FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Faith Matters December 2026

920.775.4141 Valders WI wwwfaithlutheranchurchvalders.org

Town Hall Meeting December 2 and 6 (after the services)

Greetings from the Church Council. A lot has been happening during the past several months at Faith. We would like to update you and hear from you, so we have planned Town Hall meetings for Wednesday December 2, and Sunday December 6 after the services. Please stop and see your council members as we continue to work on making Faith an inspirational place to practice our faith. Your voice matters, so come and see us as we work to listen, hear, and respond to our congregation and its needs.

Call Committee

We are looking for members to serve on the call committee. We need you to help shape our future ministry here at Faith. As we look to interview candidates and refer one to our congregation to lead us in our ministry, Julie Hartman (VP/ Personnel Committee Chairperson) will be the contact person to establish the Call Committee for us. This is an exciting time for us as we look to renew our ministry, keeping traditions and adding new ways to engage the younger members of our church. Please consider joining us and sharing your thoughts and opinions as we move forward in the endeavor. The first meeting will likely take place in February. If you are interested is serving as a member please contact Julie Hartman, James Schuessler, or Christine at the church office.

Serving God through good works

Scripture also tells us in 1 Peter 4:10 to “use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace.” Getting involved is one of the most rewarding ways to grow your own faith, build deep friendships, and make our church a warmer, more welcoming place for everyone. Now is a time of renewal in our mission here at Faith Lutheran Church. Please consider being part of the mission here. Be part of something that is bigger than yourself. Collectively we can do great things. Whether you have little time or a lot of time, there is an opportunity to serve. Please contact me and volunteer your time to serve God through the mission at this church. We have a number of committees who help steer our mission, and volunteer opportunities to help serve in our mission. Everyone here has the ability to be part of that mission, please find a way to get involved. Call James Schuessler (920-334-0073) to volunteer, or discuss opportunities to get involved.

December Light

December is the darkest time of the year, yet also a season of light. In Advent we look toward the coming of God in Jesus which gives us
Advent 1: Hope--as God fulfills Old Testament promises (Sun. Nov 29)
Advent 2: Peace--as John the Baptist calls us to be reconciled with God (Dec 2,6)
Advent 3: Joy—as we hear of the coming birth of Jesus (Dec 9, 13)
Advent 4: Love in the Angels' message Dec 16 & Sunday School presentation (Dec 20)

Then Christmas Eve at 3, 5 and 10 and Christmas morning at 9am we sing of Jesus' coming and celebrate Holy Communion together. Be sure to then join us **Sunday December 27** as we send carols over the internet instead of going door to door. You may even want to wear a caroling scarf or hat for this **Service of Carols.**

However, this can also be a difficult season for those experiencing grief. Midst the lights, decorations, cheery music, and gatherings we may miss loved ones, or grieve lost jobs and failed dreams and relationships. Thomas Moore in his introduction to "Care of the Soul" points out that it is both unwise and unhealthy to deny, hide, or erase the "blue" and can actually intensify it. It is important to honor the "blue", but also honor that life and faith are larger than the "blue."

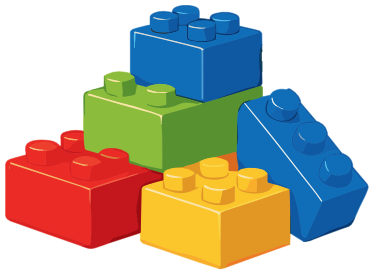
With that in mind, at Faith this year, we will have a **Blue Christmas Tree** with blue lights in addition to the large tree in the sanctuary. We invite you to place tags on the tree with names of those you are missing this season, or special reasons for grief, as a way of honoring that are loved ones are still a part of us in this season. (We will provide tags.)

Also, a **Blue Christmas Worship Service Friday, December 11, 6:15 pm** will provide an opportunity to gather with others who are "blue" this season. We will worship, sing, pray, light candles, put tags on the Blue Tree, and together acknowledge that God and others understand our grief; that we are not alone; that the hope of Christmas is larger than the griefs of this year. Please invite friends to join us. We will also be issuing an invitation to the community.

Other ideas that may help are to have a "blue" candle; use a "blue" cup to drink from when you are sad; a "blue" tag or special ornament on your tree; or give a special gift in honor of the people you are missing. Some create a "life" box. Any box will do. On one side picture or list sources of your sadness, on a different side people you love, on another side people who care for you, on another side what makes you happy. When you are blue, hold the box with the sad side toward you. After a time, turn the box and let your eyes fall on that which gives you blessing. Also, try using your source of "blueness" to think about, pray for, or call others who walk a similar journey.

