

Faith Lutheran Church
Member of First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish

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FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish Corner

April, 2026

"United in Christ to strengthen our Ministries to adapt, grow and serve"

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May **grace and peace** be yours in **abundance** in the knowledge of God **and** of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:2NRSV

Pastor Peter Ruggles continues leading Worship the 2nd and 4th Sundays, Pastor Neal Weltzin will be leading Worship on the 1st, 3rd Sundays and Pastor Tamra Harder as our Visitation Pastor.

Confirmation –

We have 1 student from our Parish this year from North Valley. She along with the other students from Luck, Bone Lake and West Denmark are doing well. As I said in the past it has been a great privilege as your Parish Administrator to be a part of their Faith Journey to watch them grow in their Faith. I ask that you ALL these young woman and men in your prayers as they continue Life and Faith Journey.

Worship –

Our 2026 **Lenten** Journey began February 18, 2026 with **Ash Wednesday** at **Luck Lutheran with Study/Worship** and goes thru April 3, 2026 **Good Friday**. We will be using **Pastor Adam Hamilton's** (UMC) Series - **The Way – Walking in Jesus's Footsteps**

We as a Parish joined this journey to support our Confirmation students on their Faith Journey. The Journey continues the following Wednesdays February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25, **5:15pm-6:15pm Soup Supper with Study/Worship 6:15-7:15pm+/-**. We as in past years each of our churches will provide one of the Suppers. **Maundy Thursday** April 2nd and April 3rd **Good Friday** will be at **Luck Lutheran** to finish the Lenten series. The four churches will join in providing the Soup Suppers prior to Worship. And our Confirmation Youth are strongly urged to attend Lenten Worship in fact they signed up to help. This way we can see them interact with the Luck Students and they would then be part of the Service.

Parish Choir -

Thanks to the Parish Choir for the music they provide. They are joining the Luck Lutheran Choir for the Good Friday Service again this year. They are always looking for and welcome new members.

Faith Lutheran Fire –

As we all know Faith suffered a devastating fire in the early morning hours of Sunday November 23rd. They continue to work with the insurance company to make sure they have accounted for everything they lost or may have lost and have not realized it yet.

We as a Parish continue to stand beside our Sisters and Brothers of Faith and offer whatever help we can, looking forward that Sunday Morning we gather as a Parish in the refurbish Sanctuary to celebrate its Rebirth/Rededication as a one of our 3 Worship spaces.

FAITH COUNCIL
MEMBERS

Leo Holm

Tracy Hendrickson

Wes Hendrickson

Wayne Hendrickson

Amanda Laboda

Troy Paulsen

WEBSITE: faithlutheranbl.org

FACEBOOK: Faith Lutheran Church-Balsam Lake

PASTORAL SUPPORT: Pastor Tamra Harder 715-501-3681

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship April at the Legion Building in Pine Park

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

Reminder: The church service is not currently available to watch on Facebook.

Call Process –

Our updated Ministry Site Profile for the First Faith Lutheran Parish is now up for Candidates to see.

It was just a year ago we were interviewing a possible candidate. Remember in the end both the Candidate and the Call Committee did not feel the Spirit’s call for coming together.

We as Congregations and Members need to **continue** to be in Prayer as to how the Holy Spirit speaking to us both individually and as Congregations during this time of waiting for a Pastor.. We need to remember that we studied “The Pray Coin” three Lenten Seasons ago; a study of Jesus’s Pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, here is the key verse! Luke 22:42 *NRSV* **“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done.”** Let’s make sure we have the last half this verse in mind at all times but especially during this time!

In other Parish business we are doing well financially. We are doing well financially with each Congregation contributing \$1250.00 each month to the Parish account so that when we do get a Pastor we will have the ability to cover those expenses as well as paying Supply Pastors until that time. We continue working on the Parish Worship Calendar for 2026 and reviewing the Parish Agreement for any changes.

At the February 26th Parish Council Meeting they approved a change to the Parish Agreement that allows for the appointment of a Parish Administrator in the absence of a called Pastor as needed. It now goes to the Congregation Councils for acceptance and final approval will take place at our Annual Meetings.

After voting in the language change I was appointed the Interim Parish Administrator with no pay . there are two reasons for that the first is it was not budgeted for in 2026,second it was my choice not to take any pay.

With April comes the Worship Time Change for April, May and June.

