



"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:3



Five years ago when I was living in Georgia, we were struck by a "blizzard" that shut down the city of Atlanta for an entire week. I use the term "blizzard" loosely because ultimately we received about two inches of snow. However, the weather conditions were just so that the snow quickly turned into freezing rain, and as the city wasn't equipped to handle icy weather, the roads became dangerously slick, and the entire metro area was completely gridlocked with people trying to get home.

My commute on a light traffic day was about 40 minutes. But the day of "Snowmageddon," I got in my car around 7:30pm on Tuesday night, and I got out of my car at home at 6:30am on Wednesday. Eleven hours later.

During those eleven hours, many of them spent with my car in park because we were literally not moving for several minutes at a time, I went through all sorts of emotions, but through it all there was a vague sense of bewilderment. "How are there still this many cars on the road at 2am?" "How are there still this many people trying to get home at 4am?" "At 5am?" "At 6am?"

During one of my long parked moments, I was scrolling through social media on my smart phone, and I came across someone's post that quoted the first of Jesus' Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Glancing around at the sleepy drivers in the surrounding cars, I decided we were probably all pretty poor in spirit. And this may come as a huge surprise, but at that particular moment, I didn't feel overwhelmingly comforted by this blessing from Jesus. So we poor in spirit are blessed, and the kingdom of heaven is ours. So what? Will that make the roads magically clear of snow and ice and abandoned cars? Will that rescue those trapped in ditches? Will that end this longest commute of my life and get me asleep in bed? Thanks for the kingdom of heaven and everything, Jesus, but how does that help me now?

Well, in my overly tired and grouchy state of mind, I had, of course, missed the point entirely. God doesn't bless me as a reward for enduring traffic for eleven hours. God doesn't bless me when I do good things or act the right way to try to be a good person. God blesses me, and you, not in response to something we did or might do, but simply because of who we are: beloved, deeply loved children of God.

A blessing can't be earned; it is purely a gift. To be blessed means that we have God's unconditional regard. It means we are never alone, never abandoned, able to get through the toughest situations. Even an eleven hour drive home. God is constantly showing up exactly where we would least expect to find God, and giving to us what we can't achieve or earn: blessedness.

Through that terrible drive home, I witnessed glimpses of the kingdom, during a time that I certainly didn't expect to. The kingdom of heaven is mine to claim, simply because I am blessed and loved, and the same is given to you.

~Thanks be to God
Pastor Seyward Ask



~God gathers us as a family of Faith to nurture, inspire, and share the love of Jesus with all people~

Church Council

- Tim Renner - President
- Nate Grotelueschen - Vice President
- Kelly McComb - Secretary
- Don Carlson - Treasurer
- Jeff Johnson
- Carla Lagerstedt
- Lila Burmeister
- Mari Kooiman
- Brian Paulson
- Landon Fries

Main Office:
320.796.2522

Pastors
Todd Nelsen
Seyward Ask

Office Administrator
Joy White

Children Youth & Family Ministry
Director
James Lucas

Worship & Music Director
Dave Eliason

Interim Property Manager
Jeff Johnson

Wednesday Worship Director
Pat Nelsen

Custodian
Paul Haney

Preschool Director/Teacher
Patsy Cordes

Preschool Teacher
Jean Anderson

Preschool Aide
Katina Dahl



The council would like to thank Jeff Johnson, Brian Paulson and Carla Lagerstedt for their committed membership to the council. We are seeking names of candidates who are interested in this 3 year term. If you are interested or have someone who you would like to recommend, please contact Pastor Todd.

Our congregational annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019, after our 9am Worship service. A listening session will be held between services on January 13 to explain the mission plan for 2019.

Much to celebrate! Over 90 boxes packed for Operation Christmas Child, 20 plus treat boxes were packed and distributed during the Thanksgiving Holiday, and over 100 gifts have been received for the Mitten Tree project and have been given to families in the area. Thank you so much to all who were involved!



All In At Faith
Sunday - January 27, 2019

Intent Sunday Worship
9:00am **one Worship service only*

Annual Meeting - Sunday School Large Group Activity
10:00am

Pot Luck Lunch
11:00am

Please bring a dish to pass
Last names: A - L bring a salad or hotdish M - Z bring a dessert.

Ink Cartridges



Faith is no longer accepting used ink cartridges. We do not belong to a recycling plan any longer. If you need to recycle your ink cartridges please bring them to Office Max in Willmar. They will accept them at no charge. Thank you!

Mission Plan for 2018: \$658,521

Year to date, as of November 30:

Offering Received	= \$534,045.54
Actual Expenses	= \$582,976.39
Excess Expenses	= <u>-\$48,930.85</u>





#allinatfaith

Going All In At Faith - Fund Appeal

Our congregation is made up of people who love God, love one another, and love the world which God created. We are a grateful gathering of God's people, who recognize that God has blessed us to be a blessing. As disciples of Jesus, we are invited to respond to God's generosity with grateful hearts and abundant generosity.