Remember that the first "Christmas" was a time of Roman occupation, of increasing poverty among the masses, of unrest in the religious community, and many challenges similar to our own. It is into that troubled world—into our troubled world—that God comes with the Good News of Jesus. We are not alone: God chooses to be with us in Jesus! We are not abandoned: We are loved in Jesus! We do not need to be worthy: God chooses to come knowing that we are not worthy and be our friend.

What a reason to celebrate! What a message of light and hope!



Inasmuch Sunday

December 6, 2026

Please consider bringing a new unwrapped gift for a child 0-18 years old. Donations will go to Lakeshore Foster Families & Friends.

Senior Christians

will meet Tuesday, December 15 at 9:00 am at The Lighthouse Inn.



Join us for our Sunday school Christmas Program Sunday December 21 at 9:00 am. Children will meet in the fellowship hall at 8:30 am.

Reminder that there is no Sunday school December 6 & 13, but Christmas Program practice from 10:00-11:30 am.

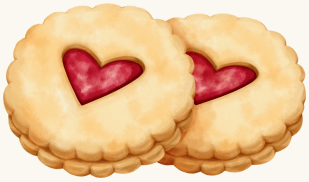
Faith on Fire's/NYG Cookie Walk Fundraiser 2026

This year's cookie walk fundraiser will take place following the Sunday School's Christmas Program on **December 20th** from **10:00-Noon** (or while supplies last).

Calling all bakers...We need you to help us make this a success. Please bring some of your favorite homemade treats to share. All cookies, bars, etc. should be dropped off before the 9am service.Youth will collect the donations and have them available after service for purchase.

This event will take place in the gathering space. There will be a suggested donation for a small or large container. Coffee & milk will be served.

Proceeds will be split evenly amongst our Faith on Fire Youth Group and the National Youth Gathering group. Show your support for our youth & get some tasty treats!







Financial Report

Income - October '26	*Month Actual*		*Budget*		*YTD Actual*		*YTD Budget*
Envelope Offerings	$ 27,722.00		$ 21,998.75		$ 225,199.00		$ 219,987.50
Lent, Holiday Offerings	$ -		$ 833.33		$ 4,693.00		$ 8,333.33
Loose Offerings	$ 191.00		$ 166.67		$ 1,214.73		$ 1,666.67
Room Use - Utility Donations	$ 393.75		$ 166.67		$ 1,979.00		$ 1,666.67
Other Income	$ -		$ -		$ -		$ -
General Fund Income	**$ 28,306.75**		**$ 23,173.75**		**$ 233,085.73**		**$ 231,737.50**
Operating Expenses - October 2026							
Administrative/Office Expense	$ 2,321.34		$ 1,365.00		$ 16,344.25		$ 13,650.00
Benevolence	$ 1,450.20		$ 1,853.90		$ 18,635.92		$ 18,539.00
Board Expense (Total from all 7 Boards)	$ 4,360.82		$ 6,576.67		$ 50,624.25		$ 65,766.67
Miscellaneous Expense	$ -		$ -		$ -		$ -
Personnel Salaries/Benefits	$ 20,237.67		$21,086.80		$ 212,472.88		$ 210,867.96
General Fund Expense	**$ 28,370.03**		**$30,882.36**		**$ 298,077.30**		**$ 308,823.63**
GENERAL FUND NET INCOME/LOSS	**($63.28)**				**($64,991.57)**		
					Year to Date General Fund Net Income :		**($64,991.57)**
Income needed per week to meet our 2026 Budget					**$ 7,126.70**		
Income needed per month to meet our 2026 Budget					**$ 30,882.36**		

WORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Baptism Graham Archie Galien
Funeral Robert "Bob" Mattern
Death Gladys Hansen

MEMBERSHIP

Baptized 807 Confirmed 545
Families 93

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday	Wednesday
10/18	187	36
10/25	119	41
11/1	105	37
11/8	103	51

ALTAR GUILD COMMUNION SERVERS

December (Committee #1)
January Bev Torrison,Chair (Committee #2)

LECTORS

12/6 Cheryl Duchow
12/9 Kathy Mattern
12/13 Don Domrath
12/16 Susan Christel
12/20 Stefanie Kaderabek
12/27 Lynn Merino and Erin Lenzner
12/30 Lynn Burzynski

