

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

- Lila Burmeister
- Gayle Seefeldt for healing knee replacement surgery
- Judy (sister-in-law of Mike Mickelson) on health concerns



WELCOME PASTOR KATHERINE!!

We are so excited to welcome back Pastor Katherine Rood to the Faith Lutheran Staff! She will be starting with us on December 1 and will be here 25 hours a week (set schedule coming soon!).



Make sure to welcome her when you see her!

A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM:

What does Advent mean for us?

"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Isaiah 64)

These are the evocative words we hear as Advent starts. "Tear the heavens open and come down!" "O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter." What kind of prayers lead us to these words? The people are displaced and worn down. They are struggling to connect to their God. Their sins have led their relationship with God astray. Now they pray for God's coming (Advent).

Advent is a preparatory time where the fullness of our lives is considered. Our hurts, our pain, our desires for the future and our relationship with God strung together in bodily prayer. In Advent, our prayers are not wispy. They are not light or soft. They strike a chord at the discord in our lives and in the world and say, "Lord come down!" "Tear the heavens open and come down!"

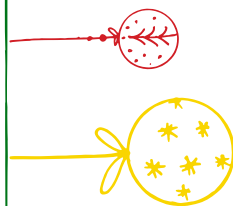
Advent, (God's coming), is not about our control. It is about God doing something new. "When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down!" This is the context of John's fiery speech and blessed Mary's unexpected pregnancy. The control we thought we had is punctured by God's movement toward us. Watch for it!

Blessed Advent to all of you!

Pastor Tim

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, MN 56288
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Website: faithspicer.org

Email: office@faithspicer.org

Address: 310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288

Phone: 320.796.2522

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, December 5:

- Poinsettia orders are due (order online or at the Welcome Center)

Sunday, December 10:

- Sunday School Christmas Program during 9:00am Service
- Recognition of Pastor Katherine Rood joining the Faith Staff
- Sunday School Christmas Party following service!

Sunday, December 17:

- Christmas Cantata by the Faith Chancel Choir during the 9:00am Worship Service
- Sunday School is doing a service project following service

Wednesday, December 20:

- Christmas Cantata at 6:00pm (Feast meal served beforehand)
- Family Caroling Event following the Cantata - more details to come soon!

Thursday, December 21:

- Blue Christmas Worship Service hosted at First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake - more details inside!

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve:

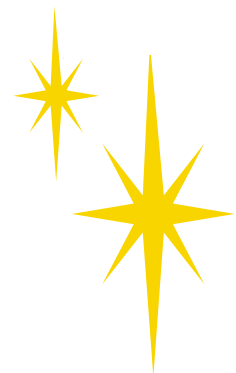
- **NO MORNING SERVICE**
- 3:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 1
- 5:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 2

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day:

- **NO SERVICE** - Merry Christmas!!

Wednesday, December 27:

- **NO SERVICE OR PROGRAMS**



POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS

The Advent Season is here, which means we are ready to order some poinsettias to fill our church! If you would like to purchase one in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill-out an order form (found in the Welcome Center) and it will be included in the Christmas Bulletin.



The cost per plant is \$12. Please drop off your form and payment to the Welcome Center or order online by December 5 by scanning the QR code or going to faithspicer.org.



BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

A joint service by Norway Lake Lutheran Parish, Peace Lutheran Church of New London and Faith Lutheran Church of Spicer.

Hosted at First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake, New London - December 21st at 7:00pm.

Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. This service is for all who are grieving or have experienced loss - no matter what this grief or loss may be: the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, the loss of a friendship - all are invited. We remember the heaviness that burdens our hearts and focus on the promise of hope found in Christ. It is a safe place to find solace and encouragement in community.



DECEMBER QUILTING

Quilters are taking the month of December off - see you in January!



FAITH'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Faith Chancel Choir led by our Music Director, Katherine Ragan, is proud to present the 2023 Christmas Cantata: Tapestry of Light by Joseph Martin!

