

# FAITH ON THE RISE

Faith Lutheran Church . 309 Fourth Street Northeast . Valley City . North Dakota . 58072  
 Volume XXV Issue III Monthly March 2023

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

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**Sunday School:** *Wendi Wilmes*

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry and**

**Treasurer:** *Amy Johnson*

**Administrative Assistant:** *Julie Moritz*

**Interim Pastor:** *Pastor Jamie Desai*

## Church Staff

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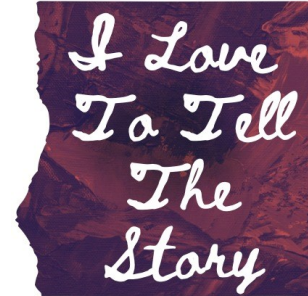
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Calendar/ Activities

## Lenten Services

Lenten services will be Wednesdays at 6:30pm and should be 30-45 minutes. The theme for this Lenten season is "I Love to Tell the Story" and will revolve around Biblical stories. The local ELCA pastors will be leading the services in a round robin style. The pastors participating are Rev. Jamie Desai (Faith), Rev. Kyle Symanki (Our Savior's), Rev. Diane Krumm (Trinity), Rev. Sharayah Robinson (Parishes in Fingal, Nome, and Kathryn). They will rotate each week to a different church. Holy Week each pastor will be at their home church.



+ LENT MIDWEEKS 2023 +

Here is the schedule of the rotation for Faith.

March 1—Pastor Kyle Symanski from Our Savior's

March 8—Pastor Jamie Desai from Faith

March 15—Pastor Sharayah Robinson from Fingal, Nome & Kathryn Parish

March 22—Pastor Diane Krumm from Trinity

March 29—Pastor Jamie Desai from Faith

## Meals during Lent—



A meal will be served **5:30-6:15pm** each Wednesday during Lent. This is a freewill offering. We are thankful that groups/committees signed up to make and serve the meals.

March 1—Men's Group will be serving pork loin sandwiches and sides.

March 8—Julie May and friends will be serving tuna hotdish and bars.

March 15—Faith Kids Club will be preparing and serving the meal.

March 22—Mission Team will be serving chili & fixin's, breads, dessert

March 29—Jr/Sr Hight Youth will be serving scalloped potatoes & ham.

April 6 (Maundy Thursday)-WELCA will be serving soup and sandwiches.

The confirmation youth will help with the dishes and clean up. Thank you!

## Holy Week Schedule

April 2—Palm Sunday—the Sunday School children will process in with palms and will sing at the 9:30am worship service

April 6—Maundy Thursday—1st Communion receive at the 6:30pm service

April 7—Good Friday—Tenebrae service will be at 7:30pm

April 8—Easter Sunday—Worship service will be at 9:30am, No coffee fellowship  
 10:30am—Easter Egg Hunt for preschool-6th graders.



We are journeying together through the season of Lent. After forty days we will reach Easter which means Springtime is near. After a snowy, bitterly cold and windy winter, Spring will be a welcome companion.

Lent is traditionally known as a season of repentance, a time when we give up the things that we believe come between us and God. Lent also means turning toward God and walking toward the kingdom of God. Our goal is to "live into" *Who we are and Whose we are as children of God.* *I wasn't able to be with you on Ash Wednesday due to the weather. I missed making the sign of the cross on your foreheads and saying, Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. Regardless of whether we have a little or a lot, are young or old, sick or well, we all are mortal. We all are broken and vulnerable, struggle and fail, needy and selfish. Having the mark of the cross on our heads reminds us that God is the One who created us from the dust and is the One to whom we forever belong.*

*Living into our identity in Christ means walking into the identity we have been given. We are people seeking to be faithful, making peace, doing justice and loving our neighbors so that God's abundance can be shared by all.*

Remember that you are an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God called to *live into the Kingdom that is present in God's son Jesus. This Kingdom transforms death to life, and will transform the bitterness of winter into the warmth of Spring.*

May God bless you on your journey through Lent and may the spirit of Christ breathe life into the desolate places of your life.



Blessed be the Name,

Pastor Jamie



### Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly

The Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly is Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4 in Fargo. We are looking for 3 individuals to volunteer to attend to represent Faith Lutheran Church. We know this seems far off but time goes fast and we would like to have our delegates in place. Delegates play an important role in speaking on behalf of their congregation and the whole church each year at this gathering and have an opportunity to connect with people from near and far. Your registration fee will be paid by FLC. If you are interested in attending or have any questions you can talk to a council member or Julie in the office. Last year Cheryl Foell and Carol Smith attended so they would be able to explain it to you also.

# Youth News

## 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). Confirmation students should have received their "Lent Passports" on Ash Wednesday. They need to be working on them during this Lenten season. There are extras on the table in the gathering area if you need to pick one up.

