetery Committee has been busy this summer. We installed a beautiful new cross and completed a road around the outside of the cemetery. The road will serve us well for access to the cemetery and increase safety during burials! If you have not visited the cemetery I really encourage you to take a short drive to take a look.

God Bless,
 Justin Foell
 Cemetery Committee Vice-President





As we celebrate the two hundred and forty-seventh anniversary of our nation this July, let us remember that the United States was one of the few countries at that time to experiment with this idea of a democracy. Up until 1776 most countries were controlled by a monarchy where a King made decisions on taxes, religion, and matters of justice. The concept that a country would have elected representatives from the general population and that individual states could create their own laws was truly revolutionary. Today many countries have followed suit and created governments ruled by the people and for the people. The United States brought to the world the credo, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people regardless of race, religion or creed.

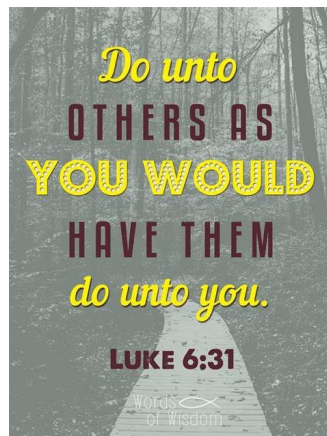
The belief that all people are to be treated with respect and dignity comes from our scriptures beginning with the Ten Commandments and concluding with the words of Jesus, *Do unto others as you would have done unto you.* Luke 6:31. In some ways our democracy is still an experiment we are practicing as we try to make our country a just place where all people are treated the way we would want to treat others. But there are holes in this great nation of ours where not everyone is treated with the respect and dignity God asks of us. That is where each of us come in, called to be God's light in the world creating communities that reflect the love of Christ to our neighbors.

As you watch the firework displays and celebrate with family and friends this fourth of July, remember what our nation stands for and how your faith can make a difference bringing liberty, justice and the pursuit of happiness to all people.

Thank you for being in this partnership with me as we spread the love of Christ to our community of Valley City and to the world.

Have a blessed and happy July,

Pastor Jamie Desai



A Message from Your Council President



Happy Summer! I hope everyone is having a great summer. You may see some changes happening with landscaping around the church. There are some necessary changes that need to be done to protect our beautiful building! Summer tends to be a quiet time at the church as everyone is busy enjoying the warm weather and traveling. Please try to keep some time set aside in your busy summer schedule for the church, whether it be with your time, talents or tithing.

God Bless,
Justin Foell, Council President

Youth News

Confirmation Information

Confirmation Youth—please make a note of when you are scheduled to acolyte over the summer. If you are unable to acolyte on your assigned Sunday please find a replacement and let Julie in the office know by Wednesday of that week. Thank you. We know summers are busy but we hope to see you in worship when you can be here.

2023 Summer Confirmation Mentor Program—the 10th grade youth that will be confirmed this fall are to meet with their mentors 4 times between now and August 31st. If you have misplaced your packet and need a new one stop by the office and Julie can give you one.



Minneapolis Youth Trip

On Wednesday, June 21 Wendi Wilmes, Kalyn Botz, and Pat Edinger took 18 kids from Faith, Our Savior's, and Trinity to Valley fair for a day of fun! **On Thursday, June 22** they all went to watch the Minnesota Twins play the Boston Red Sox! They got to see the Twins win 6-0, and Joe Ryan throw a complete game shutout! Thank you to Kalyn and Pat for chaperoning, and Pat for driving the bus!



Boundary Waters Trip

Scott Tichy and John Samuelson are leading a Boundary Waters trip for kids in 7th-12th grade! This year's adventure will be **July 25-31**. Boundary Waters is a challenging trip but so worth it to experience and see all the wonders of God's creation.



Vacation Bible School!

