



# Faith News

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August 2024

## Faith Lutheran Church

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**It is the mission of Faith Lutheran Church:**

*To gather prayerfully as the Body of Christ;  
To grow in faith, love, and service;  
To go into the world joyfully as disciples.*

### Worship Schedule

Worship - Wednesday 6:45 pm  
Holy Communion on the first and third weeks of the month



Follow Faith Lutheran Wolverton on Facebook

Wednesday Night Summer Services through August 29 at 6:45pm  
No service on Sundays in August.  
Special outdoor services planned for August 21 at LaDawn and Tim's. See page 2.

## From our Pastor - Devlyn Brooks

Dear Faith Family ...

What a difference a year makes! Right, Faith Family?

This week I had the opportunity to look back on where we were as a church going into August 2023.

Sure, we were gearing up for Rally Sunday to come later in September, just as we are this year, but I can vividly remember the pervasive question hanging over our heads last year.

And that question was: What's next for our church?

Do you remember those days?

- Back before we participated in the Rural Revival process?
- Back before we created a "Faith Forward" team?
- Back before we had a summer full of community outreach events planned?
- Back before we met with the Wolverton City Council and found an ally?
- Back before a new business opened across the street and gave us a partner in community building?

What a difference a year makes, indeed!

Between the Tuesday Food Truck events, the Wednesday night worship services, and our LYO group heading off to New Orleans for the tri-annual National Youth Gathering ... well, frankly, this summer has been a bit dizzying! ... But in such a satisfying way!

There is a buzz reverberating throughout our church this summer, Faith Family! And it feels so joyful! ... I pray that you feel it too!

Does that mean all of the work is done? ... Not by any chance! We're actually just getting started in figuring out who we are as a faith community and what our ongoing outreach to the community looks like. But it's important to celebrate wins, big and small! And we've scored some wins to indeed take note of!

It's also important to give praise where it's due, and there are a few folks that I want to thank for helping to make this summer so special.

- First off, thank you to the folks who have committed to participating on the "Faith Forward" committee. The infrastructure you have laid for the new look to what church will be here at FLC is vital! Thank you!
- Second, I want to send out a big shout out to Lisa Keavney for her work to organize, coordinate and manage the Food Truck Tuesdays this summer! What a hit they've been! And what a special opportunity they have provided us to connect with our community! Thank you!

- Third, I want to send out a second shout out to all of the LYO parents who helped make the LYO's trip to the National Youth Gathering possible. The money they raised in 10 short months is staggering, and they did so by coordinating many entertaining events for our congregation and community! Thank you all!
- Finally, I also owe a debt of gratitude to Deb Smith, Lanette Nord and Shelley Brooks for joining the youth group in its trip to New Orleans. This trip wouldn't have been possible without your guidance and presence! Thank you!

Faith Family ... I'm extremely joyful and optimistic about where we are headed as a church as we prepare for this year's Rally Sunday on Sept. 8, and we kick off our regular church year. Such a different feeling than where we were a year ago!

If someone asked me today where I see the Holy Spirit active, I could genuinely respond that I see her active here at Faith Lutheran as we write a new chapter! And I pray you feel the same!

Blessings to you this August, Faith Family! ... See you in church!



## Vacation Bible School Set for August

Vacation Bible School will be held August 20-22 from 5-7pm.

Crafts, activities, and games! Food will be provided. All are welcome!

Wednesday's VBS will be at Turner's Pit and the activity will be helping with the service.

Questions can be asked to Renata Smeby.

### Faith Care and Share

Birth— **McCoy Jo Johnson**, son of Matthew and Melanie Johnson, was born on April 5th and welcomed home by his big brother Maverick.