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

Here is the schedule:

March 1—9th Grade Boys

March 8—8th Grade Girls

March 15—8th Grade Boys

March 22—7th Grade Girls

March 29—we will be serving and cleaning up as a Fundraiser for Mission Trip

April 6 (Maundy Thursday) - 7th Grade Boys



## Jr/Sr High Youth!

On **Sunday, March 5th**, we will be going to **Thrill Hills** for an afternoon of tubing! We will leave from Faith at **12pm** and return no later than **4:30pm**. Pat Edinger will be driving a bus, so we will have transportation of everyone. The cost will be \$20 to tube, and please bring extra money if you want snacks there. Remember if you have money in your youth account you may use it for this. Here is the signup genius link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054AAAA82EA2F85-snow>



## Feed My Starving Children Event

The youth did a great job helping at the Feed My Starving Children event at Scheels Arena on Saturday, February 5th. Thank you Pastor Jamie and his wife Teresa, Julie May and Patty Gronlie for helping also! Thank you Wendi for arranging it!



## Sr 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:

- \*We will be singing and carrying palms in on Palm Sunday, April 2nd!
- \*1st Communion Class is Wednesday, March 8th.

The Sunday School kids did a great job helping tie blankets and packing up pajamas for Project Ignite Light!



### Save the Date for VBS!

Plan to save the dates for **June 28-30** for VBS with counselors from Red Willow and Park River Bible Camps! You will receive more information about this coming up, but put these dates on your calendars. This will be open for kids who are currently 4 up to kids who will be going into 6th grade next year.



### Faith Kids Club

We welcome all kids going into 4th-6th grade to come to our Wednesday afterschool program! You should have received a letter in the mail to sign up! Kids Club meets Wednesdays from 3:15-5pm here at Faith or once a month we go do a service project around the community. The kids are picked up with the church van from Washington School and parents then pick them up from Faith. Please contact Wendi to sign up if you haven't done so yet!

- March 1**—Service Project Day at Legacy Place
- March 8**—at Faith
- March 15**—we will be cooking and serving the Lent meal that evening!
- March 22**—at Faith
- March 29**—Service Project at The Arc Thrift Store



The Kids Club made Valentine hearts and played Valentine Bingo with the residents at Legacy Place

### A Message from Our Council President

Hello Faith Lutheran Community. I am your new council president. Most of you already know who I am but for those who don't, my name is Justin Foell. I am a Chiropractor here in Valley City, and live just outside of town with my wife, Brianne, and three boys, Graysen, Finley, and Asher. I was born and raised in Valley City and grew up as a member of Faith Lutheran and have been a member most of my life.

I am looking forward to serving and working with you as we work together to grow and move Faith Lutheran forward while we continue to share our faith with our community and beyond.

A little fun fact for this month. My current home, which is also the home I grew up in, was once the parsonage for First Lutheran Church which merged with Nebo Lutheran Church to form what is now Faith Lutheran. You can actually watch a short video on YouTube of the house being moved. I am going to try and do a fun fact or share some history every month so if you have an interesting facts about Faith Lutheran please reach out to me.

Justin Foell, Council President

### Your Elected 2023 Church Council

Your 2023 Council members were commissioned on Sunday, February 26. 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) Matt Brandvold, Paulette Everson, Sue Milender Toppen, Amy Pederson, Pastor Jamie, Nancy Ost, Mike May, Erin Metcalf. Not pictured: Justin Foell, Kent Gronlie.

### Lay Visitation Team Update

Members of the Visitation Team have been warmly welcomed and look forward to many more visits. We will feature photos of our visits in next month's newsletter.

We always have time for more visits and encourage our members who might like to be included to call Val Moritz at 840-1652 or call Julie at the church office 845-4390.



We encourage others to join us in this rewarding outreach. The Visitation Team would love to expand our team.

### Women's Bible Study Group

The Women's Bible Study Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30am in the fireside room. The Bible Study is lead by Pastor Jamie. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend when they are able. It doesn't matter if you don't feel you know much about the Bible or if you have been studying the Bible for years. This is a wonderful group of women who enjoy discussing the scripture for that Sunday each week. A cup of hot coffee or glass of water is always readily available to be enjoyed. Sometimes there's a treat to go along with the coffee ☺. The ladies attending the Bible Study may have changed over the years but the faith and devotion has not. On a personal note I look forward to seeing these delightful ladies each week!



Pictured: (l-r back row) Lorraine Nitschke, Reneé Martin, Carol Oppeward, Pastor Jamie, Jackie Heroux; (l-r front row) Ruth Geinert, Lois Brandvold, Diane Sommerfeld.