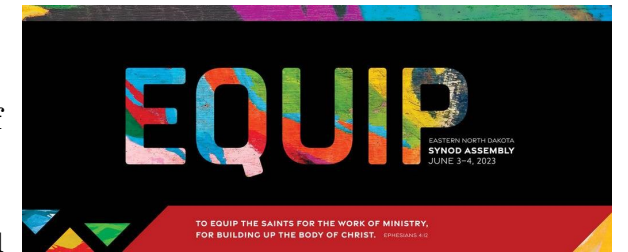
VBS took place on Wednesday, June 28-Friday, June 30 at Our Savior's. 60 kids from Faith, Our Savior's and Trinity came together for lots of fun to learn more about Jesus. 4 counselors came from Red Willow Bible Camp to provide this Wonderful experience to our kids.



Thank you to Grady Samuelson, Taylor Yanish, Abby Wilmes, and Alyssa Wilmes for being group leaders! Also thank you to Brenda Rohde for helping Wendi make lunch for the kids on Thursday! All the kids had a blast and we can't wait for next year!

Summary of the 2023 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly

On June 3-4, 2023, the Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA gathered together at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND for the thirty-sixth annual Synod Assembly under the theme of "Equip." There were a total of 293 people in attendance (176 Lay Voting Members; 85 Rostered Minister Voting Members; 32 Visitors). The business items included hearing reports from officers, adopting the 2025 Synod Mission Plan (budget), election of a new Synod Vice President (Dr. Elna Solvang), elections for Synod Council positions and committees, and adopting four resolutions (some were amended). Participants also heard the State of the Synod from Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth and State of the ELCA from our churchwide representative, Rev. Lamont Wells. We had two uplifting worship services with an emphasis on our Outdoor Ministries and Campus Ministries at Opening Worship and installation of our Synod Vice President at Closing Worship. There were three workshop sessions with a total of ten different options. Three Equip Experiences included learning about and practicing FAITH5 with Pr. Amy Kippen, a Hand-Stretching Exercise by our Portico Representative, and Lectio Divina with Bishop Tessa. Rostered Ministers and Congregations celebrating significant anniversaries were acknowledged, along with naming the congregations that have experience Holy Closure in the past year. A "Food for All Block Party" was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Saturday evening where financial gifts and food donations were collected for food ministries across the synod. A total of \$3,550 was raised.



Information received from Deacon Laura of the EaND Synod

Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly Reflections

This was my first Synod Assembly, so I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. However, the sense of community I felt from being in one room with hundreds of other people rooted in their faith is something special. I sat with a couple from Northeast North Dakota who had a few more years of life experience than I did. It was wonderful to hear their stories about growing up in church, attending NDSU, and how their faith shone through in their career choices as a judge and social worker. While the worship services and the workshops were both inspiring, what I enjoyed most was making connections with and learning from fellow attendees.

Eliza Johnson

My experience at the North Dakota Eastern ELCA Synod was incredible. Right away as you gear up for it, thoughts come across your mind like "Is this something I really want to spend my weekend at sitting in a hotel ballroom all day?" But once you step in you were immediately greeted with a presence of peacefulness and kindness. The Eastern North Dakota Synod did a wonderful job preparing wonderful speakers and workshops for us. I met many new people that were passionate about the church and really cared for the future of the Eastern North Dakota Synod. Overall, it was a really moving experience to be gathered with a bunch of strangers who are all passionate about Christ. I look forward to going again in the next couple of years and seeing how we can all grow the church. I highly recommend more people from our FLC congregation to seriously consider going to this at some point in their lives.

Matt Brandvold

Duluth Mission Trip

On Sunday, July 9, Wendi Wilmes and Rebecca Westman are taking 11 youth to Duluth, MN for a mission trip through the company, Youthworks. They will be serving the community of Duluth from July 9-14. The kids will be excited to share their experiences after they get back from the trip!



Noisy Offering—School Supply Drive

We will be receiving a noisy offering on **Sunday, July 16**. The offering received will be going to the Mission Team School Supply Drive for the Elementary Schools. The kids will come around during the Children's Message with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills.



