

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Lila Burmeister, Betty Nordby, Kraig Rood (son of Pastor Katherine and Les Rood) for health concerns, Brian Gieseke for radiation treatments, Aaron Joneson (son of Danny Joneson) for healing from auto accident, Katherine Ragan & family on the death of her aunt and her dad's upcoming surgery

A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM

Resurrected Surprise!

In Mark's gospel, on Easter morning, Jesus does not appear. He is risen, so why would he hang out at an empty tomb? The young man says, "Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

In the church I grew up, (Trinity Lutheran of New Richland, MN) I remember staring at the stain glass window above the altar with this image. The clothes, the pointing young man dressed in white, and the stone slab but "no" Jesus! Can you imagine it, "No, Jesus is not here, but you will see him. He is going ahead of you, just as he told you."

Can we accept that? "No, he isn't here" but that is the good news. The Son of Man will be persecuted by the chief priests, the scribes, the elders, convicted by the government, and killed but he will rise. All the world may know the story of Jesus, but it is not concluded with stone tomb. It is "begun" with the empty tomb and promise that "you will see him, just as he told you."

Our story is "begun" after the resurrection. It is started with promise to "see him" and blessed with Holy Spirit to continue until all things are made new. Let us enjoy this moment of breath and clean air. Let us enjoy the spring growing in our yards. Let us remember we are not stuck in tombs but are free! We are tied up with Jesus' resurrection.

What a promise to live by! Rejoice church, we are caught up in a "Resurrection Surprise" that does not end in a coffined door. Doors cannot contain Easter. Nor can they contain you!

Happy Easter!
Pastor Tim

CANDY DONATIONS FOR EASTER EGG HUNT

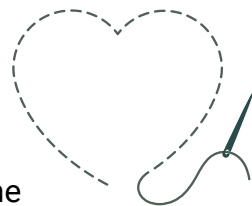
The Education Committee is looking for candy donations for this year's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30. **If you are willing to donate candy, please turn it in to the Welcome Center by March 13.**

QUILTING

March 11 & 12, March 25 & 26, 9:00am-3:00pm

RACHEL CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, March 21 @ 1:30 at Phyllis Jacobson's home



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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.

Holy Week 2024

SPRING CANTATA

Wednesday, March 20 @ 6:00pm

PALM SUNDAY & SPRING CANTATA

Sunday, March 24 @ 9:00am

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28 @ 6:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 29 @ 6:00pm

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 30 @ 10:00am

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31:
1st Easter Service at 9:00am
2nd Easter Service at 10:30am



NEW: OWL CAMP

OWL (Older Wiser Lutherans) Camp (aka Adult VBS) is coming **May 6-9**. Join in on mornings of fun, fellowship and study. There will be morning coffee, music, art, a study of prayer and more!! Adults of all ages are invited - more information coming soon, so keep your eye out!



FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP AT CAMP

March 16, 9:00am-4:30pm | Green Lake Bible Camp | \$75 per kid **FREE!**

This is a great option for any kids who couldn't make it to the Fall First Communion Event at Faith. Pastor Tim is planning to attend with the Faith kids who go, and the instruction will be similar to our class in the Fall.

Registration deadline is March 6. [Register at gllm.org/youth-retreats.html](http://gllm.org/youth-retreats.html).



REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP AT GLLM

All Faith kids who are attending camp this summer will receive **\$100 off for a full week of camp and \$50 for a half week of camp**. Simply mark Faith Lutheran Church as your congregation during your camp registration, and Faith will send the money to GLLM when we receive the list of kids from Faith attending camp. Additional scholarships are also available for those who need it, simply contact the church office.

Peace & Faith's Onsite Day Camp is Mon. July 29 - Thurs. August 1.
Pre-K VBS will be from 8:30-11:00am on those same dates.



FREEZER MEALS MINISTRY

Prepare freezer meals for yourself and donate to the freezer meals ministry for pastoral care use! You will go home with 4 freezer meals & instructions on how to prepare them. This upcoming event is **Sunday, March 3 @ 1:00pm**. Cost is \$50 per person - sign up on our website!



SENIOR HIGH BUNCO NIGHT (GRADES 9-12)

Join LYF, our shared high school youth group, for a fun night of BUNCO on **Wednesday March 13th at 7:30pm at Faith**. BUNCO is a dice matching game that should take about an hour and a half. All high school students are welcome. You don't have to attend LYF every week. Bring a friend and join us!