COMMUNION SERVERS

12/6 Cheryl Duchow and Kaye Jandrey
12/16 Susan Christel
12/30 Susan Christel

HEAD USHERS

Glenn Otto & Tom Madson

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

12/6 Anders Sorenson
12/9 Lydia Kuenstler
12/13 Lydia Kuenstler
12/16 Eliza Wilker
12/20 Garrett Jeske
12/27 Taylor Jeske
12/30 Jayden Khail

GREETERS

12/6 Grace Sorenson & Julie Hartman
12/9 Peytyn Peterson & Mike Zutz
12/13 Peytyn Peterson
12/16 Paden Hougen
12/20 Peytyn Peterson & Mardell Huske
12/27 Jo Jones
12/30 Susan Christel

USHERS

12/6 Austin & Stetson McCulley, Ethan Ulness
12/13 Steve Ahrens, Wayne Huske, John Robley
12/20 Steve & Ginny Schwoerer, Keith Lippert
12/27 Rod Merino, Richard Menza, Lori Propson

SOUND OPERATOR

12/6 Loren Ulness
12/13 Erin Lenzner
12/20 Loren Ulness
12/27 Loren Ulness

VIDEO OPERATOR/LIVE STREAM

12/6 Al Gilbertson
12/13 Michael Lenzner
12/20 Liam Cline
12/27 Eric Thomsen

PROJECTION

12/6 Loren Ulness
12/9 Susan Christel
12/13 Zachary Lenzner
12/16 Dexter Valleskey
12/20 Loren Ulness
12/27 Loren Ulness
12/30 Kayla Fochs



Looking for a gift for a loved one?

The National Youth Gathering Team will once again be selling popcorn and candy bars from now until Christmas! Order a variety box for a loved one or grab your favorite flavors for yourself. Look for our team selling before or after service throughout December!







Incourage items delivered for October 2026 ~ Thank you for your generous donations!

Bed pillows
4 cases diapers (size 2,3,4) toilet paper
Bed blankets
Pull-ups, 2t-6t
Assorted note cards
Note paper and pens
Paper towels
Kleenex, dryer sheets
Bar soap
Dental hygiene items
Hair brushes and combs
Hand soap dispensers
Dish soap
Chap-stick
Adult allergy meds
Baby wash cloths, towels baby clothes/Sleepwear
Baby-bottles, brushes
Teething rings
Boy/girl socks, underwear boy/girl winter hats
Boy/girl (4 pc) set clothing bath towels/wash cloths
Boy winter jackets/hats (3t & 5t)
Kitchen towels, hot pads
Juice glasses/drink glasses
Women's tops, pants, socks dish set
Juice/milk/water pitchers
Kitchen bakeware
Baby wipes
Bleach
Diaper rash cream
Reading books/children, adult
Kitchen utensils
Full size bed sheet set
Clock radio
Tooth brushes and tooth paste
Face cream, makeup wipes
AA, AAA batteries
Body wash and lotion
Cough drops
Children's cough/cold syrup
Children's scissors, crayons
Sippy cups, spoons
Baby shampoo, blankets

Stewardship Brunch November 1









How to Become a Member of Faith Lutheran?

Do you have a family member interested in joining Faith Lutheran? Pastor Diane Wheatley will be happy to give you a call and arrange a time to meet with you. Please call the church office at 920-775-4141 for more information.

