

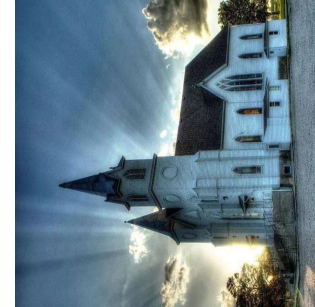
OUR MISSION:

To be a SOLDIER of the cross,
Serving **O**ur **L**ord **D**aily **I**n **E**very **R**espect

We would love having you worship with us!
Please come and hear our Vicar Brent Ashby.

Sundays 10:30 am
605-267-2277

Faith United Lutheran Church
44874 303rd Street
PO Box 168
Volin, SD 57072
(605) 267-2277
Faithunitedlutheran@gmail.com
faithunitedlutheranelca.com
Facebook: Faith United Lutheran ELCA




December Emissary 2024

We are so thankful....

Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Brent Ashby for serving as our worship leader

Brent Ashby for teaching confirmation students

For December janitorial work this month: Karen Habeck

Karen Habeck for decorating the fellowship room every month.

Lois Steenhoven for music leadership

December Ushers & Greeters, Readers, Communion servers

December Altar Guild: Lois Steenhoven

Faith United WOW Christmas Program and Party

WHERE: Faith United Lutheran Church

WHEN: December 11th at 6:00 pm

WHO: Performed and presented by the WOW youth and Confirmation students

An evening program at the Church with food, games and fun following in the basement.



Important Dates - Mark your calendars!

- December 1 - Blessing of Quilts
- December 11 - WOW Christmas Program and Party 6:00 pm
- December 18 - WELCA - 9:00 am - noon
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm
- No Deacons Meeting in December
- No Council Meeting in December
- January 19 - Annual Meeting following worship

Gift Cards

If you would like a gift card for groceries or school supplies, please contact the Church at 605-267-2277 or contact Brenda Hoxeng

We welcome articles from anyone who wishes to write one for the emissary. Articles are due to Brenda by the 20th of each month.



Romans 3:27

Then what becomes of our bragging right? It is excluded. By some kind of law - by merit? No, but by a "law of faith."

Romans 3:31

Do we, then, nullify law by this faith? No way! Rather, we uphold the principle of law.

Romans 4:1-2

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? If, in fact Abraham was justified by merit, he has bragging rights - but not before God.

Last time we saw that God's purpose was to put Jesus, His beloved Son, on public display on the cross for the express purpose of two things. 1. To show the world that God does not trifle with sin but will in fact be shown to be just in accounting for every and all sin that has been perpetrated by the human race. 2. To show His great love and mercy toward humanity by freely giving Christ's perfectly righteous life on our behalf, thus justifying us as a free gift.

Paul now asks a series of questions. First: Do we as humans have any bragging rights, any claim to glory in this exchange between ourselves and God? No! is the unequivocal answer! Second: Are we saying, "You shouldn't brag!" is a new rule we have to add to our list of commandments? Paul says, "Don't be ridiculous: its about grace through faith, not merit."

Vicar Brent's Message



Third question: "Then do we just void the whole moral law system, the ten commandments and all?" "NO, NO, NO!" Paul says, "Don't you see? We are saying the Law of God is good, to be upheld, it's just that only Jesus could do it perfectly for us. We are actually affirming the law as God's stand-ard!" Fourth: "So what can we discover from Abraham's experience? You remember Abraham, where it all started for us Israelites. Did he merit Gods declaration of righteousness?" "Not before God," Paul says.

Chapter four of Romans is an extended answer to this last question in which Paul also brings in David's experience with God's grace as well. Basically what Paul shows is that long before the time of Moses, way before the Law of God was formally given and the covenant with the nation of Israel was enacted, Abraham found the grace of God. God declared Abraham righteous because Abraham took God at His word – Abraham believed. To be declared righteous is different than actually being righteous in the perfect way that God requires. God could declare Abraham justified on the basis of what Christ would come to do on the cross and in His resurrection in advance of over a thousand years! (Abraham lived in the 18th century BC.)

We are justified in exactly the same way as our spiritual father Abraham was – by grace through faith. As we head into Advent, let us remember that was why Christmas happened. The incarnation of Jesus as the Babe of Bethlehem was absolutely necessary for us and our salvation.

Thanks be to God!

Vicar Brent



FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION...

