



Faith News

Faith Lutheran Church

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Pr. Devlyn Brooks
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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

September Food Pantry

Snacks



September Ushers

Mark Johnson
Matt Johnson
Jim Lucke
Jacob Lucke

Volume 26, Issue 8

September 2023

From our Pastor - Devlyn Brooks

Is it just me, or does it seem that the summer has flown right by? ... While we've already worshiped our last Wednesday service of the year, it feels as if we were just sitting down for our first family-style meal of June!

But, alas, the turn in weather and the beginning of the changing colors of fall is upon us. High school football is even entering its third week for some schools! And, yes I have already seen advertisements for pumpkin-flavored everything.

Fall is here, Faith Family, and with it comes the best part of the year in my opinion: The start of the church year!

The FLC Music & Worship Committee has met, and we have a plan in place. The Education Committee has met, and they have their plan in place. And I'll be communicating more about confirmation next week with our families.

This means that, as of Sept. 1, we are at T-minus 10 days and counting toward the start of our church year!

With that in mind, I would like you to keep in mind three early dates for September.

And they are ...

Sunday, Sept. 10

Rally Sunday, the day that we mark to be the beginning of our church year, will be Sunday, Sept. 10. This will be our first Sunday service since this past May, and I am looking forward to the excitement!

This is the day that many folks come back to worship after a busy summer. This is the day that we will hear the footfalls up and down our steps and the peals of laughter from our little ones again. This is the day that we will hear our lovely church bells ring out across Wolverton on Sunday morning once again.

On that morning, we'll also be installing our teachers and performing a backpack blessing for our youngsters who are early in their school year.

Please join us as we kick off our church year! I am excited to see everyone again!

Sunday, Sept. 17

On Sunday, Sept. 17, we invite you to an important worship service that will be a little out



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of the norm.

I have mentioned during our summer services that twice this summer folks from our synod office have been out to talk with us regarding a process called “revitalization.” First, in late may, Pastor Rebel Hurd, our synod director for evangelical mission, visited with our church council about reimagining what our future might look like. And then in August, Pastor Melissa Pickering, was a guest preacher and talked about a synod program called “Rural Revitalization” that she chairs.

Both events were efforts to help us begin to imagine what the future of Faith Lutheran looks like.

It’s no secret that attendance is down from past years, and we aren’t drawing new members. Given that, and our geographical distance from other population centers, we face some challenges over how to keep our church vital.

On Sunday, Sept. 17, during worship, members of the council and I will discuss the conversations we had with Pastors Rebel and Melissa this summer, and talk about what revitalization means.

We need to have some important conversations about our future, and this service will be just the start. But we encourage you to join us this Sunday for what will be an important conversation about our future. Thank you!

Sunday, Sept. 24

And finally, on Sunday, Sept. 24, our church will host one leg of the synod team’s fall “Road Trip.”

Each year, the synod staff hosts one “Road Trip” stop per conference all around our synod. This year, we’ve been asked to host our conference’s stop. So, starting at 5:30 p.m. we’ll be providing a picnic style dinner for not only our congregation, but also guests from surrounding churches.

In addition to the meal, the synod staff will provide a short presentation about the state of the synod, including what the new church year looks like, and what took place over the previous year.

We encourage you to put this important event on your calendar, as it would be a great start to our year to welcome with a big hometown crowd the synod team and guests from all over the conference to our beautiful church.

In short, we’re throwing a party for the synod staff and all the surrounding churches! Please come help us welcome our guests!

Blessings to you this September, Faith Family!

Pr. Devlyn

September 24—Faith Lutheran Church, Wolverton will host Conference 5

All are welcome and encouraged to come!

Road Trip 2023 Agenda

5:15 PM - 5:55 PM: Registration

5:30 PM: Meal Served

6:00 PM: Road Trip Content Begins

- Devotion
- Synod Updates
- Hear Conference specific Updates
- Q&A Time

7:30 PM: Sending Blessing



Faith Care and Share

Funeral: A Celebration of Life for **Lois Brooks** will be held at 2 PM, Saturday, September 2 in Faith Lutheran Church, Wolverton. Lois is the beloved mother of Pr. Devlyn Brooks.

Wedding: FLC hosted the wedding of **Mary Jo (Stamness) and Steve Mueller** on August 26.

Community News

St. Thomas Church in **Kent Annual Fall Bazaar** is Sunday, September 10. Turkey and ham Dinner with all the trimmings from 11am to 1:30pm. Games. Country Store. Bingo. Raffle. Children's Games.

Grove Lake Lutheran Church Bazaar is Saturday, September 16 from 9:30 to 1:00 pm. Traditional church lady lunch, baked goods, crafts, quilt drawing, silent auction.