## Exciting News, Faith Family!

**Faith Lutheran will hold an exciting new kind of outdoor service at the home of LaDawn Turner and Tim Nicklay during our Wednesday, Aug. 21, worship.**

**We will gather on the beach of the Turner gravel pit for worship, and our Sunday school students will host a beach-style service to celebrate our last outdoor service of the summer.**

**Tim and LaDawn also will host a cookout on the beach beforehand so come hungry for a delicious meal and for a Holy Spirit-filled worship!**

**Also, Pastor Devlyn is offering to perform an Affirmation of Baptism service in the pit for anyone who would like to reaffirm their baptism, much as they do in the Jordan River. Just come dressed for a holy immersion!**

### Worship at the Turner Pit

**Date: August 21**

**Time: Meal at 6:00 Worship at 6:45**

**Where: LaDawn and Tim's  
1552 170th Avenue  
Wolverton**

**Bring a lawn chair**

## Prayer Requests

Jane Buchholz—Sheyenne Crossing Long Term Care West Fargo, ND

Arlene Nelson—Eventide Moorhead, MN

Keith Nelson—at home in Wolverton, MN

Alice Poppel - Farmstead Care Moorhead

Please keep these people in your prayers. Drop them a note or give them a call. Please let Devlyn know of any other prayer concerns.

### August Ushers

Robert Nord  
Wayne Krump  
Ben Krump



## Birthdays

1 Barb Wise  
 2 David Matz  
 4 Kristi Edwards  
 4 David Israelson  
 6 Sheyenne Hirsch  
 9 Dennis Bohner  
 9 Jim Lucke  
 11 Scott Blilie  
 11 Jessica Nelson  
 11 Zayden Smeby  
 12 Dallas Israelson  
 15 Tammy Dockter  
 15 Eric Stark  
 17 Devlyn Brooks  
 17 Adrie Israelson  
 19 Amanda Nelson  
 21 Claire Aigner  
 22 Kiyara Jinadasa  
 22 Candace Johnson  
 23 Karen Thompson  
 26 Mandy Schroeder  
 26 Brayden Retzlaff  
 27 Grant Israelson  
 28 Carley Stark  
 29 Anton Smeby  
 30 Beverly Israelson  
 31 Marlow Cassidy  
 31 Delmar Nord

## Anniversaries

16 Jeff and Sue Rasmussen  
 21 Erick and Ellen Stark  
 22 Bradley and Vicky Nelson  
 26 David and Gayle Matz

# Wolverton Food Truck

Every Tuesday this Summer — 4-7pm

Right off of HWY 75.

Faith Lutheran's LYO will be selling drinks and goodies to support their youth trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Please come out and support our youth, these small businesses and enjoy a fun night out with neighbors!

Any questions please contact Lisa Keaveny at 701-892-42347

Faith's Facebook (Faith Lutheran Church Wolverton) page for updates on future dates.



## Schedule

July 30—Mi Mexico

August 6—Ruby's Pinoy

August 13—Mi Mexico

August 20—Jazzy's (New Orleans's Creole)

August 27—Mi Mexico

September 3— Duck, Duck, Goose

**Pathways** wants to invite you to Camp Emmaus on Saturday, August 10, 2024 starting at 9:00 with coffee and a 5k run/walk on the property followed by more coffee, worship @11:00 and lunch at noon. After lunch, we'll enjoy the outdoor experiences you associate with camp and plenty of coffee and fellowship with the many generations of campers, staff and supporters of all of the camps Pathways has provided with program ministry. Think of all the lives changed, relationships begun and opportunities we have had to Share the Gospel and God's Love for All with the tens of thousands of youth and adults who came to camp!

## Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes June 5, 2024

Members Present: Sara Aigner, Wayne (Dike) Krump, Keith Kragerud, Lisa Miller, President Tina Aigner, Greg Freitag and Duane Nelson.

Others Present: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

Opening Prayer: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

Devotions: Wayne Krump

### Preliminary Business

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2024, following 6:45 p.m. worship service.

Devotions: Lisa Miller

Communion Assistants: Wednesday, June 19 - Greg Freitag and Wednesday, July 10 - Wayne Krump.

