

Faith Lutheran Church
Member of First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish
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WEBSITE: faithlutheranbl.org
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PASTORAL SUPPORT: Pastor Tamra Harder 715-501-3681

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9am—Noon

Worship Schedule

11:00am Worship December at Faith Lutheran

Newsletter articles are due the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Reminder: The church service is available to watch on Facebook. By friending the North Valley Lutheran Church page, you will have access. We apologize for it not being smooth running but hope things are better now. If you can’t come in person, give it a try. We’re always trying to improve it. In the event where it doesn’t air, you can see the service on the Faith Lutheran Church Balsam Lake site.



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Luke’s Vision for the people of God”

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Luke’s Vision for the people of God” the theme for December is a fitting as we continue through Advent to Christmas-Our Lords Birth. Luke’s Gospel is one that gives us the life of Jesus from his birth to his ascension.

The following excerpt is from the book “Adventuring Through the Bible” by Ray C. Stedman found in the chapter on Luke’s Gospel.

“The Gospel of Luke is the Gospel of the man who was perfection -incarnate, the only truly perfect human being. The third Gospel presents Jesus as the **Son of Man**. -That was our Lord's favorite title for Himself - a title He used more frequently than any other name. As you read the Gospel of Luke, you meet the same person you meet in Matthew, Mark, and John. But note the differences in emphases among the four Gospels. In Matthew, the emphasis is upon His **kingliness**; in Mark, the emphasis is on His **servanthood**; in John, the emphasis is on His **deity**. But here in Luke, the emphasis is on His **humanity**. The essential manhood and humanity of Christ are continually underscored throughout Luke’s Gospel. The key to the Gospel is found in **Luke 19:10**. In fact, this verse sets forth a handy outline of the entire book:

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

As we read Luke’s Gospel we see ourselves (**humanity**) as the people drawn to this young rabbi to be forgiven and healed and then going out empowered by him to tell others about this man Jesus and what he has done for me. I would like to invite/encourage everyone to read Luke’s Gospel this month and not just the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-38). You can do it any way that works for you but with 24 chapters that is one chapter a day Monday through Friday.

The Alter hangings for this month are blue for Advent and white for Christmas through Epiphany.

In remembering and contemplating our own humanity it is **“God’s Work-Our Hands”** to bring and tell of the **HOPE** and **Light** of Jesus Christ showing while **“Words Matter-Actions Matter More”**.

Yours in Our Eternal **Light** and **Hope**, Jesus Christ,
Steve Jensen

BISHOP HALOM’S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP



As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of

incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith at BL Legion Pastor Neal Communion 2ND Sundy of Advent	8	9 Office open 9a-12 9a-10a Gathering Grounds Coffee	10 1pm Parish choir	11	12	13
14 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith at BL Legion Pastor Peter 3rd Sunday of Advent	15 6:30 Council Mtg	16 9:30 WELCA Office open 9a-12 9a-10a Gathering Grounds Coffee	17 1pm Parish choir	18	19	20 6pm Potluck--- Worship-6:30--
21 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley Faith no service at BL Pastor Neal Communion 4th Sunday of Advent	22 Fire Hall 11a	23 Office open 9a-12 9a-10a Gathering Grounds Coffee	24 Christmas Eve First 4:00pm N Valley 5:30pm Faith no service	25	26	27
28 9:30 North Valley Combined worship Pastor Peter	29	30 Office open 9a-12 9a-10a Gathering Grounds Coffee	1pm Parish choir			

BIRTHDAYS

Littlefield	Aaron	12/03
Paulsen	Debra	12/07
Mathson	Susan	12/09
Albrecht	Natalie	12/15
Hallberg	Jayda	12/24
Pratt	Jody	12/25
Thomson	Susan	12/27
Mathson	Brent	12/28

**WEDDING
ANNIVERSARIES**

Bloch, Shawn and Mary	12/10/2011
Hallberg, Monti and Julie	12/20/1980

Church Office Hours!
Laurene will be in the
office on Tuesdays
from 9am-12pm.

SEPTEMBER \$\$\$FINANCIALS\$\$\$

Income ytd:	\$51,937.71
Expenses ytd:	\$53,285.89
Total ytd:	\$1,348.18

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:00AM First
- 9:30 AM North Valley
- 11:00 AM Faith



Please stop in and join us for coffee in the parsonage!

On Sunday November 23rd around 2:30am, it was discovered that there was a fire at Faith Lutheran. I have attached a few pictures of the fire and current state of the church.

Please watch your email for ongoing updates on the progress of cleanup, repair, etc., and plans for temporary worship locations. We plan to provide communication often to keep our church members as up to date as possible.



QUILTING NEWS



There is no quilting in December. We just finished boxing up thirty-two quilts that will be on their way to Lutheran World Relief for distribution as needed.



WELCA NEWS

In December we will have our annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday December 9th at 11:30 at Doc's in Balsam Lake. Please call Gloria Harth (773-291-3568) if you would like to join us.

Our fall Bible Study has centered on Stewardship. The last lesson had a section on women who were investors in Jesus ministry. It stated in the first century one third of all property in the Roman Empire was owned by women. Women could inherit property and married women could use their wealth independently from their husbands. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and others were listed as investors and were among the Apostles traveling with Jesus. That was new information for some of us!

~Caroline Lenselink