O God, give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty; pure and temperate in all enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; in whose name we pray. Amen.

### 1st Communion Class



Sacrament of Communion

We invite children 2nd-6th grade whose parents would like them to receive Holy Communion to attend 2 sessions 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-6th 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 First Communion Session will be **Wednesday, March 8 at 5:30pm**. Pastor Jamie will be leading this session. You will meet in the fireside room. An adult must attend the sessions with your child. If you plan to attend, please email [pastor@faithlutheranvc.org](mailto:pastor@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, Marcy 15 at 5pm** at Pedersonpottery (location and time are subject to change). The chalices are made and glazed by Dennis & Gail Pederson for the student use and keep for their 1st Communion.

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

### Bids Open for China Set and Glasses Set



WELCA has decided to sell our set of china. The set consists of 17 cups and 19 saucers, 19 dinner plates and 19 berry bowls. We are also selling the glasses that were used with the china set. There are 15 glasses. In case you are wondering, the china and glasses were used to set the head table when wedding receptions were common at church. The china and glasses will be sold separately. If you would like to see them, a set is on the back counter in the kitchen. **These will be sold by silent auction.** Please put your name, phone number, your bid and which item you are bidding on (china, glasses, or both) in a sealed envelope and give to Julie. **Bids will be accepted until March 8th.**

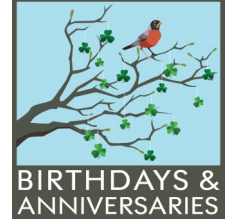
Name \_\_\_\_\_ China Bid Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Glasses Bid Amount \_\_\_\_\_

What are you bidding on? China \_\_\_ Glasses \_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline to turn in bid is March 8 in morning.

**MARCH**



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

1. Paulette Everson, DeeDee Jewett;
2. Wayne Eggert, Gavin Gerhardt, Taylor Johnson, Katie Smith;
3. Brittney Andel, London Herbert;
5. Jennifer Bergner, Steven Myers, 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, Elizabeth Frieze;
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 Larson;
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 in Our Parish**

**BAPTISMS:** We celebrated God's promise in Holy Baptism for Oliver Jeffrey Stearns, born July 31, 2020 and Lewis John Stearns, born August 20, 2022. They were baptized on Sunday, February 12, 2023. Their parents are Brett & Em Stearns & big sister is Eleanor. God bless Oliver and Lewis and their family.

**March Service & Care**

- \*\*Mikkal & Wanda Auka
- Scott & Amy Johnson
- Gene & Nancy Bjerke
- Scott & Nicki Brockopp
- Greg & Sarah Friestad
- Dave & Laura 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 5	106	72+ online views
February 12	105	56+ online views
February 19	87	
February 22 (Ash Wednesday)		
	71	37+ online views
February 26	107	57+ online views

\*online views are households watching

**Offering**

January	\$18,442.00
February	\$15,343.00

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

**February Memorials**



In memory of **Florence Retterath** given by Dean & Amy Pederson (General Fund).

**MARCH TEAM MEETINGS**

**Council**—Meets **Wed, Mar 8 at 7:30pm**

**Mission Team**—Meets **Tue, Mar 7 at 5:30pm**

**FLC Staff**—Meets **Wed, Mar 8 &**

**Apr. Service & Care**— Meets **Sun, Mar 19**

**Wed, Mar 22 at 1:30pm**

after worship and through emails/texts/ phone

**Men's Group**—Meets **Sat, Mar 18 at 8:00am**

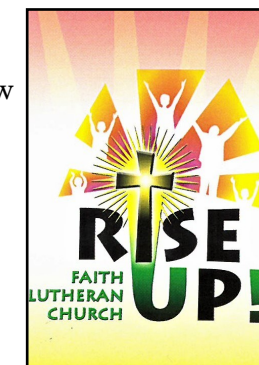
**WELCA**—Meets **Wed, Mar 8 at 3:30pm**

**Remembrance of the Church Fire Committee**

It's hard to believe but it will be 10 years ago on October 21, 2013 that we had the arson fire that destroyed our old church building. We would like to have a committee formed to brainstorm and come up with a way to mark the date of the fire. If you are interested in being a part of that committee please let a council member or Julie in the office know.

Each of us who was a member of Faith at the time of the fire remembers the feelings we had and still have as we think about that time. There are feelings of disbelief, sadness and despair, anger and frustration but also of strong faith in God and each other that we would be alright. It was amazing how much support and sympathy we had from our community and beyond! We quickly realized that **the building is not the church but the people are the church**. We came together and offices were set up and we were worshiping at Faith on the hill within the first two weeks. We are so thankful to have had the strong leadership of Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse and the serving council and others to help get us through that difficult time.