Things happen at Faith because as a congregation we invest in the ministry and mission of God's church. You might say, that because of our love of God, one another, and our neighbors, we are willing to follow the example of the widow who placed her two copper coins in the offering, and go "**All In At Faith**".

As the page of the calendar turns to 2019, members of Faith Lutheran will be invited to make an investment in our congregation's ministry by going "**All In At Faith**". Our goal for this appeal is to encourage stewardship growth among all our members. We have set a financial goal of a \$40,000 increase in our financial stewardship commitments, and I believe this Goal will allow us to go:

All In For Youth - We are now fully staffed with our Children Youth and Family Ministries Director in place. Meeting our goal will allow us to allocate an additional \$20,000 to build upon the excellent ministry being offered to children, youth and families of Faith.

All In For Our Church - Faith is a great place to experience the goodness of God. Reaching our goal will allow us to dedicate \$20,000 to strengthen congregational relationships and foster a sense of community through small group ministry, adult education, family camp experiences, and a revitalized visitation ministry.

All In For Our Community - As Faith seeks to be a good neighbor in our community we celebrate our ministry with Family Promise, The Link, Tuesdays Table, and Senior Dining at the Dethlef Center. When we meet our goal, an additional \$5,000 will be dedicated to an annual day of service, give birth to a grief support group and further extend our ministry in our neighborhood.

This goal is achievable. This month you will be invited to consider an increase to your weekly giving. We have received two challenge gifts this year. The first is a challenge of \$2,500-\$5,000 to grow our participation in Simply Giving. If Faith has 20 new simply giving sign ups, we will receive the first \$2,500 if we receive an additional 10 sign ups we will receive the full \$5,000. The second challenge is being offered by the Faith Mission Resource Team. If we receive 125 intent cards, the MRT will go **All In At Faith** and donate an additional \$2,000.

Start the New Year Right and Go **All In At Faith!**

**Your intent cards will arrive soon - We will receive them on:
All In At Faith Sunday, January 27 & All In At Faith Feast Wednesday, January 30!**

SNOW SHOVELERS

An update on snow shoveling. Thanks to those who have already signed up. We currently have 6 volunteers to help with shoveling snow. Several more volunteers would be very beneficial to the team size and will minimize any one person's obligations. Your willingness to step up and help maintain your church home goes a long way to reducing budget costs and makes you healthier as well. It always feels good to be part of a solution. Call the Faith Office to get your name on the list. Thanks from the **Property Team** and **your Faith Lutheran family**.
Jeff Johnson, Interim Property Manager

Don't Forget Faith's Digital Kiosk

Faith has a Digital Kiosk at the Welcome Center. From this very user friendly iPad you can enter the Faith Lutheran web site, sign up for Simply Giving, or use Sign Up Genius to volunteer to be part of one of the many ministries at Faith. If you are unsure how to use it, just ask a staff member or someone working at the Welcome Center. We are continually needing worship assistants each Sunday. Please consider helping in this ministry.





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The Feast

Wednesdays at Faith

Meal

5:15pm-5:50pm

Worship

6:00pm-6:30pm

Education/Service Project

6:35pm-7:35pm

Faith After Hours

7:35pm

Choir Rehearsal

Education/Service Project (6:35pm-7:35pm)

January 2

- ⇒ Seeds (pre K - 3rd Gr)
- ⇒ Sprouts (4th Gr - 6th Gr)
- ⇒ No Confirmation
- ⇒ Adult Ed. Class - Make your own "Epiphany Star"

January 9

- ⇒ Seeds (pre K - 3rd Gr)
- ⇒ Sprouts (4th Gr - 6th Gr)
- ⇒ Confirmation
- ⇒ Adult Education

January 16

- ⇒ Seeds (pre K - 3rd Gr)
- ⇒ Sprouts (4th Gr - 6th Gr)
- ⇒ Confirmation
- ⇒ Adult Education

January 23

- ⇒ Seeds (pre K - 3rd Gr)
- ⇒ Sprouts (4th Gr - 6th Gr)
- ⇒ Confirmation
- ⇒ Adult Education

January 30

- ⇒ Congregational Service Project - Wildcat Backpacks

January Menu

January 2 - Chili w/fixings, garlic toast & tossed salad

January 9 - Tater tot Hot dish w/creamy fruit salad

January 16 - Pork Commercial Dinner & vegetable

January 23 - Hot turkey on a bun w/wild rice soup

January 30 - Spaghetti w/tossed salad & garlic toast

January - Adult Education

6:35pm

Wednesday, January 2

Make Your Own "Epiphany Star"

Join us as we teach you how to make your own "Epiphany Star"! Cost is \$5. You must sign up ahead of time so we can have the right amount of fabric. The sign up board is in the Gathering Area and payment can be made at the Welcome Center. Materials you can bring are: glue gun/glue sticks, rotary cutter or fabric scissors and a cutting mat. If you don't have any or all of these items that's ok, we can share!

Wednesday, January 9

Using the Moravian Daily Text:

Deepening Your Encounter with God's Word

On Wednesday, January 9, Pastor Todd will introduce you to a devotional that has been a part of his ministry for the past 25 years, the Moravian Daily Text. Join him in the Fireside Room to learn more about the Moravian Daily Text and how it can be a resource for your devotional journey.