In June we received \$127.14 for the Summer Grocery Store! Your generosity continues to make a difference in people's lives. Thank you!

Faith Visitation Team

The Visitation Team hosted a Coffee Party at the Legacy Place on Thursday, June 1st. It was a wonderful time of visiting and good treats! Special thanks to the many Faith Lutheran family who joined us! We plan to do another coffee party later this summer. Following are a few photos from that afternoon.



We're happy to have added three new visitations. Please keep them in your prayers.



Gordon Reitan



Laurette Zachrison



Mark Hill

Members of the Visitation Team are Elise Miller, Nancy Ost, Cheryl Foell and Val Moritz. Please call Val (840-1652) if you'd like to receive a visit.

Bible Study Opportunity



Who is Jesus? At the request of several people a very basic study about **HIM** is being offered. We will study the Bible together learning basic study keys for understanding. Most of all, learn who the man **JESUS** is. All are welcome. This will be lead by Nancy Knutson. For now we will meet **Wednesdays at 5pm**. Bring your Bible. If you don't have one, it will be provided.

Attention Men of Faith!

Summer time, Fun time. Hey Men of Faith, are you ready for a couple of Fun summertime outdoor activities?

Wednesday, July 19 is our annual Bar-B-Que at Mark Brandvold's cabin at the crossing on Lake Ashtabula. Hamburgers will be provided (professionally grilled by Mark) everyone else is asked to bring a dish to pass. This can anything from chips to vegetables to a salad to ??? Or if you still don't know what to bring, just bring yourself and maybe a friend. Everyone is also asked to bring your favorite beverage to drink. Plates, napkins and plasticware will be provided. The meal is scheduled for **6pm** (or whenever we are ready) so if anyone would like to carpool, we will meet at the church at **5:30pm**. If you have any questions about the picnic, contact Mark Brandvold or Duane Larson. We hope to once again have a good turnout for this fun event.



Wednesday, August 16 is the scheduled date for our annual trip to the **RedHawks Baseball Game** in Fargo. The FM RedHawks will be playing the Lincoln Saltdogs. The past couple of years, the games have been very Fun to attend. The game is scheduled for **7pm** so those that are interested, we will meet at the church at **5:15pm**. Any questions about this event, please contact Duane Larson. Once again it would be fun to have a good turnout to enjoy this event.

We invite any of the men from Faith Lutheran to share in either or both of these events. Our motto is Food, Fun & Fellowship and we like to have much of each of these at our events our gatherings.

June Memorials



In memory of **Rory Mulvaney** given by Junette Christianson (Undesignated); by Lance & Marian Drevecky (Undesignated); by Cheryl Foell (Undesignated); by his loving aunt, Mrs. Janice Funches (Undesignated); by Richard & Nancy Gehrke (Undesignated); by Gigi Goven MD (Undesignated); by Dave & Jeanne Johnsen (General Fund); by Lamonte & Patricia Johnson (Undesignated); by Eunice Johnston (Undesignated); by Janell Kunze (Undesignated); by Marlys Kunze (Undesignated); by Carol Knutson (Undesignated); by Margie Lima (Foundation); by Joe & Martee Lunde (General Fund); by Bill & Kim McKay (Undesignated); by Doug & Leona McPherson (Undesignated); by John & Elise Miller (Youth); by Jack & Val Moritz (General Fund); by Donna Nelson (Undesignated); by Jerry & Amy Noeske (Undesignated); by O'Neil & Jan Oppegaard (Undesignated); by Rodger & Dian Quist (Undesignated); by Peter & Karen Richman (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated); by Dale & Gail Stockamp (Undesignated).
 In memory of **Connie Pederson** (Ron) given by Dean & Amy Pederson (Undesignated); by Al & Nancy Sorensen (Undesignated); by Elaine Walls (Altar Guild).
 In memory of **Marlys Peterson** given by Randy & Kay Bostrom (Altar Guild).
 In memory of **Ray & Karen Smedshammer** given by Marlys Kunze (Undesignated).

