

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

- Lila Burmeister
- Dianne Bode (sister of Nona Oie) for health concerns
- Connie Scheevel for health concerns
- Don Johnson and family on the death of his brother, Richard "Dick" Johnson
- The family and loved ones of Ron Nelson on his death



A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM: WE HAVE SEEN!

And Simeon came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

*"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."*

*And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.
(Luke 2)*

This beautiful moment in our bible comes to us as Jesus' parents are just trying to do what is appropriate as pious and expectant Jewish people. They needed to go through purification rites, circumcision, and his presentation to God at the temple. They were not expecting to meet someone else who was "waiting."

Simeon was expecting to meet God's salvation of Israel before he died – and now that he has, he can go in peace because God's Word has been fulfilled. It is like the cumulation of a lifelong dream.

We, who have seen Jesus come to us at Christmas time, can now begin to rest in God's salvation. It is meant to grant us hope and peace because we see that God is at work – here, now, and always. What a time to be alive in 2024!

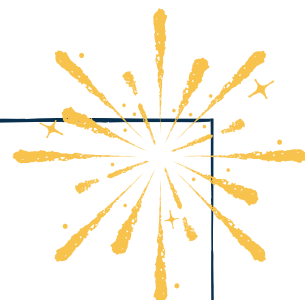
I can confess with you, "We have seen the work of God's salvation here! So now we can rest in peace." No matter what comes this year, "We have seen!" And that is the most comforting, beautiful thing on earth.

Peace be with you, and Happy New Year!

Pastor Tim
(Christmas 2023)

Prayer on front page found on:
www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/prayers-for-new-year-pray-to-renew-heart-and-mind.html

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*Gracious God, we come before you seeking renewal in the new year.
Renew our minds, our hearts, and our spirits. May we be transformed by
the power of your Holy Spirit, leaving behind the old and embracing the
new that you have in store for us.*

*Lord, as we embark on this new year, we lift up to you our loved ones,
our communities, and the world. May your peace reign in our hearts and
in the hearts of all people. Bring healing where there is brokenness and
reconciliation where there is division. Amen.*



FAITH'S EPIPHANY CANTATA

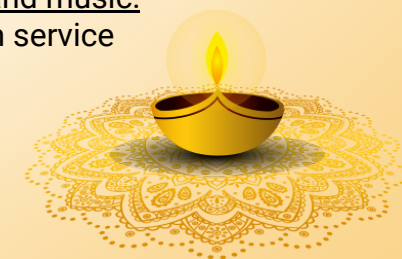
The winter cantata has been rescheduled!

The Faith Chancel Choir led by our Music Director, Katherine Ragan, is proud to present the 2024 Winter Cantata: Tapestry of Light by Joseph Martin!

Join us for a wonderful time of worship and music:

- **Sunday, January 7** during the 9:00am service
- **Wednesday, January 10** at 6:00pm
 - Feast Meal served at 5:15
 - Normal programs to follow

Come to one or both services!





The Truth of What We Bring

On Sunday morning (or Wednesday evening) a person places a check, folded bills into the offering plate, or contributes through Simply Giving. The usher sees the hand drop some money into the plate, but what that usher cannot see is the intention of the Offering. That is known only to the giver and God. Yet the action is one of the most powerful events of the Worship service.

The Offering is the point during every Worship liturgy when most people face the intersection between God's grace and human gratitude.

Are we willing to freely give, even if it means giving up money, which in our culture signifies power? Be it a tithe, a couple of one-dollar bills, or nothing at all, our Offering is an outward sign of our inner spiritual intentions, and a unique time of truth in Worship. The truth of what we bring reveals itself in answer to such questions as these:

- Do I give or not? Can I let go of what I consider to be mine?
- Why do I give? Do I give out of fear, or duty, or to contribute to the work of building up the Kingdom of God?
- And, how much do I give?

The answers to those questions produce an x-ray of one's spiritual life.

To most people the Offering is about fundraising. The church's bills must be paid, so there is always tension about money. Unfortunately, church leaders are often left with a burden of anxiousness on behalf of their sisters and brothers that is unjust. Wanting to be faithful stewards, they stress over how things will be paid while other ministry leaders wrangle with whether there will be financial support to encourage or expand existing discipleship opportunities. Truth be told, the Offering should be a profound spiritual exercise. If those things we possess are all gifts from God's abundance, then giving back to God is an act of gratitude.