Wednesday, January 16

Staying In Charge - A Run With Cancer

Kari Loft, Pastor Todd's sister will speak during the Adult Education Hour at the Feast on January 16. Just after committing herself to run at least a mile a day for the entire year, Kari was diagnosed with breast cancer. Come and hear Kari's inspirational story of running with cancer and the people who joined the Loft Mile Challenge to support her on her journey.

Wednesday, January 23

Baptism Orientation

If you are planning a baptism this winter or spring, please register ASAP for this important opportunity to learn more about the sacrament of baptism, meet other parents, and get to know your congregational sponsors. Contact the church office to sign up, child care is available.

Thank You to Anita Lewison for decorating the outdoor pots and to Jennifer Davenport for making the Fellowship Hall centerpiece! You ladies do such a wonderful job!



Let's Meet!

Mission Resource Team

Tuesday, January 8
6:00pm

Council

Thursday, January 10
6:00pm

Weekly Faith Bible Study

Thursdays @ 9:30am

Weekly Men's Bible Study

Saturdays @ 9:00am

Bi Weekly Men's Bible Study

2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 6:30am

Our Church Family

The following members have been listed in our Prayer Concerns during the month of December:

Ron Nelson
Jill Rohman
Gloria Schultz
Dawn Fries
Kathy Quam
Sharon Fostervold

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00am-4:00pm

Office Closed

January 1



Don't forget!

The first Sunday of each month our Parish Nurse is here to do free blood pressure checks. Head to office 114 on the east side of the gathering area to have yours checked.

O **The Amazing Collection Bible Study**

Mondays at 8:15am

D We are completing the study in the Spring of 2019 at which time we will have completed the Bible. There is still time to learn! Anyone who would like to review the last 1/3 of the Bible is welcome to join us. We begin at 8:15am in the Fireside room at Faith each Monday morning.

g **Hobby Night**

Friday, January 11

Join us at 6:30pm. Bring your supplies, a friend, some snacks/beverage and plan to spend some time visiting and crafting! Call Sonya Erickson for more information at 444.1134. Everyone is welcome. See you here at Faith!

o **Guys on the Go**

2nd & 4th Tuesdays
6:30am

i **Morning Men's Bible Study** will be held on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 6:30am-7:30am at Faith. This study will use the Moravian Daily Texts to lead us into studying the scripture. This is a great on the way to work opportunity to enjoy a light breakfast, coffee, and discussion of how God's Word might shape our day. Please let Pastor Todd know if you would like to participate in this study or just show up! **January 8 & 22 in the Fireside Room.**

O **Women's Bible Study Circles**

Esther Bible Study Circle

Wednesday, January 16 @ 9:30am - Iris Johnson's

Rachel Bible Study Circle

Thursday, January 24 @ 1:30pm - Faith Fireside Room

P We use the "Gather Magazine" from Augsburg Publishing for our studies. Check your weekly worship bulletins for updates or changes of locations. All women of Faith Lutheran Church are invited to join one of the Bible Study Circles. For more info contact Nona Oie at 796-5554.

P **Forecaster Submissions Due**

Tuesday, January 15

o **Tuesday's Table**

Tuesday, January 15

6:00pm - 6:30pm

Join us for this free community meal right here at Faith!

r **Faith On Tap**

Thursday, January 17

6:30pm

t Adult members of Faith are invited to join us for a lively conversation engaging Faith and Life over a nice cold beer. **We will gather Thursday Evening January 17 at 6:30pm at Goat Ridge Brewery in New London.** If you have any questions about Faith on Tap or have a topic you would like to discuss please contact Pastor Todd at toddn@faithspicer.org.



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Epiphany Sunday Stained Glass Dedication January 6

On Epiphany Sunday January 6 we will dedicate our new stained glass windows which will be placed above the main sanctuary doors. We invite you to join us that day as we thank God for the many people and many hours of labor which have gone into this project.



Save the Date! Baptism Festival Brunch Sunday, January 13

On Sunday, January 13, we celebrate Baptism of our Lord, and what better way to celebrate than with a brunch! All families who had baptisms in 2017 and 2018 are invited.

The brunch will begin at 9:30am at Faith with egg bake as the main dish. Those with baptisms in 2018 are simply asked to attend, and those who had baptisms in 2017 are asked to bring a side dish to share (muffins, fruit, juice, etc.). A more detailed letter will be sent out to participating families.



Baptism Orientation Sunday, January 20 - 9:45am Wednesday, January 23 - 6:35pm

If you are planning a baptism this winter or spring, please register ASAP for this important opportunity to learn more about the sacrament of baptism, meet other parents, and get to know your congregational sponsors. Contact the church office to sign up, child care is available.

GIVE BLOOD! Tuesday, January 29 1:00pm-7:00pm

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in January!
One person's blood can help up to 6 people!
It is so easy and truly makes a difference.