Celebrating Your Birthday

DECEMBER

1. Colton Meidl

3. Carter Lenzner

5. Dayton Goehring
   JohnMarc Ergas

6. Quinten Robley
   Jomarie Ergas

7. Landen Pinkerton
   Harley Beckman

8. Elizabeth Robley

10. Marlene Evenson

12. Bonnie Gordon
    Ava Wenzel

13. Steven Ahrens

14. Jerome Hoefner
    Ethan Ulness

15. Terry Stenzel

17. Randi Hetland
    Kristy Wagner
    Clarissa Ulness

18. Frank Griffin

19. Robert Wigen

20. Peter Reinertson

22. William Zutz

23. Susan Wenzel
    Marcus Loritz

25. Daryl Gilbertson

26. Donald Johnson
    Holley Jeske
    Colton Wenzel

27. Seth Madson

28. Warren Wenzel
    Bridget Biely

29. Lana Nelson

30. Parker Ulness
    Melissa Boll

31. Gage Spindler

JANUARY

1. Bryce Goman
   Breckin Franz

2. Marcus Simon

4. Wayne Huske
   Jo Jones

7. Addison Pinkerton

8. Elma Castro
   Abigail Reinke
   Tannor Wittmus
   Marann Schmidt

9. Susan Jeske
   Shannon Jorgenson
   Lenka Hougen

Council Minutes - October 19, 2026

New Business

a. Pastor Nate/Payment–While no charge for preaching services is allowed, we could make a donation to synod mission support or count it as God's grace. Motion made and carried to send a thank you letter.
b. Video recording in place of organist–Jennifer noted we had planned to use videos from CCLI found online but they can't run with PowerPoint, which is used in our system. We already have three licenses with CCLI and this would cost over $500 a year. A digital hymnal online would cost $2,800. The board will continue to look into whether we can make it work alongside PowerPoint.
c. Christmas Service–Jennifer noted that Pastor Diane Wheatley will preside over a Christmas Day service.
d. Hymn selection sheets–Sue handed out a list of suggestions for hymns from the congregation.
e. Letters sent to find an organist/pianist–Sue noted that Christine has typed letters to send to churches, schools, colleges etc. to look for candidates.
f. CDs held at Bank First in Valders–Two CDs are coming due on Nov. 28 and Dec. 26 (National Youth Gathering)--two CDs that started at $10,000 and $50,000. Joan noted the church had a $14,000 loss in September, so we need the money to pay bills. Cashing out the smaller CD would help with expenses. It was decided to wait until next month when more information about expenses/losses in October and new CD rates is available.
g. Committee for putting together the Ministry Site Profile for the call process–Bridget is willing to lead, with Tanyia, Julie and Jim also volunteering to help. We also need to update the job description for the pastor. It was suggested to have a written plan for accountability.

Council representative reports:

a. Treasurer's Report–Terry: Income for September was $17,084.46 and expenses $31,294.51, for a loss of $14,201.05. Checkbook balance is $38,914.93. Total general fund is at $101,512.88. There was 14% attendance in September.
b. Stewardship--Joan: Mission and Stewardship Projects: Nov. 1 is Celebration Day and people are asked to sign up and bring a dish to pass. Board directors have been given information to submit their budgets by Nov. 10.
c. Lay Ministry—Jennifer reported that we will use the Holden Evening Prayer for Advent this year. Will ask youth to toll the bell for All Saints Day Sunday. Will have an usher or acolyte assist people in putting candles in the stand if they need help.
d. Church Properties--Loren: He is waiting on a price quote for replacing the protective glass on the stained-glass window that was broken. A lift seat was installed on a toilet in the downstairs women's bathroom. The new railing in the altar area will be restrained.
e. Christian Education--A question arose about having a central calendar for things going on, such as baptisms, Bell Choir, kids singing etc. so we could try to limit having several things happening on a single Sunday. We want to be flexible for families but also make the calendar less crowded. There are 82 kids registered for Sunday school/Confirmation etc. from Pre-K to 12th grade. Will have a confirmation class about Reformation and an adult-only class. Noisy offerings are requested to be held on Nov. 22 for Sunday School supplies with four additional offerings on Dec. 13, Feb. 14, March 21 and May 9 for the accessible swing/Rett Syndrome mission. Motion made and carried to allow noisy offerings.
f. Youth & Family Ministry--The annual lefse has shifted to the National Youth Gathering students. They will be taking orders on Oct. 28, Nov. 1, Nov. 4 and Nov. 8. The event to make lefse will be on Nov. 13. Money will go towards the youth gathering expenses. Registrations for NYG are going on, with seven students from Faith planning to attend.
g. Personnel Committee--Julie planned to do job reviews.
h. Endowment-The committee met on Oct. 7 and submitted minutes.
i. Misc.-Jim said he will plan a meeting to discuss the climate survey.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next Meeting – November 16, 2026, devotions by Joan
---Submitted by Mary Thomsen, secretary