We do have information about the fire and the process of the building of our new church building available. We also have pictures and videos from that time. Julie will be able to help you with that. We also want to remember the joy of the celebrating of our first service at our new building on February 28, 2016.



*Rise and shine for your light has come. Isaiah 60:1a*

**Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars ®**

The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities. Thrivent Financial members, remember to designate where you would like your 2022 Choice Dollars to go. **The 2022 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2023.** Don't let your Choice Dollars expire. Thrivent Financial members go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoic](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoic) to make your choices for your Choice Dollars.



A remember that each Thrivent member who has a policy has access to two \$250 Thrivent Action cards a year. You can donate money to a fundraiser led

by a client with membership or organize your own. When a charitable activity is approved, volunteers can 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 for Project Ignite Light, school supplies, and items for the Hi-Line Pantry, Items for the quilters who make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Christmas gifts for the Dacotah Bank Community Gift Tree, for WELCA fundraisers, for the Back to School Luau, etc.



## WELCA News

WELCA met on February 8. We want to welcome Deb Shape to the WELCA board.

Our WELCA board will be serving soup and sandwich before the Maundy Thursday service, April 6, from 5:30-6:15pm.

The board approved serving guidelines for funerals. The guidelines will be forwarded to the church council for approval. Upon council approval the guidelines will be sent on to the funeral homes in Valley City. The office will also have a copy on file.

During Lent we will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief. **Health Kits.**

The health kits are a valuable and much needed part of Lutheran World Relief's outreach to those in need around the world. We are asking the members of Faith to donate the following items.

### Items needed for the health kits:

- One light-weight **bath towel** (between 20"x40" and 52"x27), dark color recommended
- 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



\*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

This year we will be hosting the Spring Luncheon for Faith, Trinity and Our Savior's WELCAs. Watch for future information regarding this event.

The next WELCA meeting will be **Wednesday, March 8 at 3:30pm.**

I pray you are doing well during our cold weather and hope for spring weather to arrive sooner than later.

God bless,  
Cheryl Foell, WELCA president

## Noisy Offering—Abused Persons Outreach Center

We will be receiving a noisy offering on Sunday, March 19th. The offering received will be going to our local Abused Persons Outreach Center. The kids will come around during the Children's Message with their pails to collect your loose change and dollar bills.

In February we received \$206.44 for the Barnes County Food Pantry as a part of Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Your generosity makes a difference in people's lives. Thank you!



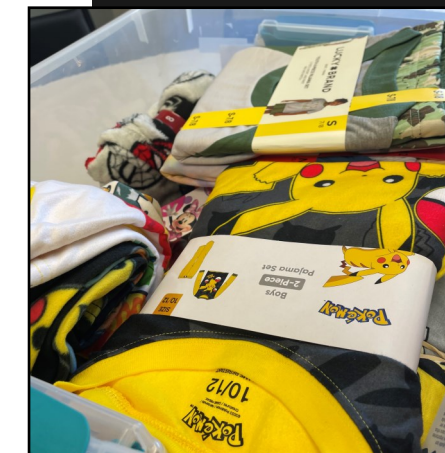
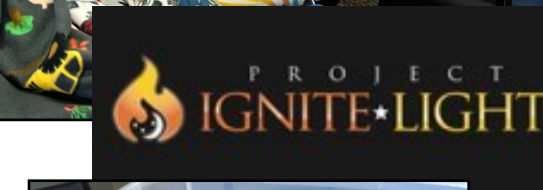
## Mission Team News

Sunday, February 12, was the Fleece Blanket Tying Event for Project Ignite Light. Adults and Sunday School children worked together to tie 24 blankets! It's so fun to enjoy visiting with each other while the blankets are tied. The children, lead by Pastor Jamie, blessed the blankets. The younger Sunday School kids helped to pack up the 2 piece pajamas for Project Ignite Light also. There were 34 pairs of pajamas donated! Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you Nancy Sorensen and Krista Johnson for your help precutting the blankets so they were ready to tie! Thank you to the Mission Team members for their part in setting everything up and packing the pajamas and the blankets. Thank you Nancy Sorensen for using a \$250 Thrivent Action Team card to purchase fleece and also pajamas. Nancy & Al Sorensen and Carol & Jerry Moritz will be bringing the blankets and pajamas to Project Ignite Light. Thank you!

The Mission Team will be serving the Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 22nd. They will be serving chili with all the fixin's, breads and dessert.

The Mission Team's next meeting will be Tuesday, March 7 at 5:30pm. New members are always welcome!



When Neil Armstrong (said to be a devout Christian) was visiting the Holy Land, he asked his guide if it was certain that Jesus had walked these very steps up to the Temple Mount. Assured that He must have, Armstrong said, "Then I have to tell you, I am more excited stepping on these stones than I was stepping on the moon."