



Faith News

Volume 26, Issue 11

December 2023

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.*

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday School - 9:00
Worship - 10:00
Fellowship - 11:00

Holy Communion on the first and third weeks of the month.



Follow Faith Lutheran Wolverton on Facebook

December Food Panty Item



Canned Fruit

Thanks to your generosity on the day, between the soup luncheon and the pie auction, the LYO raised more than \$1,600. That is awesome! Thank you so much!

From our Pastor - Pr. Devlyn Brooks

Wait ... what? ... December newsletter? ... Are we serious, here? I'm writing the December newsletter article already!?!?

I'm not sure where the past three months since we kicked off our school year have gone, Faith Family, but here we are turning the corner and headed toward Advent season. Ready or not, here we come!

A bit of a hodge podge for the newsletter this month; lots to cover! Here we go ...

Rural Revival program

I hope that you have heard by now that our Faith Lutheran Council at the November meeting voted to enter into the Northwestern Minnesota Synod's "Rural Revival" program. I wrote about this in detail for last month's newsletter. So if you want more information, please refer back to that!

Pastor Melissa Pickering, who oversees the program, will be visiting our congregation on Sunday, Dec. 3, to share more about the program, but also to preach about what revitalization may look like.

Pastor Pickering has been busy reviewing statistical information about our congregation, as well as setting up one-on-one interviews with some folks in our congregation over the past month. She will use this information, as well as further conversations with folks here at Faith, in the eventual possible plans that she submits to us.

All of this will play out over the next couple of months, with the goal of eventually determining what next steps, if any, we should be thinking about for the future of our church.

This is a holy process that we are entering into with our synod partners, and I continue to pray that the Holy Spirit guides us toward whatever our next chapter as church will look like!

If you have any questions about this process, do not hesitate to reach out! Thank you!

LYO fundraising

I am writing on behalf of our LYO youth group organization to say thank you for the amazing generosity displayed during the Annual LYO Pie Auction on Sunday, Nov. 19.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24 at 5:00pm

No Service at 10am

As the youth mentioned during the pie auction, the money will be going toward their trip to the ELCA's National Youth Gathering next summer in New Orleans. So, as you can imagine, there is much more fundrais-

ing to come in the months leading up to July.

The youth, and their parents, are hard at work finding other avenues to raise funds, such as volunteering to work concessions at FargoDome events and also scheduling a "Waffles with Santa" event at Crooked Lane Farms over by Colfax. The goal is to try to raise funds that don't always rely on the generosity of our church and community.

However, please know that they have some very exciting events that will be taking place here at the church in the coming months as well, and I'm hoping that the congregation "turns out and shows up," as the kids these days say! The kids aren't taking this opportunity to travel to the National Youth Gathering for granted, and they are putting in the work! We are grateful in advance for all of your support! Thank you!

Keep this one on your radar! ... The LYO's next event is a Bingo & Bake Sale on Sunday, Dec. 3, after church! The LYO families also will provide lunch! ... Please put this on your calendars, and tell all your friends!

Sunday School Christmas program

Finally, please keep on your calendar the FLC Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 17.

This should be a memorable one, as our LYO students have volunteered to participate with our Sunday Schoolers in this year's program. So we'll have all of our youth working toward a program that reminds us all of the true reason for the season!

After the program, the LYO families will be providing a Sunday brunch. So please stick around for a great meal, and for the wonderful fellowship that will take place in our fellowship hall!

Blessings to you all this month, Faith Family! ... See you in church! We have a busy month together!

Amen!

Notice of FLC Special and Annual Meeting

The Faith Lutheran Church council has called a special congregational meeting for the purpose approving amendments to the constitution. These amendments can be reviewed prior to the meeting on our website or in the church office. They consist of amendments to the Model Constitution of the ELCA that were approved at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and two suggested changes discussed at the Faith Lutheran 2022 annual meeting. Those changes are to

- 1) Change the date of the annual meeting to the third Sunday of January.
- 2) Reduce the number of council members from 9 to 7 members.