Call Kathy Munsell at 796-0675 to make your appointment.



Save lives.
Give Blood.

Winter Weather Alerts



Faith Lutheran Church follows the NL-S school district closing for our activities. This includes preschool, Confirmation and the church office. Check for cancellations on Q102.5 FM radio's Operation Snow Desk, look on www.yourq102.com or check our Facebook page.



Make Faith the church of YOUR choice!

Interested in becoming a member at Faith?

Please attend our Faith 101 classes! This three-week course is for people wanting to learn more about our church and the ministries and programs we have to offer, with an opportunity to join membership.

Class #1 will be offered Sunday, February 3 (9:45-10:30am) **and** Wednesday, February 6 (6:35-7:30pm) - *choose one to attend*

Class #2 will be offered Sunday, February 10 (9:45-10:30am) **and** Wednesday, February 13 (6:35-7:30pm) - *choose one to attend*

Class #3 will be offered Sunday, February 17 (9:45-10:30am)

All classes will take place in the Fireside Room. **New members will be officially welcomed on February 17 during our 10:35am worship service.** Anyone can attend these classes, and there is no need to sign up ahead of time. Please contact Pastor Seyward with questions: seywarda@faithspicer.org



Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays

7:35pm

Join us for rehearsals if you're interested in singing!

Choir Performance Dates

Sunday, January 6 - 8:30am & 10:35am

Sunday, January 27 - **9:00am One Worship Service Only**

January Scriptures

January 6 ~ Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

January 13 ~ Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20 ~ Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

January 27 ~ Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Luke 4:14-21

Daily Texts Available

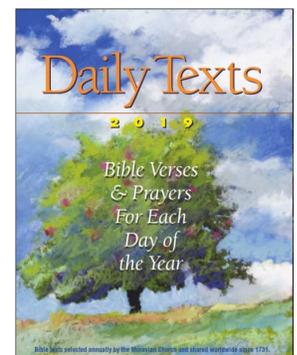
A Limited amount of Daily Texts are available at the Welcome Center. These Daily Texts are produced by Mount Carmel Ministries of Alexandria. **The cost of each is \$6.95.** Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church.

Special Offering Sunday, January 6 Tuesday's Table

Tuesday's Table is a monthly meal served by four different area congregations. Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church of Spicer, Evangelical Covenant Church of New London, Faith Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church of New London. It happens each Tuesday from 6pm-6:30pm. It's meant to gather our community together and not just enjoy a free meal but to enjoy each other's company, and perhaps make a few new friends along the way! Everyone is welcome to join in the meal at any of the locations. Just come!

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity there are plenty to be had. Check out our monthly Opportunity to Serve Cards. They are typically in your bulletins on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

If you would like to donate towards our monthly dinner please use the special offering envelope provided in your bulletins during our January 6 Worship service.





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Praise & Play Preschool January 2019

Praise and Play Preschool had an awesome Advent season this year, with our first ever Christmas Program during chapel on December 20. We also sang one of our songs for the start of the Advent service on Wednesday, December 12. We had so much fun singing for everyone about Jesus' birth.

Praise + Play is going to spend our January days learning and discussing the cold weather things we do in Minnesota. We will have an ice fishing dramatic play area set up on which we can also ice skate on with our socks. We are learning about all the cold weather animals and who hibernates and where.

Each week we have a letter of the week. During that week we bring a show and tell item that starts with that letter. Then we practice writing that number on the white board, the chalk board and our notebooks as well as making an art project from the shape of that letter.

Praise + Play Preschool's Bible lessons now start to talk about the wonderful things Jesus did while on Earth.

As we start a New Year at Praise + Play we want to take a moment to thank all of you for supporting us at Faith Lutheran Church. It does take a village to raise a child and you are all part of that village!

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page weekly: Praise and Play Preschool



Contact Patsy Cordes at:
pandp@faithspicer.org or 796.2522.
Space is still available.
Registration forms are on our website:
faithspicer.org



Christmas Program 2018



Children, Youth & Family



What an AWESOME Christmas Program!

These kids sure know how to put on a show! We hope you enjoyed watching, because we sure enjoyed putting this on for you! Thank you to all the kids who participated and all the teachers and parents that helped make this event happen!

Jumping right into 2019!

Sunday School will begin January 6 - 9:30am!

Our Sunday School lesson themes for the month of January are:

- ◆ January 6 - "Jesus the Word"
- ◆ January 13- "Jesus' Baptism"
- ◆ January 20 - "Wedding at Cana"
- ◆ January 27 - "Jesus Goes to Nazareth" (*Special time - 10:00am*)

Children's Ministry Team Meeting

(Pre-school - 6th Grade)

Sunday January 13 at 10:30 after Sunday School

Have ideas?

Want to help our Children's ministry grow?

Come to our CMT meeting!

Caterpillar Bibles and Families

Sunday, January 20 we ask parents of the Caterpillar class (3 year olds) to attend Sunday School with their child. Check out what your child is learning that day! The story that day is "Wedding at Cana". After Sunday School at the 10:35am Worship service, all Caterpillar children will receive a Spark Story Book Bible!