SPRING CANTATA

The Faith Chancel Choir directed by Katherine Ragan is proud to present the Spring Cantata: *Colors of Grace, Lessons for Lent* by Joseph Martin. You can hear this musical masterpiece on **Wednesday, March 20 at 6:00pm and/or Palm Sunday, March 24 during the 9:00am service.**

STEWARDSHIP AT FAITH

Prodigal Grace & Unconditional Love

It's true, the well-worn tale of the Prodigal Son causes some measure of aversion even among the most faithful! Many people read or hear this story with some frustration and a barely hidden righteous indignation. Why? Because we most easily place ourselves in the shoes of the older son. Shouldn't good behavior be rewarded? Why should someone's callous behavior be dismissed without consequences? As author of *Everything Happens for a Reason*, Kate Bowler, might say: I've developed my own version of a prosperity gospel where I expect to be rewarded for my good deeds, and treated well for doing the right thing.

But what if we approached this story with curiosity about why the Prodigal Son squanders his wealth in the first place? Perhaps he throws away his money because he believes his own life is disposable. Perhaps he lets his material goods go to waste because deep down he believes he deserves a similar fate. In contrast, the older son hoards his generosity, believing material abundance and self-worth must be worked for, achieved, and gained by deeds alone. For both individuals, their wealth management behavior exposes their true feelings about worthiness.

In Luke 15:20 we see that the father is moved to compassion as soon as he glimpses his youngest son's silhouette framed by the horizon. He does not wait for an apology. He does not require repayment. Instead, he is moved wholly by his son's return. He doles out grace as lavishly as his son squanders wealth. The father lets go of measuring his son's value based on how "good" of a steward he is **and cultivates worth rooted in unconditional love.**

What might happen -- in our homes, our church, ourselves -- if we let go of our fear of not being or doing enough, and instead dive deep into our Father's prodigal grace? Think about it! How might our own stewardship practices become expressions of God's abundant generosity and unconditional love?

God's Peace,
Rev. Katherine Rood



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran today! **March 31st, 2024 is the deadline to direct your 2023 Choice Dollars.** You may do so by logging into your Thrivent account or contacting your Thrivent representative.



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is coming which means we are ready to order flowers to fill our church for Easter! The choices this year are **6"-6.5" pots of Lilies, Easter Mums and Tulips for \$12 each and 8" pots of Hydrangeas for \$24 each.** If you would like to purchase one in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out an order form (found online or at the Welcome Center) and it will be included in the Easter Bulletin.

FROM THE COUNCIL:

January 31, 2024					
	YTD Budget	2024	2023	Difference	Compared to Budget
Income	51,340.24	40,523.70	41,787.62	(1,263.92)	(10,816.54)
Expense	51,107.98	54,511.76	48,083.63	6,428.13	3,403.78
Net Income	232.26	(13,988.06)	(6,296.01)	(7,692.05)	(14,220.32)
Mortgage Principal TTL	4,953.63	4,822.94	4,612.05	210.89	(130.69)
Other Income				0.00	0.00
Net Profit (Loss)	5,185.89	(9,165.12)	(1,683.96)	(7,481.16)	(14,351.01)

\$51,108 of income needed each month to meet our budgeted expenses.

NEW: ADULT FORUMS

The church council has been very active thinking of ways to enhance our ministry here at Faith. With that in mind, we will be starting an Adult Forum Program after Easter. It will take place the 1st Sunday of the month following the worship service. It will take place in the Fireside Room or the Sanctuary depending on the number of participants.

Sunday, April 7, will be the first Adult Forum with Travis Aufderheide representing Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. He will update us on the many programs and opportunities that GLLM has available to us. **Sunday, May 5**, we will have with us Yadim, a Ukrainian refugee who is now here in the United States. He will share his story of his family and the invasion.

Future Adult Forums will resume in the fall. If anyone has a topic or subject for these future forums, please let the church or council know.



MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH:

THE LINK FOOD PANTRY

No one should go hungry. No one. That's why The Link Board decided to open a Food Pantry in New London to "fill the gap" left when the Willmar Area Food Shelf closed its New London location in August 2016. Since then, The Link has experienced a steady stream of people from the community requesting food.

The demand for food has nearly tripled in the last year and WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! With the increased cost of food, your neighbors in need are having to decide if they pay for food or pay for other living expenses (like rent, utilities and medical bills). Please consider giving today!