8am North Valley, 9:30am Faith and 11am First. First and North Valley Sunday School at 9:30am

2026 Parish Council Meeting Dates: (Following Parish Worship) April TBD at Faith July 27 at North Valley and October 26 at First

2027 Annual Meeting Date February 28, 2027 Following Parish Worship – Fa

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

Interim Parish Administrator FFVLP

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:15pm Maundy Thursday at Luck Lutheran	3 6:15pm Good Friday at Luck Lutheran	4
5 8:00 North Valley 9:30 Faith 11:00 First Pastor Neal communion Easter Sunday	6	7 Office open 9a-12	8	9	10	11
12 8:00 North Valley 9:30 Faith 11:00 First Pastor Peter	13 6:30 Council Mtg	14 Office open 9a-12 9:30 WELCA	15	16	17	18
19 8:00 North Valley 9:30 Faith 11:00 First Pastor Neal Communion	20	21 Office open 9a-12 9:00am Quilting	22	23	24	25 Synod assembly 7:30-4:00
26 9:30 Faith Combined worship Pastor Peter	27	28	29	30		

BIRTHDAYS

Henck William 04/08
Erdmanczyk Mike 04/09
Swenson Ty 04/13
Thibert Anna 04/15
Hallberg Austin 04/21
Thibert Jeff 04/24

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

None

FEBRUARY \$\$FINANCIALS\$\$

Income ytd: \$6417.00

Expenses ytd: \$9876.00

Total ytd: \$-3459.00

TUESDAY AM COFFEE CANCELLED

**GATHERING GROUNDS TUESDAY AM COFFEE IS DISCONTINUED
UNTIL THE CHURCH RESTORATION IS COMPLETED.**

**THE CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES
MAKE IT TOO DIFFICULT TO ACCESS THE PARSONAGE.**

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00AM North Valley

9:30 AM Faith

(generally at the Legion Building at Pine Park, subject to availability)

11:00 AM First

We start this month with the Theme “Exodus from Slavery to Service” and on Easter Morning it changes to “God’s Promise of Hope”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday April 5th Easter “Resurrection” Morning the theme “God’s Promise of Hope” comes in. First has two banners in the Chancel, they speak of that **Life** and **Hope**.

God’s promise of **Hope** is told to us and to the house of Israel from Genesis to Revelation.

The following verses are just some of the **Hope** verses, the key verse for these banners and the assurance of God’s promise is found in the Apostle Paul’s letter to Titus, I have highlighted it below. In fact, Paul’s entire letter to Titus is about the **Hope** in Jesus Christ. Even the Apostle Peter tells of the **Hope** in his letters.

Psalm 71:5 NRSV

For you, O Lord, are my **hope**, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

Isaiah 40:31 NIV

But those who **hope** in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Micah 7:7NIV

But as for me, I watch in **hope** for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Romans 15:13 NRSV

May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:27 NRSV

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the **hope** of glory.

Titus 1:1-3 NRSV

1Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness, **2in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies, promised before the ages began—** 3in due time he revealed his word through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior,

1 Peter 1:3 NRSV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

The Altar hangings are White through the seven weeks of the Easter Season leading up to Pentecost Sun, May 24, 2026.

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



Here's the worship info for Holy Week:

April 2 - Worship at 6:15PM (no supper before worship)

Maundy Thursday worship & Holy Communion

Celebration of First Communion

April 3 – Good Friday Worship at 6:15PM (no supper before worship)

“Were You There” choir cantata with the combined choirs of Luck Lutheran,
North Valley, First/Cushing, and Faith/Balsam Lake congregations

April 7—Easter Sunday Worship at individual churches

8:00am North Valley

9:30am Faith

11:00am First

QUILTING NEWS



We will hold our quilting morning on Tuesday April 21st instead of the 1st Tuesday, which is election day in Wisconsin. If you need any help in deciding who to vote for, just give me a call!

~Caroline Lenselink

WELCA NEWS



WELCA will meet on Tuesday April 14th at 9:30 at the parsonage. The gathering is open to all women. Please join us.

I keep track of the arrival of birds as they appear each spring. In our “blizzard” on Monday morning, I had a blue heron standing in my driveway. In 20+ years we had only we had only seen them in the river and never this early. Four days later my hellaboies (commonly called Lenten Rose) were in bloom (see pictures below).

~Caroline Lenselink