Secretary's Report - Approved

Treasurer's Report - Approved

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor shared that the confirmation students had a celebration to put closure on the year. LYO is planning to serve dinner prior to one of the Wednesday evening worship services. The group attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 15 - 21 met and discussed their covenant. Allison Smith will be representing our congregation at the Synod worship service while there. The group has met their fundraising goal. The food trucks on Tuesday evenings continue to be very well received and Pastor has met many new people and received lots of gratitude for Faith Lutheran hosting food trucks. There will be a "send off" to the group traveling to New Orleans during the July 10 worship service. Pastor will assist LeRoy and Rose Turner as they renew their wedding vows to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on June 29. He will lead a memorial service for the Calice Carriere family at 1 p.m. on July 27th. There will be a private burial service at the Salem Cemetery followed by fellowship in the church basement.

### Committee Reports & Assignments

Education & LYO - Lisa Miller - Plans for holding VBS in August are underway.

Property & Maintenance - Keith Kragerud & Wayne Krump - The basement bathroom door is locking properly. One bank of lights in Pastor's office is fixed and two more will be fixed in the near future. Keith will get an estimate to replace the urinal in the men's bathroom. The water collecting along the concrete seam in the basement under the lift is being addressed.

Faith Forward – Pastor Devlyn Brooks – The committee met on May 19 following worship. LaDawn Turner shared a document that captured the outreach we're currently doing as a congregation. The group will receive that document and another that they can share suggested activities on via email prior to the next meeting. Pastor Brooks and Sara Aigner created a draft of a checklist that can be used when coordinating a committee activity. They will also create an evaluation form the committee leader or members can complete at the end of the event. A few members of the commit-

tee met with the Wolverton City Council and discussed opportunities for collaboration. LaDawn and Renata Smeby shared the news of the mobile sign they purchased. Jessica Nelson shared plans for a City of Wolverton picnic with kids games sponsored by City Council and Faith Forward/Faith Lutheran on June 13. Bob Stein updated the group on the work he's accomplished, and next steps he'll take, as he looks at Faith Lutheran's A/V needs. They will meet again on June 18 at 7 p.m.

### Old Business

**Pastor's Job Description** – Lisa distributed the job description created and approved in 2021 to the Council prior to the meeting. Council members asked Pastor if he is truly working at a 50% capacity. He shared that his hours exceed half time. Discussion was held to gain a greater understanding of the church seasons and activities that require the majority of his time. His current job description and potential modifications to it, as well as requirements of the Council, will be discussed at the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Pastor Brooks and the Council will also discuss their performances and the duties the Council could potentially take on to support Pastor's half time position. The group will come to the meeting prepared with creative strategies on how to address the issues associated with Pastor investing additional time in his half time position.

### Other Old Business

JAM Enterprises, Breckenridge, MN, did a beautiful job cleaning the carpet in high traffic areas, as well as professionally cleaning the kitchen floor and 24 of the dining room chairs.

### New Business

LaDawn Turner and Renata Smeby purchased a used outdoor sign and letters that can be utilized for featuring food truck information as well as other "Faith Forward" and City of Wolverton initiatives. The sign will be placed on wheels. Council made and approved a motion to reimburse LaDawn and Renata \$663.67 for the mobile sign and its improvements.

Pastor Brooks received a very kind thank you from Mildred Peterson for the celebration held on May 5 when dedicating the cross the Peterson family gave in memory of her husband, Pastor Ted Peterson.

Motion to Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Sara Aigner, Secretary

## Faith Lutheran Church Council

### Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2024

Members Present: Sara Aigner, Wayne (Dike) Krump, Keith Kragerud, Lisa Miller and Duane Nelson.

Members Absent: President Tina Aigner and Greg Freitag.

Others Present: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

Opening Prayer: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

Devotions: Lisa Miller

### Preliminary Business

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 7, 2024, following 6:45 p.m. worship service.

Devotions: Duane Nelson

Communion Assistant: August 7 – Sara Aigner

Secretary's Report - Approved

Treasurer's Report - Approved

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor renewed LeRoy and Rose Turner's vows to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on June 29. He will be out July 15-21 attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The Synod office will assist with emergency calls if necessary. He will lead a memorial service for the Calice Carriere family at 1 p.m. on July 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a private burial service at the Salem Cemetery followed by fellowship in the church basement. September 8 is Rally Sunday. Devlyn will be at the fall Theological event September 15-17. Pastor shared that he interviewed for, and was offered, a part time position with the Northwest Minnesota Synod. He will oversee 62 individuals in the SAM program. He will also assist with the Synod's fundraising efforts. The new position began on July 1. He also started his own company called Mustard Seed Media, LLC. He will be available to organizations in need of freelance writing and marketing support. The Council wished Pastor Brooks well in these new ventures.

