

A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM: Still Learning

Blessings to all!

When Bishop Jon was here recently for our Adult Forum, he emphasized the need for churches to keep thinking about our mission to share the love of Jesus with the world. Paul tells us, *“From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! [All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us.”* (Rom. 16)

To summarize Paul’s paragraph: 1) Do not regard everyone from a human point of view. Regard them as God’s children – gifted great or small but still God loved. 2) In Christ there is new creation – in us and the world. 3) God is reconciling the world in Christ – we are part of that mission. 4) We are ambassadors for Christ – an appeal through us.

One of my hopes for the coming year is to to offer learning for our families and adults that strengthens our faith in God. Our OWL Camp was part of this learning for all ages. Its theme was on prayer with a hope to encourage our relationship with God. While resting in our Labrinth, built for OWL Camp and prayer, a member looked out over the area by the Columbarium and felt we could “tie” things better together.

This led to the building of the Pergola which you have seen, I hope, and now leads to a hope for more outdoor services to invite our neighbors. This is mission. *“We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us.”* There are some things to finish outside yet but the thought of mission towards the community makes me happy and proud!

Faith Lutheran Church – a church in mission – God’s mission toward the world.

Thank you for your prayers to God and your willingness to be an “ambassador for Christ.”

God be with you!

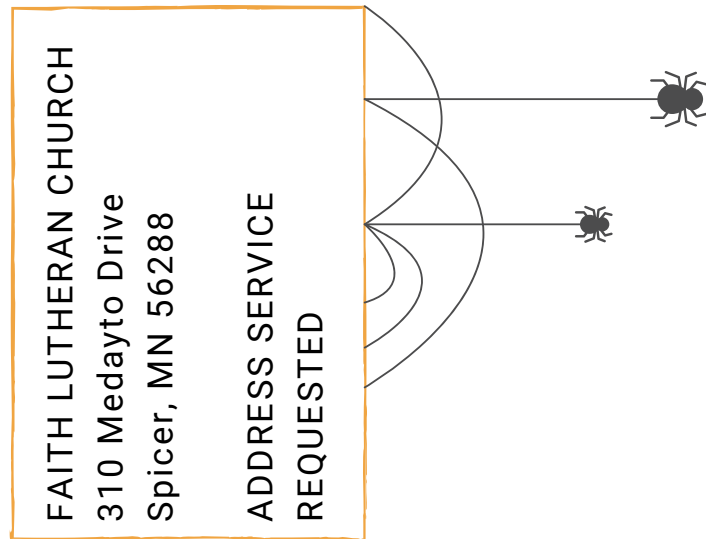
Pastor Tim, September 2024

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Join Pastor Tim on **Saturday, October 12 from 9:00am -12:00pm** for Faith's First Communion Class to learn all about communion! For any age (parents, if you feel like your child is ready to learn about communion and participate, all are welcome!). Parents AND children should attend. **Kids will participate in Communion on Sunday, November 3.**



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8:00am - 4:00pm



THE LUTEFISK OPENER - OCTOBER 26, 2024
4:00 - 7:00PM, DOORS OPEN AT 3:45PM

Join us for our annual LUTEFISK OPENER!! We will be serving Lutefisk, Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Lefse, Sanbakels, Krumkake and many other treats! **Help to keep the tradition alive** - plan to bring your entire family and your neighbors as well! This is a community event that helps support Faith’s youth ministries.

TICKET PRICING:
Adults (ages 13+): \$20 (\$22 at the door), Youth (7-12 years old): \$15, Kids 6 and under: Free

You can buy tickets online at faithspicer.org or at the church office.

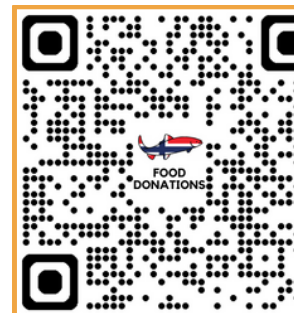
BUY TICKETS:



VOLUNTEER:



DONATE FOOD:



A WORD FROM PASTOR KATHERINE:
Stewardship Makes Sense When You Have the
Right Focus



Would you drive a car with windows painted black to obstruct scenery? Would you drive three days straight for just one day at a classy resort, only to get up early the next morning for the three-day drive home? Would you go to the Grand Canyon and linger for just five minutes? People who travel like this miss out. It doesn't work. Such an attitude leaves travelers saying, "What was the big deal with the Grand Canyon anyway?" or "Why don't I feel rested?"

You can drive hard on the stewardship journey only to wake up the next morning and say, "What was the point?" That is because stewardship doesn't make sense outside a relationship with Jesus. People talk about the godlike power of money, and truthfully, it **can** have an all-consuming power. How could we ever hope to resist that without Jesus?