Join us for an awesome time of worship and music:

- Sunday, December 17 during the 9:00am service
- Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00pm
 - Feast Meal served at 5:15
 - Family Caroling Event to follow

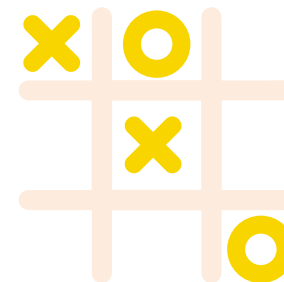
Come to one or both services!



6th - 12th GRADE EVENTS:

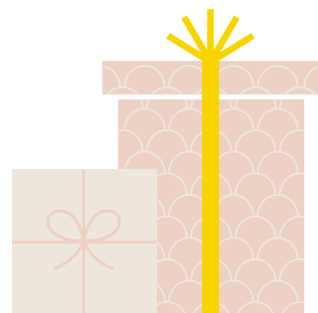
BOARD GAME NIGHT

Our December youth event will be a Board Game Night at Faith on Dec. 9th from 6pm-9pm for all students in grades 6-12. Quentin will have a few to share, but students are encouraged to bring their favorite game! There will be some hot dogs and snacks to share.



LYF CHRISTMAS PARTY

LYF, our shared high school youth group, will be hosting our annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 20th at 7:30pm at Peace Lutheran in the Youth Room. All students in grades 9-12 are welcome to attend, even if they don't attend regularly! All are welcome! We will be having a potluck of appetizers, beverages will be provided. We will be doing a White Elephant Gift Exchange, where students are highly encouraged to find something around the house. If they choose to buy something, \$15 is the maximum price we are asking them to spend.



MALL OF AMERICA RETREAT

January 27-28: our 3rd annual trip to Mall of America for students in grades 9-12 promises to be as fun as the rest! We'll leave at 6:00am from Peace and head to the Twin Cities for a service project. We'll spend the rest of the day at the Mall of America which will include a laser tag battle and supper. We'll stay at a Twin Cities church in the evening before we worship with them on Sunday and head home.



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

This summer, Faith & Peace churches are partnering together to bring high school youth to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering: Created to Be. This event will take place July 12-23, 2024.

The ELCA Youth Gathering, often referred to as the "National Youth Gathering", is the largest and most exciting opportunity offered for high school students in the greater church. This is a gathering of more than 30,000 young ELCA Lutherans from across the United States and territories. This opportunity comes around once every three years in a large city, and this year it is being hosted in New Orleans. Cost: \$600 per student (\$200 deposit due by January 15th).

Want more information? Quentin is holding 2 informational meetings (pick the one that works best in your schedule):

- Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00pm @ Peace Lutheran, New London
- Thursday, December 7th at 7:00pm @ Faith Lutheran Church

FROM THE COUNCIL:

January 1-October 31, 2023					
	YTD Budget	2023	2022	Difference	Compared to Budget
Income	597,291.68	428,566.18	432,713.47	(4,147.29)	(168,725.50)
Expense	596,850.84	461,580.72	509,424.34	(47,843.62)	(135,270.12)
Net Income	440.84	(33,014.54)	(76,710.87)	43,696.33	(33,455.38)
Mortgage Principal TTL	49,477.50	48,707.90	47,388.21	1,319.69	(769.60)
Other Income		1,531.16	100,367.52	(98,836.36)	1,531.16
Net Profit (Loss)	49,918.34	17,224.52	71,044.86	(53,820.34)	(32,693.82)

The other income in 2022 contains preschool payback and ERC funds.

Notes from the council meeting:

1. The council wants to recognize the outstanding stewardship from the Faith congregation in October! October is the best giving month of the 2023 year.
2. The council approved a year long contract with Pastor Katherine Rood starting on December 1. She will be working 25 hours a week.
3. THANK YOU to everyone who came out and helped support our Lutefisk Opener - it was a great success!

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH: MITTEN TREE

Faith is partnering with The Link in New London again for the Mitten Tree, which helps provide gifts to families who may need a little extra help this year.

Each mitten will have a gender and age for you to shop for gifts for as well as a family ID #. When you return the gifts, make sure the family ID # is listed on the tag so we make sure it gets to the right person! When the tree goes up, take a mitten or two and help spread some love!