### Committee Reports & Assignments

Education & LYO - Lisa Miller – The youth will be in New Orleans July 15-21. Plans for VBS are in motion.

Endowment - Duane Nelson - No report.

Faith Women - Sara Aigner - No report.

Men's Group - Wayne Krump - No report.

Music & Worship - Tina Aigner - No report.

Property & Maintenance - Keith Kragerud & Wayne

Krump – The choir loft floor has not been refinished yet.

Lisa will follow up on this. The air conditioners need servicing. The toilet paper dispenser in the mens' bathroom needs attention. The committee is continuing to look at purchasing a new urinal. The sanctuary ceiling and wall has stains that need attention (these are not new stains).

Faith Forward – Pastor Devlyn Brooks – The committee met on June 18. There was great discussion and more plans are in place for upcoming events. There were approximately 60 people in attendance for the July 7 evening event featuring Pastor Brooks and Todd Holdman. The food trucks continue to be a success within the community and with the vendors. The next meeting is July 30 at 7 p.m.

### Old Business

Pastor's Job Description – Lisa distributed the job descrip-

tion created and approved in 2021 to the Council and Pastor Brooks prior to the meeting. All in attendance felt the position description looked good, but there were some things uncovered as we discussed the amount of time that Pastor is dedicating to our church. The reality is that he is giving us 75% time, not the 50% agreed upon in 2021. An example of how the time is increased is during the Lenten season. There are 15 services to prepare for, and that was not identified at the onset of Devlyn's position at Faith Lutheran. Other examples of his time investment were discussed. If given more time, Pastor Brooks would like to assist in the revival of the Men's Club and an adult bible study or text study if that would be of interest to the congregation. He is actively exploring ideas that will help bring people back to Faith Lutheran.

The Council help a lengthy discussion regarding the importance of having a retention plan in place to keep Pastor Brooks. We are in need of leadership at this time.

Each member of Council, Pastor Brooks and the Mutual Ministry committee (Ross Aigner, Deb Byars and Jean Aigner) will complete a performance review for Pastor with a deadline of August 1. Lisa will compile the information and it will be shared with him at the August 7 meeting. Now that Council identified that Pastor Brooks is working more than at a 50% capacity, a motion was made "to give Pastor Devlyn Brooks a \$20,000 bonus for 2024 to recognize that he is actually working a 75% position, not a 50% position. We are grateful to Devlyn for helping us shape our future." The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

The money for the bonus is available in the Mission Investment Fund.

A discussion about Devlyn continuing as a half time pastor or having his position adjusted will take place at the annual meeting. Our congregation needs to participate in a conversation about who we want to be and what we want for the future of our congregation.

### New Business

In an effort to support our new neighbor, The Red Silo, it was suggested the congregational meals prior to Wednesday evening services will cease, and members will be encouraged via e-mail and social media to support the food truck in Wolverton on Wednesdays instead. People are welcome to enjoy their meals in the church basement if they'd like.

Tim Nicklay and LaDawn Turner and Renata Smeby offered to host the August 21 outdoor worship service at the Turner Gravel Pit. They will provide dinner. Renewing baptisms for those interested was discussed.

The Synod has a "Harvest Blessings Box" available to congregations for \$50. It has tools for worship and events that can be held this fall. It fits with our Faith Forward initiatives nicely. Council agreed to purchase the materials.

Motion to Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Sara Aigner, Secretary

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## **Worship Schedule**

**August Schedule—**

**Wednesday night worship—6:45**

**Outdoor service planned for August 21 at LaDawn & Tim's—See page 2  
(Bring a lawn chair)**

**No Sunday Services in August**

**First Sunday Service will be Rally Sunday on September 8 at 10:00.  
Sunday school at 9:00 am.**

**Watch for any updates to schedule on our Facebook page and on our  
website.**

