

# Faith•times

Monthly Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church and School | February 2021



## Pastor Hoepfner's Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
We are in the month of February and two special times are observed this month. Valentine's Day and the beginning of the Lenten Season. As I thought about both of these times, I couldn't help but think of God's great love for us. On Valentine's Day, we think of God's unending love for us and how that flows over in our life to share with others. Our midweek Lenten services are following the series called "God's Love is Shown." How appropriate for this month that we think of love! We will learn the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love for us shown most clearly in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each service focuses specifically on a meaningful descriptor of God's love and applies that description to the words and actions of our Lord who is God's love incarnate come down to save us. We will focus on redemptive love, compassionate love, steadfast love, enriching love, living love and Holy Love. On Sundays during Lent, we will go through the series, "Places of the Passion." We will follow in the footsteps of Jesus, contemplating what happened at each place our Savior stood along the path of his Passion for our sake. Come join us each Sunday as we take a tour of the places Jesus walked. Let us love one another.  
Pastor Hoepfner

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**Faith Lutheran  
Church and School**

*Bringing People Together in Faith*

*"Raise up a child in the way he should go, and  
when he is old he will not depart from his ways."  
Proverbs 22:6*

## Mission Statement

Faith Lutheran Church and School exists to worship, serve and grow in Jesus Christ.  
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Email: [faithlutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com) • Website: [www.faithlutheranwatertown.com](http://www.faithlutheranwatertown.com)

Pastor Hoepfner's Email: [shoepfner4faithlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:shoepfner4faithlutheran@gmail.com) • Cell: 920-285-9879



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# Announcements

Our English District is launching a new model for funding missions to which every congregation is invited to participate. It is completely voluntary but we believe that as God's people see and hear what is being accomplished specifically and directly in support and development of new missions and enhancing existing missions, more and more of us will want to be involved. This funding model is based on the belief that "there is power and strength in many giving a little." Loving our neighbor includes caring for their spiritual well-being. This is why the need exists for God's people to come together in support of missions that are bearing kingdom fruit. It's simple. Very simple. It is NOT burdensome, nor sacrificial. It involves every baptized member of the Body of Jesus in your congregation, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member. It demonstrates the power of the beautiful body of Christ working together, prompted by faith. It shows how much can be accomplished by many, giving little. \$1/per baptized member/per week. Simple, right? Self-explanatory almost. Not burdensome, nor sacrificial. All can participate. If every baptized member of our district congregations did ONLY this plan, we could produce \$2.5 million in addition to our district's total budget of \$1.8 million. The numbers are staggering. Just think what else we could do! Through the next year, Faith Lutheran will adapt this new model. There will be a plastic case in the back of the church where the money can be placed. This will replace our current mission of the month program.

## Due to Covid 19 the following things have been postponed: - Adult Bible Class - Choir - Commuter Bible Study

- Church Council will be meeting, Thursday, February 25th at 5:30 PM here at Faith.
- To help support Leesi and Bethany Stevens, please go to the following link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-stevens>
- The Commuter Bible Study is postponed until further notice.
- If you have a prayer request, please call the church office at 261-8060.
- If you would like to serve on a cleaning team or be a greeter/usher, please contact Pastor Hoepfner.
- If you are new to the congregation or know of someone who is watching the services online and is not a member, please contact Pastor Hoepfner to attend a new member class as we will talk about membership.
- Please check out our updated Church and School website at [faithlutheranwatertown.com](http://faithlutheranwatertown.com)
- If anyone is interested in joining a Bible Study via zoom, please let Pastor Hoepfner know. We meet on Thursday afternoons at 1 PM.
- Cornerstone of Grace is a faith based organization designed to serve women and children in crisis. Their mission is to be a safe haven while offering the love, spiritual guidance and resources to build a solid foundation for growth and stability. For more information visit their website: [cornerstoneofgrace.com](http://cornerstoneofgrace.com)

## Faith • *brations*

### We Celebrate with February Birthdays

Bobbie Rand	1	Joshua Esmeier	15
Beth Stendel	7	Kaylee Uttech	18
Lisa Esmeier	11	Dan Baum	22
Kent Uttech	11	Nancy Nelson	26



*God's Blessings to you*

### Prayer Concerns

For our military, the sick, discouraged, & troubled, For those experiencing major life changes like divorce, unemployment or underemployment, difficulty making ends meet. The well being of the church & state, and whatever rests in our hearts.



# Faith • *full*

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- Purchase Scrip Gift cards for your favorite places to shop and the things you use every-day.

You can pick them up in the office or order online any time at <http://www.shopwithscrip.com/> our school code 7D4EB33L48L9.

Faith earns a percentage of the money spent.

Contact Beth Stendel for more information at [kbdstendel@gmail.com](mailto:kbdstendel@gmail.com) or 920-261-8362

Orders for the month due 2/8 and 2/22 by noon. •

Please keep bringing in BOX TOPS & Put the COKE CODES in online!

\*\*\*\* Box Tops is launching their APP based program and will no longer be making box tops that you will cut out. Now, you will need to download the app and scan your receipt to enter your box tops. If you prefer not to do that, you can bring your receipts into the office and I will scan them using my phone! \*\*\*\*

***Every bit helps the church & school!!***

***THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THESE PROGRAMS***

Your offering can be automatically withdrawn weekly, monthly, or even just one time. How convenient is that when you are out of town, but still need to make your offering for the week. Please contact Beth Stendel to get an ACH form that needs to be filled out and on file to do so. We will also have cards in the pew to write down that ONE-TIME offering that you can put in the offering plate if you forgot your checkbook or have no cash on you. You still need to have the ACH paper filled out and on file in order to use the pew cards. Stewardship will still keep track of your giving, just as if it were cash or a check.