We are so excited to give these wonderful children a Bible of their very own!

- ◆ **Sunday, January 20 - 9:30am Caterpillar parents attend Sunday School w/your child**
- ◆ **Sunday January 20 - 10:35am Caterpillars receive Bibles during worship**

Wednesdays at Faith Faith Seeds & Sprouts!

Seeds and Sprouts is a Wednesday night ministry for pre school through 6th grade led by James Lucas. We invite these children so parents have an opportunity to attend the adult education opportunity that night. We will study the bible together, talk through our weeks, and discuss how we see God in the world around us. There are also games and crafts, and we end our time together by praying together, usually led by the kids!

Seeds and Sprouts will begin at **6:35pm**, right after our **6:00pm worship**.

****Parents - we ask that if you plan on sending your kiddos to one of these groups that you please stay in the building. Thank you!** And don't forget to join us for our 5:15pm dinner as well! But make sure to sign up by Monday the week of.

Wednesdays in January: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

No Seeds/Sprouts on January 30th due to a Congregation-wide service project: Wildcat Backpack Program





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New Night for Youth Group! Sundays - 4:00pm-6:00pm

9th-12th Grade come and join us for Christian centered discussions about topics you choose.
Meals are provided and are typically free unless specified.
9th-12th Grade students may bring a friend.

- January 6 - Faith Talks
- January 13 - Ice Skating
- January 20 - Movie/Scavenger Hunt
- January 27 - Sledding
- February 3 - Faith Talks

Youth Ministry Team Meeting

7th Grade - 12th Grade
Wednesday January 2nd, 16th, 30th during the Feast meal.

Have some new ideas?
Want to make our Youth ministry grow?
Come to our YMT meetings!

Looking at Summer Camp?

Take a brochure from our Welcome Center and check out all of Camp's great programs for all ages!

Want to know more? Come talk to James or email him with any questions.

Some popular programs include:

- ⇒ Half Blast - grades 1-4 - only half a week long
- ⇒ Stargazers - grades 7-9 - stay up late and play night games
- ⇒ Staff-in-Training (S.I.T.) - grades 9-12 - learn what it takes to be a camp counselor

Many more programs!



3rd Half - A Multi-Church Event!

Games and Snacks after Home Varsity Basketball
7-12 Grade from 9pm - 11pm. It's FREE!

- ⇒ January 5
- ⇒ January 11
- ⇒ February 1
- ⇒ February 8
- ⇒ February 15



Partnered Churches: Peace Lutheran, New London Evangelical Covenant, and Faith Lutheran. Held @ Peace Lutheran.

Skatin' Place Trip

Friday, January 18
Register by January 16 (*Talk to James!*)

Roller Skating! Laser Tag!
Pizza and Pop! Oh My!



- ⇒ Cost = \$20
- ⇒ Bus Pick Up: Calvary Church (Willmar) 5:30pm OR Peace Lutheran (New London) 5:45pm
- ⇒ Bus Drop Off: Peace Lutheran (New London) 10:00pm OR Calvary Church (Willmar) 10:15pm

Middle School Lock-In

At Green Lake Bible Camp
Grades 5-8
January 25 - 6:30pm - January 26 - 11:00am
Fee - \$45

We'll stay up late playing night games, eating pizza and singing in worship! Bring your friends for a fun night at camp!
Talk to James to register.

February Ski Trip!

If interested contact James Lucas!
More information to come.
We can get a discounted group rate if we have enough people!

Must sign up by February 6.



Contact our Children, Youth & Family Ministry Director, James Lucas
for questions or concerns at 320.796.2522 ~ 320.220.7320 or education@faithspicer.org.



Coffee Hour Team Members - Still NEEDED!

We are still looking for folks interested in leading a coffee team for a month on Sunday mornings. A sign up board is in the Fellowship Hall. The leader will be responsible for scheduling workers for "their" month. Team members will already be listed, you just need to schedule them and ask if they need training or help. How easy is that?!

We are also needing people willing to be on a team. By using the sign up board in the Gathering Area you can choose the month you want to serve! Your leader will be in contact with you to get your month scheduled.

Our hope is that these teams will continue year round. If at some point you do not wish to be on the team any longer please let the leader know so we are able to recruit new servers.

If you have questions about the process please contact Joy in the office at 796.2522.



Faith Visitation Ministry Needs You!

Faith Visitation Ministry has a simple goal: "To extend the love of Christ through a visitation ministry that seeks to maintain Faith relationships." We are primarily ministering to members of our congregation who are unable for various reasons to attend worship and other Faith events on a regular basis, but we also want to serve those in our church community who are dealing with grief, temporarily hospitalized, or have other needs.

In order to make Faith Visitation Ministry successful, we need your help! Taking a little time out of your busy schedule to visit with a homebound member of our church is a wonderful way to form and strengthen relationships and have a lasting impact on the person being visited (and yourself!). It's an easy and tangible way to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and it can be done alone or with a friend or even your family. Our leader team is willing to provide training and materials if you feel apprehensive about doing a visit. But once you try it, you'll see how easy and fulfilling it can be. Please consider joining our Faith Visitation Ministry team! The time commitment can match your availability. To join our team or learn more about Faith Visitation Ministry, please contact Pastor Seyward: seywarda@faithspicer.org.