JULY JULY BIRTHDAYS:



1. Talia Germann; 2. Olivia Johnson, Madison Mikkelsen; 3. Dave Jewett, Avvi Kellogg; 7. Jasen McGough; 8. Jason Gerhardt, Taylor Miller, Mark Moser; 9. Illa Glandt, Brianna Walker; 10. Mary Johnson, Heather Smith; 11. Kay Stanford; 12. Ashley Limesand, Sandi Pollock, Shawn Ranisate; 13. Jake Rohde; 14. Gary Anderson; 15. Diane Kohn; 16. Ivory Erickson, Kinley Frieze, Torrey Morehouse, Hunter Sayler; 17. Rick Bredeson, Candace Johnson; 18. Carroll Gjovik; 21. Ellie Altringer, Mikkal Auka, Mike Metcalf, Sue Milender Toppen; 23. Kent Gronlie, Brody Metcalf, Sandy Mulvaney, Betty Overby, Jack Walker; 25. Seth Auka, Diana Larson, Conner May, Jason Winge; 26. Janeen Anderson, Jessica Jenrich, Kaylee Smith, Anthony Sommerfeld; 27. Drake Carlson; 28. Haidyn Becker; 29. Gage Hilborn, Cyndi Hill; 30. Doug Altringer, Lynn Gustafson, Jarin Thornton, Zachary Wilmes; 31. Tyler Gustafson, Oliver Stearns.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

7. Orlando & Kylie Anderson; 8. Scott & Kay Stanford; 16. Dean & Amy Pederson, Scott & Wendi Wilmes; 23. Cory & Alison Rodin, Bob & Carol Thibeault; 25. Luke & Stephanie Bopp; 27. Gene & Nancy Bjerke, Brent & Lynn Gustafson, Brandon & Nicole Larson; 29. Tyler & Angela Van Bruggen; 31. Bob & Ilene Hetler, Mark & Linda Moser.

June Transitions in Our Parish

BAPTISMS: We welcomed into the family of God **Wrevyn Wynn Friestad**, born May 4, 2023 and baptized June 18, 2023. Her parents are Greg and Sarah Friestad. God bless Wrevyn & her family.
DEATHS: Our sympathies to Roger, Sandy, Jenelle Mulvaney and family. **Rory Mulvaney** died Monday, June 5, 2023. His Celebration of Life was Tuesday, June 13, 2023 here at Faith Lutheran with Pastor Kyle Symanski officiating. Please keep his family in your prayers.

July Service & Care
 **Julie Moritz
 **Cindy Waagen
 Marlene Bartz
 Rita Bearman
 Marlys Freadhoff
 Jerry & Carol Moritz
 Audrey Peterson
 Cheryl Peterson
 Ron & LeeAnn Peterson
 Colten & Jenny Roberts
 Jacob & Brenda Rohde
 *Thank you for serving!

June Attendance

June 4	68	83+online views
June 11	67	81+ online views
June 18	106	88+online views
June 25	64	86+online views

*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

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

JULY TEAM MEETINGS

Council—Meets **Tue, July 11 at 5:30pm**

FLC Staff—Meets **Wed, July 12 at 1:30pm**

August Service & Care—
 Meets **Sun, July 23** after
 worship & by emails
 texts/ phone

Team Meetings

ROCKING CHAIR PRAYERS

Sacred time at the back of the sanctuary by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will for God in Christ Jesus for you.—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
 Excerpted from *The Beauty of Motherhood: Grace-Filled Devotions for the Early Years* © 2023 Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY 10016. Reprinted with permission.