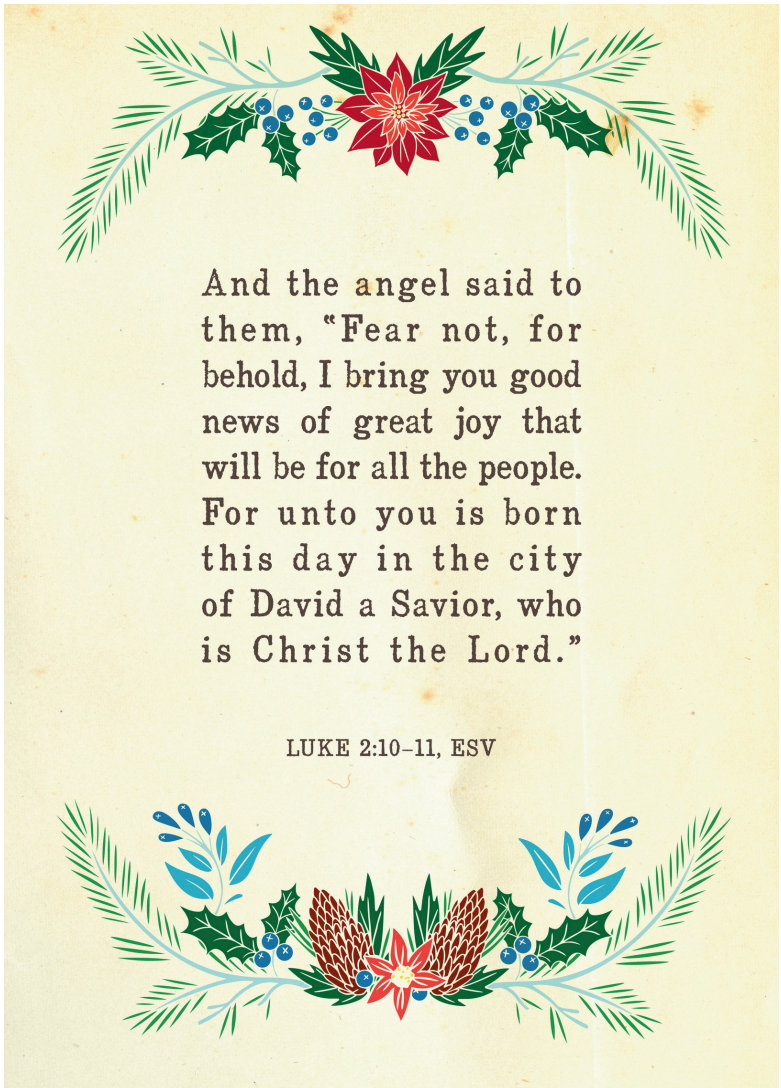


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship with Holy Communion 7:15 Town Hall Meeting, Confirmation, Faith on Fire	3	4	5  9:00 Christmas decorating
6 Holy Communion 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship ~ **Inasmuch Sunday** 10:00 Christmas Program practice, Fellowship Hour, Town Hall Mtg. 10:15 Inspiration Choir	7 9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Bds of Lay Ministry & Evangelism	8	9 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship 7:15 Confirmation	10 Newsletter info due 8:30 Secretary's Meeting 6:00 Book Club	11 	12 9:00 2nd Saturday Bible Study
13 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Christmas Program practice, Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir	14 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Bd of Stewardship	15 9:00 Senior Christians at The Lighthouse Inn	16 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship with Holy Communion 7:15 Confirmation	17	18 Annual Reports due to office	19 9:00 Open Pantry
20 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship with Christmas Program 10:00 Cookie Walk, Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir	21 9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Council	22	23 9:00 Jazzercise **NO Worship or Confirmation**	24 **Christmas Eve Worship at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00** with Holy Communion *Office closed at noon*	25 **9:00 Christmas Day Worship** with Holy Communion *Office closed*	26
27 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir	28 9:00 Women's Bible Study	29	30 9:00 Jazzercise **NO Worship or Confirmation**	31	**A special Maundy Thursday reenactment service of The Last Supper will be held in the new year. More details to follow.**	

Faith Lutheran Church
255 Roosevelt Street
PO Box 369
Valders, WI 54245-0369

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Worship times
Sundays— 9:00 A.M
Wednesdays — 6:15 p.m.

Church Office
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PO Box 369
Valders, Wisconsin 54245
Phone 920-775-4141
Website: www.faithlutheranchurchvalders.org

Staff Directory
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Email: faith21@tds.net
Bridget Valleskey, Youth Coordinator
Email: valleskeyb@gmail.com
Jill Wittmus, Bookkeeper
Rose Behnke, Custodian
Tony Schad, Custodian & Lawn Cutter
Sue Riesterer, Whitney Schamburek,
Devin Zahringer, Organists

FLC President: Alan Gilbertson
FLC Vice Pres: Julie Hartman
FLC VP Elect: James Schuessler
Secretary: Mary Thomsen
Treasurer: Theresa Haupt