Mission to End Homelessness

We are a church of mission. We are people of mission. In this new year, please join in prayer and action for the mission and ministry of Family Promise of Kandiyohi County as we work to empower and house families experiencing homelessness right here in our area. FPKC is completely dependent on donations from churches, individuals, or businesses. *We receive no government assistance.*

Donations can be sent to: Family Promise of Kandiyohi County, 312 6th St. SW, Willmar, MN 56201.

You may also donate a one-time gift, or scheduled giving online at familypromiseofkc.org.

To give of your time when we host families at Faith, sign-up on the Faith website through Sign Up Genius.





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Dear friends and sponsors,

I hope this finds you well in the midst of a busy holiday season.

All is well with our family here in Cameroon. Eric and Schekina are still in Yaoundé, Eric for work and Schekina for school. David and Etienne are back in preschool at a bilingual school (English and French) here in Meiganga. They are growing up quickly! It is fun to see their enthusiasm for learning letters, numbers, colors, etc. Although French is their first language, they are slowly starting to speak some English too.

I am keeping very busy with my teaching at the Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga. This year we have 13 students in the Baccalaureate program, 27 in the Licence (bachelor degree) program, and 5 in the Master degree program. I continue to teach all the New Testament courses and also to serve as academic secretary (assistant dean). In October, we celebrated a first at the Institute – the marriage of two of our students to each other. Of course, many students have gotten married during their time at the Institute, but this is the first time two students married each other. It was a lovely celebration. When they are ordained in a few years, Elise and Nathan will join a relatively small number of clergy couples in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon.

While there is not an official Thanksgiving holiday in Cameroon, there is something like it in the church. This is the season in which congregations hold their annual “Fête de Reconnaissance” or Festival of Thanksgiving. It is essentially a time of prolonged offerings in the church service, where various groups bring forward their gifts with singing and dancing. Since it also corresponds with harvest time here, those gifts often include produce from the fields, and sometimes even livestock! The joy with which these gifts are offered is something difficult to describe, but I hope these few photos below will give you an idea of the joy expressed.

In other news, national presidential elections were held in Cameroon on October 7, and to no one’s surprise, Paul Biya was elected to another term. (He has been in power since 1982, one of the longest-serving and oldest African presidents.) The conflict in the English speaking regions of Cameroon (Northwest and Southwest regions) continues to worsen, with now more than 400,000 people displaced. The conflict in the Central African Republic (our neighboring country to the east) is escalating in certain regions also. Please pray for peace and justice in these regions, and in all the troubled regions of our world. Rest assured that things are calm and safe in our region of Cameroon, and please pray for that to continue. We are immensely grateful for your faithful prayers and support! We pray that your Advent and Christmas seasons will be profoundly blessed with the peace, joy, and love of Christ.

+ Grace and peace +
Elisabeth (and Eric, Schekina, David, and Etienne)
Email: elisajo@msn.com | Blog: camerooniangrace.wordpress.com



David and Etienne at their school with classmates



Newlyweds Nathan and Elise



Students from the Institute with their gifts of corn from their fields.

Got Shoes?

Faith now has a shoe collection box. The Spicer Sunrise Lions are collecting shoes for distribution to needy people around the world. The Lions will accept any footwear you'd care to donate: New shoes, old shoes, adult shoes, children's shoes, boots (and yes, even old ski boots and high heels!). Shoes that cannot be used for footwear are ground up and used as roadbed material in third world countries. We'll take 'em all!





The Link Update

Happy New Year from The Link!

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." Ralph Waldo Emerson



Christmas Joy:

For Christmas, 15 families were sponsored by churches and or community members. The sponsors provided specific gift requests for all member of the families along with food baskets. This year, The Link also collaborated with Hope Presbyterian Church to provide food baskets for the families served by Hope Care Pantry. Hope put together all of the fixings and The Link provided a turkey voucher, dessert and on site pick-up.

In mid-November, The Link received 75 turkey vouchers from Melissa Radel, State Farm Agent. They were handed out for Thanksgiving and through the month of December.

The Link also received a wonderful amount of gift cards that were given to families that expressed a need during the holidays and weren't already being sponsored by a local church.

Christmas Choir Concert:

The Songs & Stories, Celebration of Christmas Choir Concert was a beautiful event! If you missed it, you can still watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UT40jNd7tvs>. You can also go to The Link's Facebook page, find the post and click on the link.

We are very grateful for the time and talent of everyone who participated in the choir concert supporting The Link through song.

Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link is now offering monthly giving as a convenient option for our donors. You can set it up online giving through The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org or directly through your bank. Please contact Rhonda at 320-354-LINK or email her director@youarethelink.org for more information.