IN THE EARLY YEARS OF MOTHERHOOD, I found myself sitting in the back of the sanctuary during Sunday worship. Whether one child was throwing a fit or one needed to nurse, sitting in the back allowed us to be present for worship, but also far enough from others to not cause a scene (and to be close enough to the bathrooms). With my babies, I'd nurse while we cuddled. The sounds of the service—music, greetings, and prayers—comforted my children so that many times with a full belly, they'd fall asleep in my arms.

Rocking back and forth in the rocking chair, with a baby nestled against me, I watched the congregation: up and down in the pews, listening to the stories of God's people, mothers coloring with children, fathers doling out snacks, teenagers fidgeting. All of it holy. All of it worship.

For fear of waking up the baby, many Sundays I'd remain rocking in the back instead of joining the liturgy. I wasn't able to get up and down and join the congregation. I didn't sing or speak too loudly. Yet, I learned in those early years of motherhood that this time in worship could all be prayer. My time in the rocking chair was indeed sacred.

I'd rock and pray: *Thank you, God, for this baby. Keep him safe. Give us all rest. May we all know love. Thank you for this community and the voices joined as one in song. Thank you for the outstretched hands and the warm smiles. May we all grow together in God's love and grace.*

Sometimes I'd rock the baby sleeping in my arms, and I'd hear the prayers spoken by the assisting minister. Certain words would grab my attention, conjuring a whole host of new prayers. My attention turned to the world, and hope for healing, love, new life, and peace.

Looking at the congregation members in front of me, words bubbled to the surface. Watching the two children sleep on their parents' shoulders, I prayed: *May we all know such rest and comfort.* Smiling at a high school couple surrounding one another with their loving arms, I prayed: *May we all have gentle hands to reach out to us.* Witnessing a family bouncing twin boy toddlers on their knees, I prayed: *May we all be so deeply loved.*

Listening to the wind against the windows and watching the sun stream through the stained glass, I prayed: *Thank you for this creation and the abundance of beauty and new life. Help us steward this earth and preserve its bounty.*

Seeing the widow alone in the pew, I prayed: *Pour your presence on those who need a friend.*

Wondering about those who weren't among us, I prayed: *For those who would never enter a church, may we meet them where they are.*

The more I saw the people in front of me, the more prayers I had to offer. I rocked back and forth. My son slept. I prayed. Sometimes with words. Sometimes with sighs of gratitude. I may not remember the Bible stories or the message from the pastor, but these prayers, I remember.

This sleeping, this fidgeting, this tuning in and out of worship, this longing, this loving, this holding, this noticing, it's all worship. It's all prayer. One breath and one rock at a time.

However you're praying—with words, sighs, or tears—God hears you. God hears the whispers of your heart and the screams from your gut. Wherever you are and however you feel, look around and see God's people inviting you to pray. For your life is a prayer.

These are our prayers. These are the prayers of the people. Amen.



WELCA News

WELCA does not meet during the summer months so I would like to use my space to share an excerpt from the devotion *“How to Survive the Stress of Summer”* by Tracie Miles. Too often we get too over booked during our short three months of summer which can cause too much stress!!

Here are some practical tips to keep summer stress at bay:

- ◆ Focus on all the good things God has done for us so far this year, instead of the challenges of the summer months.
- ◆ Remain calm and pray for God’s peace when the demands of family and life see overwhelming.
- ◆ Ask God to give us rest and strength when we begin to feel stretched thin and worn out.
- ◆ Take daily mini-vacations. Try to set aside at least five minutes per hour to stretch and take a break, and stay committed to your time in God’s Word each day!
- ◆ When you take days off from your work or daily routine, unplug completely—meaning no phone or emails.
- ◆ Keep a checklist or a detailed calendar of all scheduled activities so you can stay organized and less stressed.
- ◆ Do something for yourself once a week: take a bubble bath, read a good book, spend time outdoors or take a nap.
- ◆ Busyness and stress can heat up quicker than the summer sun. But it is possible to stay cool on the inside. Whether we are low in spirit or low in energy, depending on God and seeking a daily infusion of His strength and peace can ensure a less stressful summer.