## **Doctrinal Review**

### **Of the Election of Grace**

But as earnestly as we maintain that there is an election of grace, or a predestination to salvation, so decidedly do we teach, on the other hand, that there is no election of wrath, or predestination to damnation. Scripture plainly reveals the truth that the love of God for the world of lost sinners is universal, that is, that it embraces all men without exception, that Christ has fully reconciled all men unto God, and that God earnestly desires to bring all men to faith, to preserve them therein, and thus to save them, as Scripture testifies, 1 Tim. 2:4: "God will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." No man is lost because God has predestined him to eternal damnation. -- Eternal election is a cause why the elect are brought to faith in time, Acts 13:48; but election is not a cause why men remain unbelievers when they hear the Word of God. The reason assigned by Scripture for this sad fact is that these men judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life, putting the Word of God from them and obstinately resisting the Holy Ghost, whose earnest will it is to bring also them to repentance and faith by means of the Word, Act 13:46; 7:51; Matt. 23:37.

# Stewardship

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## **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Newsletter article – February 2021**

“I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel. St. Paul wrote: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It’s not so much that we stop giving, but we don’t put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God’s Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge.

And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

### **Memory Verse Challenge:**

The church confesses to Christ, "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to meditate or memorize The Scriptures and, in so doing, strengthen our walk with Jesus. Faith Lutheran Church and School invites everyone to join together meditating or memorizing a verse together each week.

### **Week of February 7 Hebrews 4:15**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

### **Week of February 14 Transfiguration/Ash Wednesday Philippians 2:5–11**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Week of February 21 1 Peter 5:8-9**

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.

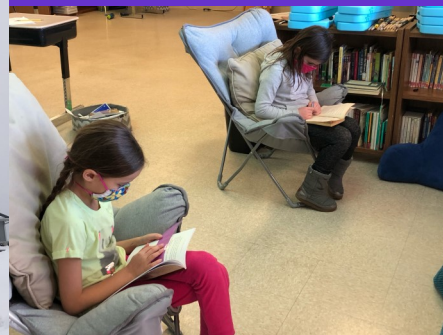
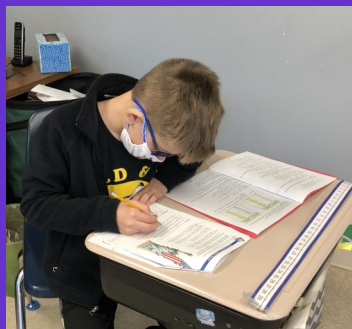
### **Week of February 28 Galatians 6:14**

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

## "Sent to Serve" Matthew 20:28

Happy Birthday & God's blessings...

Anna Gerike 2/15  
Sophie Young 2/21



### Keeping Up With P.A.C.E

**PACE stands for Parents Active in Christian Education.**

We are well into our plans for the 2020-21 school year! If you have any suggestions for fundraisers, field trips or family activities, please send them to Kristin Walter at [schooloffice4faithlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:schooloffice4faithlutheran@gmail.com)

**There is no  
school  
February  
19th!**



# School • news

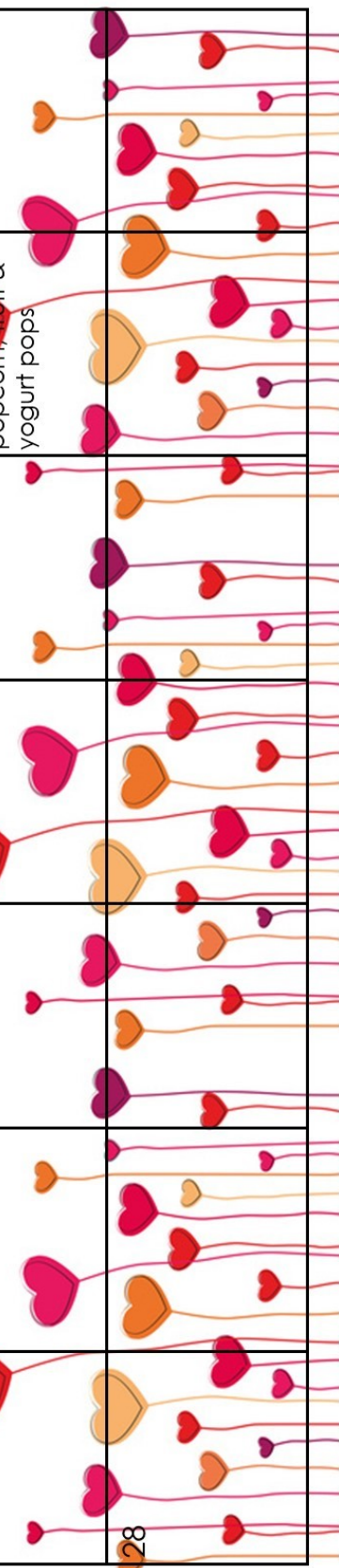


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## February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Pizza, yogurt & fruit	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, & fruit	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 No School	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Sub sandwiches, popcorn, fruit & yogurt pops	27
28						



# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Zoom Bible Study 1 PM	5	6
7 9 am service	8 Scrip due by noon	9 Confirmation 3:30	10	11 Zoom Bible Study 1 PM	12	13
14 9 am service	15	16 Confirmation 3:30	17 Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM	18 Zoom Bible Study 1 PM	19	20
21 9 am service	22 Scrip due by noon	23 Confirmation 3:30	24 Lent Service 6:30 PM	25 Church Council 5:30 PM Zoom Bible Study 1 PM	26	27
28 9 am service					<u>WEDNESDAY USHERS</u> Judi & Carl Hoepfner	<u>USHERS</u> 2/17 Judi & Carl Hoepfner 2/14 The Barneck's 2/21 Kent & Audra Uttech 2/28 Harry & Kay Kopplin