Tuesday's Table

January Schedule

Serving from 6:00-6:30pm

January 1: No Tuesday's Table

January 8: Evangelical Covenant Church

January 15: Faith Lutheran Church

January 22: Peace Lutheran Church

January 29: Open Door Church at O'Neil's

Household Exchange & Food Pantry Hours

Tuesday: 9am-3pm

Thursday: 9am-3pm

Wednesday: 2pm - 5pm



Revive + Redeem

Boutique | Thrift Hours

Tuesday: 10am-3pm

Thursday: 10am-3pm

Saturday: 9am-1pm

Stock the Pantry

Key food items: Milk, eggs, bread, cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, noodles and sauce, peanut butter, jelly and tuna. Please contact Chasity at 354.5555 to make a donation of food.

The Link

P.O. Box 823

New London, MN 56273

Telephone: 320.354.5555 or 320.354.5465

Physical address: 206 Main St. N, New London

Rhonda Otteson

director@youarethelink.org

Chasity Ommodt

outreach@youarethelink.org

Shawna Roemeling

coordinator@youarethelink.org

**Women of the ELCA
January 2019 Bible Study**

**New Study: Gospel of John
(Come & See: Seeking and Finding Faith)**

Quilting

January 14 & 15
January 28 & 29 (until noon)

Esther Bible Study Circle

January 16 @ 9:30am - Iris Johnson's

Rachel Bible Study

January 24 @ 1:30pm - Faith's Fireside Room

Everyone is invited to join us in our Bible Studies and mission projects. For more information contact Nona Oie 796-5554.

- 1) Matt Bisek, Deric DeSchepper, Judy Lundeen, Rodney Paulson
- 2) Natalie Boone, Jaden Gieser, Dean Gylten, Brody Lien
- 3) Hayden Downey, Colton Kriese, Rick Negen
- 4) Tom Beyer, Rachel Mitchell, Brennan Reich
- 5) Ian Carlson, Makenzie Erickson, Maren Flom Staab, Ava Hauer, Eli Haugen, Kari Kuehneman, Anita Lewison, Ed Rauk, Landon Salem, Grace Toutges, Nathan Verch
- 6) Derek Doty, Ashley Holien, Ramona Keller, Jesse Knudsen, Dane Pearson, Lenore Schaffnit
- 7) Keith Nelson, Norma Wacholz
- 8) Dylon Hunter, Molly Olson, Corey Strom, Jamie Swenson
- 9) Ruth Fairchild, Lily Verch
- 10) Lloyd Hoekstra, Aidan Paulson
- 11) Jonathan Wessels
- 12) Ashley Baker, Richard Ford, Emmanuel Lopez, Marlo Lopez, Harper Olness, Kinley Olson, Emma Solsrud
- 13) Mary Larsen
- 14) Denise Gjerde, Tom Groth, Ellie Hanson, Gary Swanson
- 15) Wyatt Debner, Becky Gibbs, Lola Mitchell, Lilly Prentice, Roger Radel, Sarah Vauk
- 16) Dick Ladwig, Chris Rueckert, Jared Swenson
- 17) Cheryl DeZeeuw, Nathan Klaers, Kellie Prentice, Mark Thompson, Jeff Vetsch
- 18) Connor Dierkhising, Caleb Louwagie, Derrick Nieland, Robert Sogge
- 19) David Eliason, Brooke Lien, Edward Roley, Sharon Willen
- 20) Dee Dee Hanson, Marlys Jacobson
- 21) Debbie Hoekstra, Kelly McComb, Jacob Reich, Susan Rime, Jody Wharton
- 22) Dylan Hardebeck, Laraya Kosel, Michelle Revermann, Erik Woodhall
- 23) Gavin Degner, Christopher Isdal, Elmer Mead, Nicole Pederson
- 24) Brianna Fredrick, Bri Johnson, Lincoln Pederson
- 25) Gayle Kass, Elin Kriese, Alicia Larsen, Jeremy Pfeifer
- 26) Loretta Fenske, Gail Johnson, Dean Madsen, Lauren Marquardt, Jack Noeldner, Amanda Steffensen
- 27) Brooklyn Dolan, Sara Goebel, Steve Hunt, Kip Knutson, Linda Lucas, Quentin Radel, Linda Stai
- 28) Johanna Asche, Phillip Quam
- 29) Kathleen Anderson, Kory Klebe, Karen Peterson, Ella Quale, Logan Schaaf
- 30) Andrea Bloedel, Jenni Gafkjin, Kodi Goracke, Janet Johnson, Sam Nelson, Merryn Skarphol
- 31) Steve Brisendine, Watson Hood, Cal Knudsen, Cynthia Mathisen



TAX PREPARATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you do your own taxes? Are you interested in working with numbers? Do you enjoy helping others? Do you have a bit of free time available?

If so then perhaps you would be interested in becoming a Volunteer Tax Preparer or tax site assistant. Join United Community Action Partnership Help People Change lives by volunteering as a tax preparer or site assistant. The work occurs at the UCAP building 200 SW 4th Street in Willmar. Training will be held in January with the volunteer work occurring prior to the tax deadline. These volunteers assist in tax preparation or intake interviews. The work is not hard or complex and you get free training. You do not have to have tax preparation experience. UCAP furnishes the computers and IRS the software package. Chery and I have done this for the past several years and can answer any questions you might have. For further information please contact Jean at 320-235-0850 ext. 1148 or jeand@unitedcapmn.org.