If approved, these changes will be ratified at the annual meeting which will immediately begin after the special meeting. These two meetings will take place after worship on December 10. Other agenda items at the annual meeting include follow up on organ replacement decision and update on rural revival.

Request for Reports

Many of the treasures reports have been turned into the church office for auditing. Thank you. Committee secretaries, please turn in the committee annual summary report.



Thank you to all those who contributed to the Wilkin/Richland Food Pantry drive. We were able to exceed the 500 item goal presented by Thrivent Financial in order for the Pantry to receive a \$500 gift from Thrivent. We not only reached the item goal but collected 800 items!

This is church!
This is God's work, our hands!

December Ushers
Mike Byars
Chad Erickson
Austin Erickson
Charter Erickson



Poinsettias

Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone. They may be taken home after our Christmas Eve Service.

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| Devlyn and Shelley Brooks Family (2) | In memory of Lois Brooks and in honor of Gary and Julie Brovold |
| Mike and Debi Byars (2) | In memory of Don Neppl, George & Arbutus Byars |
| Greg and Pat Freitag Family(2L) | In memory of Lyle & Lois Picotte |
| Dennis and Jane Getz Family (4) | In memory of Burnell, Lyla, Donald, and Bernadine Schulz; Monte, Oswald & Marilyn Getz |
| Lisa & Joe Keaveny (2L) | In memory of Carl Bauman and Terry Keaveny |
| Keith & Norma Kragerud (4) | In memory of Orlyn & Jackie Kragerud; Norman & Betty Craig |
| Jim and Linda Lucke (3) | In memory of LeRoy & Marjean Miller, Richard Miller, Scott Miller, Lester & Lucille Lucke |
| Mike Nelson (2L) | In memory of Donald, Leone, and Harland Nelson |
| Tim Nicklay & LaDawn Turner (2L) | In honor of Dian Nicklay; Rodney & Margaret Turner |
| Sheri & Tory Nissen (2) | In memory of Glen Buchholz and in honor of Jane Buchholtz |
| Jay and Cindy Nord (2L) | In memory of Ayven Grace Peeters, Duaine and Alda Raeder |
| Jeff and Diane Nord (L) | In memory of Richard & Beatrice Nord |
| Lawson & Julie Stephenson & Kristie Edwards (L) | In memory of Ethel and Barney Edwards |



Birthdays

- 2 Carter Brooks
- 2 Frank Israelson
- 2 Duane Nelson
- 3 Dennis Getz
- 10 Terry Flemming
- 11 Sheri Nissen
- 15 Ryan Nord
- 16 Jason Hendrickson
- 17 Leslie Johnson
- 19 Barry Ness
- 19 Jack Rohan
- 19 Katie Tuel
- 22 Garrett Nelson
- 25 Cindy Nord
- 26 Lowell Picotte
- 27 Michael Mastin
- 28 LaDawn Turner
- 30 Kathy Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYO Upcoming Events:

December 3: Bingo and Bake Sale after worship. Serving lunch.
December 17: Christmas Program - Serving Holiday Brunch

Faith Women:

We will not be having our annual Christmas Gathering this year to accommodate the LYO fundraising events. We will have a short meeting after worship and before Holiday Bingo on December 3 to approve the 2024 budget.



Prayer Requests

Jane Buchholz—Sheyenne Crossing West Fargo
Louie Gruenberg—Bethany on University Fargo
Arlene Nelson—Eventide Senior Living Moorhead
Keith Nelson—at home in Wolverton
Alice Poppel - Farmstead Care Moorhead

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



FLC Council Minutes

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Prayer: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

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

Members Absent: Jessica Nelson

Others Present: Pastor Devlyn Brooks, Pastor Melissa Pickering, Mike and Deb Byars, Lisa Keavney, Bob Stein and LaDawn Turner.