Dear God, sometimes I allow the chaos of summer to distract me from spending time with You. I neglect to claim Your peace and allow myself to get bogged down with the stressors of the season. I get frustrated with my children, rather than treasuring this time with them. help me focus on You when I begin to feel overcommitted and to seek Your peace with each rising sun. in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

The next WELCA board meeting will be Wednesday, August 9 at 3:30pm.

Enjoy your summer ☺
Cheryl Foell, WELCA president

Summer Grocery Store

The Summer Grocery Store is open again this summer on **Wednesdays from 5-7pm** at the FACs Room at VC High School—go to door #W6, it’s the first classroom on the left as you walk in the door. This can only be open with the supplies from Great Plains Food Bank and generous donations from community neighbors. If you would like to donate, we will have a drop box at Faith for the following items that would supplement items from the food bank.

Here is a list of needs: Peanut Butter Jelly Cans of Tuna & Chicken Soups—Cream of Mushroom, Chicken Noodle, Tomato Spaghetti Sauce Pasta Noodles Canned Spaghetti-o’s Cans of Fruit (variety) Monetary Donations to purchase frozen meats or fresh breads, etc.



Mission Team Project—School Supplies Collection



The Annual School Supply Drive for the elementary schools has begun. We collect school supplies from Faith members and provide those to the schools for the teachers to provide to the students who do not have the supplies that are needed for the classroom. The schools have told us it is nice to have this stock supply for teachers to use when their students do not come with their own supplies, or they run out during the year. We will have collection boxes at

the church in July until August and will pack them for the schools at our next meeting, August 8. Monetary donations should be placed in the donation envelopes and marked “School Supplies”. We appreciate all the support this congregation has given to this project in the past, and we know we will have it again this year!

Reminder: Please stick to the items on the following lists.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Jefferson Elementary (Grades K-3) - Crayons (box of 24); Regular Markers (10 count) Classic Colors; Thin Markers (10 count); #2 Pencils; Pink Erasers; Elmer’s School Glue; Glue Sticks; Plastic Pencil Box; Wide-Ruled (Single Subject) Notebook; Scissors; Two Pocket Folders; Black Sharpie Markers; Highlighters; Large Boxes of Tissues; Paper Towels; Clorox Wipes.

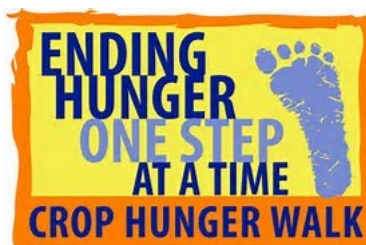
Washington Elementary (Grades 4-6) - #2 Pencils; Mechanical Pencils; Crayons (box of 24); Large Erasers; Box of Crayola Fine Point Markers; Box of Crayola Broad Line Markers; Black Sharpie Markers; Colored Pencils; Highlighters; Glue Sticks; Elmer’s School Glue; Scissors; 12” Ruler (both inches & centimeters); Wide-Lined Spiral Notebooks; College-Lined Spiral Notebooks; Two-Pocket Folders; Pencil Boxes; Loose Leaf Wide-Lined Papers; Large Boxes of Tissues; Paper Towels, Clorox Wipes, Personal Hand Sanitizer.

The next meeting for the Mission Team will be Tuesday, August 8th. If you would like to join the Mission Team, you are always welcome!

Faith Mission Team

Mission Team News

Thank you to everyone who donated diapers and wipes throughout the month of May! They are so needed and appreciated! The diapers and wipes were donated to community agencies for families who are in of need them.



We have a grand total for the amount of money raised for the CROP Hunger Walk that was held on May 3rd. The community raised \$7,000.41! That is a little more than \$2,000 higher than last year. Thank you for your generous giving and for all those who participated in the walk/run. The Barnes County Food Pantry receives 20% of the money raised.