Thanks for considering this opportunity.
Jeff Johnson

Thank you

We want to thank everyone for your thoughtful generosity to us over the Christmas Holiday. You have all become such an important part of our ministry. God is good, all the time!
Pastor Todd and Pat Nelsen

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Office Closed NO Tuesday's Table	2 5:15pm-5:50pm Meal 6pm-6:30pm Worship 6:35pm Adult Ed Craft/ Seeds & Sprouts NO Confirmation 7:35pm - Choir	3 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 9:30am Bible Study 10:40am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm-9:30pm JFK	4 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool	5 9am Bible Study
6 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee/ Sunday School 10:35am Worship 4pm-6pm Youth Group Special Offering - Tuesdays Table	7 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 8:15am Amazing Bible Study 10:30am Staff	8 6:30am Guys on the Go Bible Study 7:30am-5:30pm Pre- school 6pm Mission Resource Team Meeting 6pm-6:30pm Tuesday's Table @ Evangelical Covenant Church	9 7:30am-5:30pm Pre- school 8:30am-11:30am Prai- rie Community Services 5:15pm-5:50pm Meal 6pm-6:30pm Wor- ship 6:35pm Education 7:35pm - Choir	10 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 9:30am Bible Study 10:40am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm-9:30pm JFK 6pm Council	11 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 6:30pm Hobby Night	12 9am Bible Study 11am Open House Bri Johnson Baby Boy Shower - regis- tered at Target
13 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee/ Sunday School 9:30am Baptism Festival Brunch 10:35am Worship 4pm-6pm Youth Group	14 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 8:15am Amazing Bible Study 9am-3pm Quilting 10:30am Staff	15 7:30am-5:30pm Pre- school 9am-3pm Quilting 6pm-6:30pm Tuesday's Table @ Faith	16 7:30am-5:30pm Pre- school 9:30am Esther Circle 5:15pm-5:50pm Meal 6pm-6:30pm Wor- ship 6:35pm Education 7:35pm - Choir	17 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 9:30am Bible Study 10:40am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm-9:30pm JFK 6:30pm Faith On Tap @ Goat Ridge Brew- ery in New London	18 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool	19 9am Bible Study
20 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee/ Sunday School 9:30am Baptism Orientation 10:35am Worship 4pm-6pm Youth Group	21 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 8:15am Amazing Bible Study 10:30am Staff	22 6:30am Guys on the Go Bible Study 7:30am-5:30pm Pre- school 6pm-6:30pm Tuesday's Table @ Peace Lutheran NL	23 7:30am-5:30pm Pre- school 5:15pm-5:50pm Meal 6pm-6:30pm Wor- ship 6:35pm Baptism Orien- tation 7:35pm - Choir	24 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 9:30am Bible Study 10:40am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Rachel Circle 3:30pm-9:30pm JFK	25 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool	26 9am Bible Study
27 9am Worship 10am Annual Meeting 10am Sunday School 11am Potluck 4pm-6pm Youth Group	28 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 8:15am Amazing Bible Study 10:30am Staff 9am-3pm Quilting	29 7:30am-5:30pm Pre- school 9am-12pm Quilting 1pm-7pm Blood Drive 6pm-6:30pm Tuesday's Table @ O'Neil's	30 7:30am-5:30pm Pre- school 5:15pm-5:50pm Meal 6pm-6:30pm Wor- ship 6:35pm Wildcat Back- pack Service Project 7:35pm - Choir	31 7:30am-5:30pm Preschool 9:30am Bible Study 10:40am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm-9:30pm JFK		

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, MN 56288

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PERMIT #8

SPICER, MN 56288



PHONE
320.796.2522

EMAIL: office@faithspicer.org
WEBSITE: www.faithtspicer.org

Worship Times

Labor Day — Memorial Day At Faith Lutheran Church

Wednesdays 6:00pm-6:30pm
Sunday at 8:30am & 10:35am
Education Hour at 9:30am

Memorial Day — Labor Day At Green Lake Bible Camp Chapel

Saturday at 6:00pm
Sunday at 8:30am
At Faith — Sunday at 10:00am

Coffee Hour Team Members - Still NEEDED!

We are still looking for folks interested in leading a coffee team for a month on Sunday mornings. A sign up board is in the Fellowship Hall. The leader will be responsible for scheduling workers for "their" month. Team members will already be listed, you just need to schedule them. How easy is that?!

We are also needing people willing to be on a team. By using the sign up board in the Gathering Area you can choose the month you want to serve! Your leader will be in contact with you to get your month scheduled.

Our hope is that these teams will continue year round. If at some point you do not wish to be on the team any longer please let the leader know so we are able to recruit new servers.

If you have questions about the process please contact Joy in the office at 796.2522.