Next Meeting: Sunday, December 10 following the annual meeting

Devotions: Keith Kragerud

Food Pantry Item: Canned fruit

Communion Assistants: Sunday, November 5 – Sara Aigner and Sunday, November 19 – Kylie Hendrickson

Secretary's Report: Approved

Treasurer's Report: Approved

Pastor Melissa Pickering shared information on the Synod's Rural Revival Program. She facilitated a "dwelling in the word" exercise. She reminded us that churches were going through some of the same struggles in Jesus's time that congregations are going through today.

The Rural Revival Program is typically an eight week process and is free of charge. The goal is to bring vitality back to congregations again. If the project is approved, Pastor Pickering will work with Luther Seminary to provide a breakdown of the Wolverton community and the Faith Lutheran congregation. Some of the things that would be explored:

*What can we do with the space in our church to bring people in? This doesn't necessarily mean increasing membership, but looking at ways to let people see our presence.

*How can we keep our pastor, keep our building and engage others?

*Pastor Pickering will interview community and congregation members.

*Updates on the process will be shared in the bulletin each week and monthly – or more frequent - updates will be shared with council.

*Faith Lutheran will be her only congregation being worked with over the winter.

*8 steps are given at the end of the project and then Pastor Pickering will come back for a check-in.

*If we are interested, we need to let her know when we'd like to start.

Pastor's Report: Keep Louie Gruenberg in our prayers. He is in Bethany on University. Pastor will be attending the Middle School Retreat with Lily, Piper, Bridget and Renata Smeby this month. The National Youth Gathering is in New

Orleans this summer and our LYO kids will be working hard to fundraise in the coming months.

Committee Reports & Assignments

Education – Jessica Nelson & Kylie Hendrickson – A Sunday School takeover Sunday is being planned. The Sunday School kids will be going to Skyzone. The Christmas program is selected. The Confirmands and LYO members will support the Sunday School by participating in readings and skits.

Faith Women – Sara Aigner – Trunk and treat was held October 31. The annual church auction is Sunday, November 12 at 1 p.m. Faith Women will lead the service and collect their annual "Thank Offering". Sue McCracken will give the message during worship. We continue to work hard to collect 500 food items to qualify for the Thrivent \$500 gift to the Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry.

Finance – Lisa Miller – Lisa led a discussion regarding the 2024 budget.

Men's Group – Wayne (Dike) Krump – The mens group will serve lunch after worship on November 12.

Property & Maintenance – Keith Kragerud & Wayne (Dike) Krump – Boiler preventative maintenance was completed.

Youth – Kylie Hendrickson – There will be four adults and eight youth (maybe one student from Barnesville) traveling to New Orleans. Early bird registration is complete. The group will travel July 16 – 20.

Old Business

-Peterson Memorial, exterior cross – the project is moved to the spring.

-Israel Tour – It hasn't been cancelled yet, but that is inevitable.

-Other old business – Kylie Hendrickson shared that Hoff pays their janitorial staff \$25/hour.

New Business

-Rural Revival Project – A motion was made and accepted to work with Pastor Pickering starting November 6 and have her at Faith Lutheran to lead worship and discuss the project components and timeline on December 3.

-2024 Proposed Budget – Approved

-Nominating Committee – LaDawn Turner and Bradly Nelson. Council, Eventide and Synod Assembly positions need to be filled.

-Annual Meeting Agenda Suggestions: The organ project, proposed constitution change, and the Rural Revival Project.

-New members? It was suggested we invite people (bulletin/newsletter) who may be interested in becoming members to contact the church office.

Motion to adjourn
The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Sara Aigner, Secretary

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 175
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WOLVERTON, MN 56594-0175

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Worship Schedule

9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship

Sunday, December 3— Pr. Devlyn Brooks with
Guest Pr. Melissa Pickering (Rural Revival)—communion
LYO Bingo and Bake Sale after worship and
LYO Families serving lunch

Sunday, December 10—Pr. Devlyn Brooks—Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 17— Christmas Program & Holiday meal

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm
- NO service at 10am

Sunday, December 31—Lay Service