Prayer Requests

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

Louie Gruenberg—River Pointe Moorhead, MN

Jim Lucke—Recovering from heart surgery at Sanford.

Arlene Nelson—Eventide Senior Living Moorhead, MN

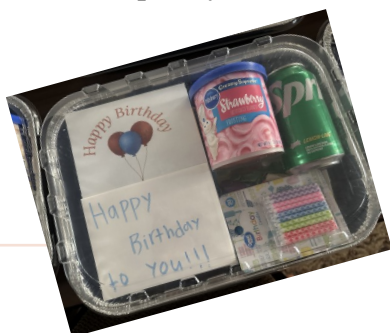
Keith Nelson—at home in Wolverton, MN

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.

VBS - Projects Completed

The Sunday School students took time during VBS to complete 12 birthday kits for a local food pantry and 3 tie blankets.



Birthdays

- 2 Megan Woodraska
- 2 Miranda Schmidt
- 3 Ross Aigner
- 5 Austin Erickson
- 5 Garrett Mortenson
- 7 Tina Aigner
- 8 Vanessa Kratzer
- 11 Jessica Church
- 18 Renata Smeby
- 19 Tom Nelson
- 20 Jann Emerson
- 22 Jeff Rasmussen
- 24 Jeff Nord
- 26 Sue Rasmussen
- 26 Spencer Nord
- 30 Melanie Johnson

Anniversaries

- 3 Scott and Deb Smith
- 6 Ross and Tina Aigner
- 6 Mark and Kristi Johnson
- 13 LaDawn Turner and Tim Nicklay
- 14 Brent and Erica Halverson
- 19 Kyle and Tahnne Affield
- 19 Travis and Renata Smeby
- 20 Megan and Joe Woodraska
- 26 Paul and Bev Israelson
- 28 Doc and Tammy Dockter
- 28 Mark and Lisa Miller

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Prayer: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

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

Members Absent: Kylie Hendrickson, Jessica Nelson and Greg Freitag

Others Present: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 6 at 7 p.m.

Devotions: Tina Aigner

Food Pantry Item: School Snacks

Communion Assistants: Wednesday, August 23 - Wayne (Dike) Krump and Sunday, September 10 - Lisa Miller.

Secretary's Report: Approved

Treasurer's Report: Approved

Pastor's Report: Our congregation received an invitation to participate in "Feed My Starving Children" at the Fargo Dome. There are opportunities available January 5 - 15. We will see if there is interest among the membership and Devlyn will get additional details. Devlyn will spend time with the Sunday School students at the beginning of their class each Sunday. Plans for Confirmation are in progress. National Youth Gathering decisions need to be made soon. Devlyn will attend the NWMN Theology for Ministry Conference at Fair Hills September 17-19. Devlyn will officiate at a wedding in our church on August 26 (Mary Jo Stamness).

Committee Reports & Assignments

Education – Jessica Nelson – The committee met August 7.

"Funday" was rescheduled from this spring to September 24. VBS is August 14, 15 and 16 from 4 to 6 p.m. The Education Committee will host a community movie ("Strange World") on August 16 following worship. There were two scholarships approved. Sunday School dates will be discussed while the committee is together for VBS. The next meeting is October 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Endowment – Lisa Miller – There were five scholarships granted and a medical need gift was presented to Brad Moen.

Music & Worship – Tina Aigner – A meeting will be held in August.

Property & Maintenance – Keith Kragerud & Wayne (Dike) Krump – The pavers in front of the church and the bell tower are repaired. Interior painting in the balcony is completed, also.

Old Business

- Peterson Memorial, Exterior Cross - Wayne (Dike) is coordinating the project and needs to get two or three people together to complete it.

- Annual Meeting Date Change, Council Member Reduction, Other Resolutions - Lisa provided the Council with copies of the information to review and instructions to read the material at

home and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss the information and vote.

- Israel Tour - Six people are interested and confirmed as of 8-10-23.

- Pastor Rebel's Feedback from May 31 Council meeting - Pastor Devlyn will share the information with the congregation during worship on September 17. It was suggested the material also be included in the newsletter in order to get the information to more members.

Other Old Business - None.

New Business

- "Join Solar" material was shared - no interest in participating at this time.

- Wilkin County Sheriff's Office request for donations to National Child Safety Council. The money will be used for kits used in Wilkin County - \$150 donation approved as long as the money stays in Wilkin County. Wayne (Dike) will confirm this.