Christmas is almost here. The children have begun practicing for the Christmas program. The final practice will be Wednesday, December 4th. The program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 pm. After the program, there will be a chili supper downstairs with a free will donation. The children will enjoy fun and games too. If Gayville-Volin cancels school due to weather, we will have to reschedule.

The students are continuing to accept donations of socks, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. I plan on collecting the donations after the program.

WOW will take a break during Christmas. The last WOW for December will be the 18th.

Classes will resume Wednesday, January 8th.

Have a blessed Christmas season.



And a **BIG THANK YOU** to Kristine Brock and Ariel Pederson for putting the Christmas program, chili supper and games together!

FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS...

December is upon us, and with it we look forward to the start of a new year---twice!

December 1 is the first Sunday of Advent, the season that marks the beginning of a new church year. And of course on December 31, as we say farewell to 2024, we look forward to the new year of 2025.

A new year with new opportunities, new challenges, new surprises- a reminder of the verse in Romans that says "...just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life".

Our **Christmas Eve** worship service with Holy Communion is scheduled for 5:30 PM on December 24. Please join us on this holy night to celebrate the wonder of Jesus' birth and to pray that this coming new year may bring to the world fulfillment of the angels words: Peace on earth, good will to all.

Wishing each of you a blessed Christmas and the blessings of new life in the new years!



A Time to Worship

Here we are almost to the end of another year. The time just keeps going on faster all the time. Will it stop? We hope not.

Where are we today in our worship life? Faith United is a presence in the community, but our worship services are not heavily attended. Why is that? We have a wonderful Vicar who can preach from off the top of his head without many notes. He is personable and is very willing to visit with you if you so desire.

Has church become second in line with everything else that is going on in our lives? We seem to get busier and busier all the time with distractions around us. Is Sunday just another day to get work done?

The first of the ten commandments is to put God first in our lives. Can 2025 be a start in our daily lives to try to give God a little more of our time?

My prayer is that Faith United can continue to be a part of our lives and to grow in the knowledge that God will be with us so "WE" can keep on keeping on.

Yours in Christ,
Lois

We welcome **Bo Allen Bartekoske**, son of Tara Bartekoske and Jason Bartekoske as our newest baptized member.





ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 19, 2024 following worship.

The 2024 Annual Report will be available on the website: faithunitedlutheranelca.com on or before January 1st.

Click on Annual Report. Enter password: faith2024



WINTER WEATHER NOTICE

If the weather is bad and Gayville-Volin School has been cancelled then there will be no confirmation or WOW.



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

December 1 - First Sunday in Advent: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 15 - Third Sunday in Advent: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

December 29 - First Sunday of Christmas: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

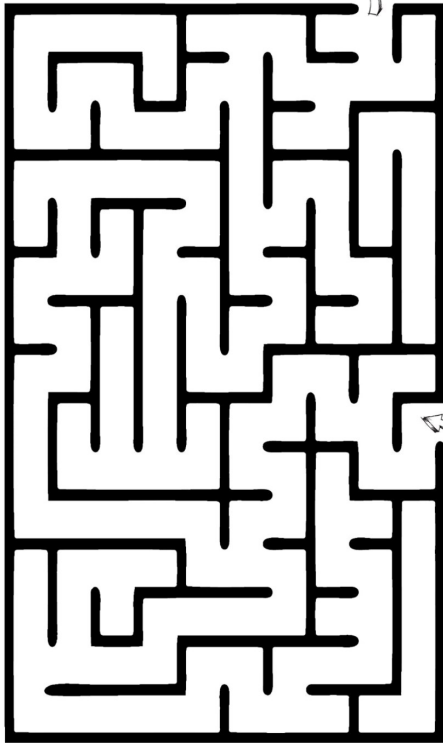
Kids Corner



And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11, KJV

Help the three
wise men find
Jesus



Worship Schedule:

December 1 Worship, Holy Communion
 December 8 Worship
 December 15 Worship, Holy Communion
 December 24 Worship, Holy Communion
 December 29 Worship, Holy Communion



Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

If you or family/friends are in need of prayer and would like to be on our prayer chain please call:

Lois Steenhoven 605 267 2336

Extended Care Facility:
 Lynda Freng, Norma DeJong

Ushers/Greeters:

Lay Readers:

December 1	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
December 8	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
December 15	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
December 22	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
December 24	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer

Altar Guild:

Lois Steenhoven

Janitor:

Karen Habeck

Bread Bakers/Providers:

Lois Steenhoven

Acolyte:

December 1 Kensi Pederson
 December 8 Hailey Patterson
 December 15 Emily Oien
 December 22 Need Volunteer
 December 24 Taylor Snoozy
 December 29 Bret Snoozy

Work Group

Communion Assistants:

December 1 Kathleen Gorsett
 December 15 Brad Tronvold
 December 24 Nancy Steffen
 December 29 David Hoxeng

Chair - Brad & Michelle Tronvold

665-3639
 Gloria Snoozy
 Dave & Anna Patterson
 Kari Nelson
 Deanna Huether
 Bill & Robin Huether
 Jack & Dana Huether



Each month we pray for a random list of members from our congregation, not because they are sick or having problems, but to lift them up to God, give thanks for them and pray for their well-being. We pray for our members: Tim, Melissa, Cody, Grace, Katrina, Brendan, Shelby, Joseph & Emily Oien; Elaine Oien; John, Susan, Lillian & Nicholas Oien; Josh, Kearstin, & Katelynn Oien.

Work Group for December

Military personnel and those serving stateside or overseas and their families:
 Ryan Habeck, Jeffery Heier, Kyle Huether, Derrick Mehlhaf and Trevor Habeck

We pray for our friends and family members with recent or chronic illnesses or who are recovering from surgery:
 Terry Altena (Karen Habeck), Autumn Silverstrom (Trudie Jones), Jonathon Green (Trudie Jones), Raymond Habeck (Bob Habeck), Ron & Janet Jentsch (Karen Habeck), Dave Julian, Lela Peters (Trudie Jones), Cregg Getman, LaVon Peak (Trudie Jones), Dan Brown, Brian Resch, Connor Yates (Mary Madsen), Sharon Crissey (Nancy Steffen), Terry Hoxeng, Delores Loague, Doyle King, Stephanie Lovdokken, John Klein, Jordan Hussey (Elan Ashby).



OFFERING TOTALS

October 27	\$132
November 3	\$1,462
November 10	\$238
November 17	\$1,028

ELECTRONIC EMISSARY

If you wish to receive the Faith United Lutheran Church monthly emissary electronically, please email faithunited-lutheran@gmail.com and let me know!

I'll email your emissary to you each month instead of the paper copy in the mail.

IF YOU NEED HELP

River City Domestic Violence Center (605) 665-1448

24 Hour Crisis Line

Suicide and Crisis Hotline  988

Local Resources and Services Helpline  211

Thank you to our work group members for providing treats and hospitality following worship.

January / May / September

Chair - Kathleen Gorsett

267-2370

Carol Sarringar

Steve & Joan Anderson

Kristine Brock

Dana & Ariel Pederson

March / July / November

Chair - Butch & Lois Steenhoven

267-2336

Crystal Mensch

Adam & Kelly Christ

Trudy Jones

Nancy Steffen

Judy Brock

February / June / October

Chair - Bob & Karen Habeck

760-3218

Julie & Bryan Derby

Darlene Hoxeng

Brenda & Brian Hoxeng

April / August / December

Chair - Brad & Michelle Tronvold

665-3639

Gloria Snoozy

Dave & Anna Patterson

Kari Nelson

Deanna Huether

Bill & Robin Huether

Jack & Dana Huether

Please review, if you wish your name to be put on or taken off, please contact the chair for the group you are in, or leave a message on the church phone.





December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Worship with Communion at 10:30 am</p> <p>First Sunday in Advent Blessing of Quilts</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>Darlene Hoxeng</p>	<p>4</p> <p>No WOW / Confirmation</p> <p>Bill Huether</p>	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Worship at 10:30 am</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Dana Hoxeng Kassandra Jensen Robin Nickles</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>WOW Christmas Program 6:00 pm</p> <p>No WOW / Confirmation</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>Ayden Gallop Kensi Pederson</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Neoma Dangel Michelle Gallop</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship with Communion at 10:30 am</p> <p>Michelle Adams Brittany Anderson</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>No WOW / Confirmation</p> <p>WELCA 9 am - noon</p> <p>Morgan Patterson</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>Bob Olson</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p>Worship at 10:30 am</p> <p>Steve Anderson</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Worship with Communion at 5:30 pm</p>	<p>25</p> 	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>Hailey Patterson</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship with Communion at 10:30 am</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Tanner Maddox</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Kristine Brock</p>		<p>Proverbs 11:25</p> <p><i>Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.</i></p>		