Belonging to a church, a community of Christ followers, means we are giving consent to all that God is calling us to do, supporting the work of those on the front lines, while simultaneously, providing for the less glamorous expenses like electric bills, heating/cooling, water, and day-to-day operating costs.

I believe in Straight Talk that informs, equips, and moves us to action. The COVID dollars which floated the church through the most difficult years of the pandemic, are exhausted. We, your Leadership Team, find ourselves worrying about shortfalls rather than focusing on where the Holy Spirit is leading. We need you! Every Offering, great or small, is deeply appreciated and I thank you in advance.

Prayerfully consider, and listening to the intention of your gift, help us to continue proclaiming the Gospel and equipping the saints of all ages! You, sharing the gifts God has given you, is the answer to heartfelt prayers.

God's Peace,
Rev. Katherine Rood

WOMEN, WINE & THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, January 25 @ 6:30pm | 3895 60th Ave NE, Willmar

Join together with some other awesome women for an evening of devotion led by Pastor Katherine and fun fellowship!



QUILTING

January 8-9 & January 22-23, 9:00am-3:00pm

RACHEL CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, January 25 @ 1:30
At the home of Sandy George.



6th - 12th GRADE EVENTS:

9-12th GRADE MALL OF AMERICA RETREAT

January 27-28 | Cost: \$50

We will leave early Saturday morning from Peace Lutheran and head to the cities for a service project in the morning before our afternoon at the Mall of America. In the afternoon we will play laser tag together at the MOA and then have supper together before heading to our host site to snack, play games, and attend worship with them on Sunday. We will return to Peace on Sunday in the early afternoon. [Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center at Faith.](#)

SERVE BOLDY INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

January 3 at 7:15pm at Peace Lutheran Church
January 10 at 7:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church

We are partnering with Serve Boldly to offer a mission trip style experience in Racine, WI for students who have completed grades 6-8 on June 16-21, 2024. Serve Boldly is a ministry of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, and we're excited to partner with them! Join Quentin for two informational meeting opportunities to learn more about service projects, lodging, travel, and growing in Faith together. The first meeting is January 3 at 7:15pm at Peace Lutheran Church and the second is here at Faith on January 10 at 7:30pm.

3RD HALF AT PEACE

Friday, January 12 & Friday, February 2

Did you like 5th Quarter? This is the same thing only during basketball season. Students in grades 6-8 are invited to Peace Lutheran church after these two home basketball games until 11pm. 3rd Half is an opportunity for students to hang out, have snacks and beverages, and play large group games. We will provide snacks and beverages. Quentin is still looking for a few more adults to help each night. If you are able to help, please connect with Quentin at youth@faithspicer.org.

FROM THE COUNCIL:

January 1-November 30, 2023					
	YTD Budget	2023	2022	Difference	Compared to Budget
Income	657,020.84	474,593.17	479,918.66	(5,325.49)	(182,427.67)
Expense	656,535.92	511,814.38	544,366.86	(32,552.48)	(144,721.54)
Net Income	484.92	(37,221.21)	(64,448.20)	27,226.99	(37,706.13)
Mortgage Principal TTL	54,425.25	53,497.11	51,967.44	1,529.67	(928.14)
Other Income		1,531.16	100,367.52	(98,836.36)	1,531.16
Net Profit (Loss)	54,910.17	17,807.06	87,886.76	(70,079.70)	(37,103.11)

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



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, January 23 @ 12:00-6:00pm - Sign up at redcrossblood.com



ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE!

Faith's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28 following the 9:00am service. We would love to have as many members attend as possible! The nursery will be staffed and Sunday School kids will be watching a movie. [All committee reports are due by January 8 to the church office.](#)



JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: SAFE AVENUES

Safe Avenues provides domestic and sexual violence victim advocacy services throughout a five county area in Southwestern Minnesota. Safe Avenues is home to the only emergency safe shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence in 18 counties in the Southwestern corner of Minnesota. Harmony Visitation Center, a program of Safe Avenues, is the only agency to provide parenting time services within a 50 mile radius of Kandiyohi County.