Other New Business

-Faith Lutheran will host the Conference 5 Synod Road Trip on Sunday, Sept. 24. The bishop will be in attendance. We are to plan for about 50 people, including our own congregation. The agenda is:

- 5:15 PM - 5:55 PM: Registration
- 5:30 PM: Meal Served
- 6:00 PM: Road Trip Content Begins
- Devotion
- Synod Updates
- Hear Conference Specific Updates
- Q&A Time
- 7:30 PM: Sending Blessing

The synod staff will bring most of the food, including hotdogs, chips, beans and either fruit or a relish tray. We're asked to provide beverages (coffee, water and lemonade?) and something simple for dessert – it can be bars, cookies, etc.

We are also asked to provide paper products – plates, napkins, cups and silverware, and condiments such as ketchup, mustard and relish.

Also, we are asked to provide a grill to cook the hotdogs, a roaster or crockpot to heat up the beans, and maybe a large crockpot to keep the hotdogs warm.

The bishop and staff will help cook and service, but volunteers from our congregation are asked to help out as well.

-October 7 – "Feed the Farmers in Your Field Day" – The NWMN Synod's Rural Revival group is offering meals that can be delivered to farmers in the Synod. Anyone is welcome to pick up meals in Audubon and deliver them. See church office if interested.

-Churches United sent us a request to assist with a project during "Gods Work, Our Hands" Day. Information available for those interested in the church office.

Submitted by Sara Aigner, Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church Notes from Conversation with Pr. Hurd, NWMN Vitalization
May 31, 2023

Dwelling in the Word: Luke 5—The Healing of the Paralytic Man- What are we willing to do to ensure people get to Jesus?

Introductions and Ice Breaker: Name, how long you have been a member, and your Favorite memory in this church.

We discussed the changing mission field from when Faith was planted to now. What do you wonder, and what do you notice about Faith Lutheran, the current mission field, and possibilities?

Listening Lab:

We have wondered about moving to more contemporary worship.

Fewer people in our mission field with the same number of churches.

Events are no longer social events, “One more thing to do, can I just have more time at home.”

There has been a significant evolution in the church.

The church’s next generation doesn’t prioritize the church, as they are too busy.

Youth and families have moved to larger area churches so they could have bigger youth groups and more opportunities.

Wonderings about what the future might look like when the “large givers are no longer here.” We moved to a ½ time pastor, and that is a relief. Pr. Devlyn helped create a close-knit group with the regulars and brought some “new life.”

We then brainstormed some ideas focusing on areas #3 and #5. We wondered, dreamed, discussed, and questioned what would realistically work. Pr. Rebel asked that these ideas, and any others, be prayed about and discerned. Keith added helpful commentary about finding ways to be a hub in the community. Bob (RC) offered up some Education offerings that have helped in the past and might be a valuable tool to bring people together.

Pr. Rebel presented two offerings:

Faith Lutheran to be a part of the Synod’s Rural Revival Program. What is the Rural Revival Program? **Together**, through the Rural Revival program, **we** develop a plan to move forward in ministry focusing on the following:

Spiritual Practice: Dwelling in God’s Word, listening to God’s Holy Spirit, trusting in God’s leading, and abiding in prayer.

Assessing: Understanding your current mission field and needs.

Stewarding: Imagining the sharing of resources with surrounding places of worship. Joining together for the good of the community and God’s people.

Leading: Assessing the possibility of new church leadership through lay leadership, shared pastoral services, and/or Synod Authorized Ministers.

Equipping: Building a plan together with concrete possible next steps, which may include focusing on evangelism, generosity, and hospitality.

Trusting: in God’s promised future for the community of faith and the followers of Jesus where you are planted and, in your capacity, to take the next steps.

We meet again, and together; we create some next steps to try. We are in this together, but Faith Lutheran makes those decisions.

Here are your team’s hopes and fears for Faith Lutheran Church and the people you serve. Please pray for your team and God’s Holy Spirit to guide your work and your hearts. May the Lord Bless and keep you; this is not easy.

Hopes:

We can be in the plus column for members each year.

Still around for my funeral.

We rethink our mission field in the larger sense.

Expand and Grow.

We can attract and retain new members.

Stay Alive

Growth

We try something.

Fears:

Keep declining, and we close eventually.

Slow decline due to atrophy.

No one left to take over after I die.

Close

Doors Close

We close our doors before people rally and gain members.

That it is not around (closed) for my son and his family.

We do nothing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Rebel Hurd

Director for Evangelical Mission

Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

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Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 3—NO SERVICE

Sunday, September 10—Rally Sunday 10:00 Worship with communion and 9:00 Sunday School

Sunday, September 17— Vitalization Sunday 10:00 Worship and 9:00 Sunday School

Sunday, September 24— Communion 10:00 Worship and 9:00 Sunday School

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 6—Council at 7 PM

September 17-19—Pastor Devlyn at Theology for Ministry Conference

Sunday, September 24—Synod Road Trip at 5:30 PM