We talk about using money to communicate God's values, and how we want to promote the gospel to a broken world through our giving, but reality is, that is impossible to do without a relationship with Jesus. We talk about giving the first and best of who we are and what we have, but we too often find duty and obligation, to not be enough.

We need Jesus. Everything about stewardship hinges on Jesus and being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Stewardship efforts focused on funding church ministry rather than an invitation to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, results in churches barely treading water. Sure, keeping the lights on or having more to offer than the church down the road may endure for a season, but it does not speak of a relationship with Christ. Stewardship, giving, and generosity are not about meeting budgets; they **are** all about meeting **God!**

When we focus on our overwhelmingly generous Creator, a generous response makes complete sense. An ongoing relationship with the One who specializes in generosity helps put stewardship in perspective. **We give to those we love.**

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17)

May our giving show our love for Christ and his church!

God's Peace,
Rev. Katherine Rood

SPECIAL FOOD DRIVE FOR THE LINK

Area churches have been asked to help The Link Food Shelf by doing a Food Drive for specific items. Faith Lutheran Church has been asked to provide snack foods: fun crackers and/or chips or other snack foods. We have collection bins in the Gathering Area.

FACING AGING AND DEATH WITH LIFE!

Join Pastor Tim on Sunday, October 13 at 10:00am for Faith's next Adult Forum: Facing Aging and Death with Life! Join the discussion with Pastor Tim on life and the life to come.

BAKING RYE BREAD - OCTOBER 12

A group of volunteers are getting together on Saturday, October 12, in the afternoon to bake the rye bread for the Lutefisk Opener and would love more helpers! Snacks will be provided. You are encouraged to bring a kitchen aid mixer and bread pans if you have some.

Faith Quilters:

October 14 &15, October 28 & 29: Starts 9:00 am –3:00 pm

Rachel Circle Bible Study:

October 24 at 1:30 pm - Place TBD

FREEZER MEALS MINISTRY EVENT - OCTOBER 6

Join us on Sunday, October 6 at 1:00pm in the Faith kitchen! The cost is \$10-\$50 (pay what you can) and you will get to take 1 of each of the 4 meals home with you. The extra meals that are made will be used for pastoral care visits. Sign up on our website under the Sign Up tab.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

5th Quarter @ Peace, October 4th, 9-11pm

We have one more 5th Quarter this Fall for grades 6-8! So far, we've had incredible turn outs of 89 and 111 middle school students!!

MEA Paintball - Thursday October 17th - Cost \$35

Our 6-8 Grade Paintball tradition continues! We will leave Peace Lutheran at 12:45pm to head to Annandale Paintball in South Haven, MN for an afternoon of fun on the field.

LYF October: Halloween Movie Night @ Peace

Join Quentin and our high school youth group for a fun Halloween movie night at Peace on Wednesday Oct. 9th at 7:30pm in the Theater.

SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering

November 22 & 23, Grades 6-8 Cost: \$100 (forms/\$ due by 10/6/24)

Our Synod youth gathering is one of the best off site experiences we can offer to our Confirmation aged students each year!

Fall Parish Arts Fun: Options for YOU!

Diamond Dotz Project

All are invited to help create a beautiful nativity scene to grace our gathering area this Christmas. Check it out in the Gathering Area!

Advent Mural

A mural is being planned for the sanctuary for the upcoming Advent/Christmas/Epiphany seasons. The design is ready and background material is being readied. **Soon, we will be asking for people to help with the painting of the mural!** Watch for more information telling when we need your help.

OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH:
FAITH QUILTERS

The Faith Quilters would like to send our thank you to each and everyone of you who have blessed our mission with many years of monetary gifts and donations of material, sewing notions, and helping hands. With these blessings you have bestowed to us, we in turn have passed those blessings on in the form of hundreds of quilts to bless lives of many individuals in need. This year January 2024 thru September we have donated quilts to 11 Faith seniors, LWR, Red Cross, Willmar Campus ministries, Salvation Army, Safe Avenues, Green Lake Bible Camp, and the Woodland Centers in Willmar. We will continue to do so as long as we can with your continued support. So we thank and bless all of you! **PS We also welcome helping hands.** Our hours are 9:00am thru 3:00 pm every 2nd and 4th Monday and Tuesday of the month except June thru August and December.

January 1, 2024 - AUGUST 31, 2024					
	YTD Budget	2024	2023	Difference	Compared to Budget
Income	410,721.36	364,619.25	325,899.22	38,720.03	(46,102.11)
Expense	408,862.72	421,323.69	366,341.82	54,981.87	12,460.97
Net Income	1,858.64	(56,704.44)	(40,442.60)	(16,261.84)	(58,563.08)
Mortgage Principal TTL	39,629.32	42,833.49	39,183.66	3,649.83	3,204.17
Other Income			1,470.00	(1,470.00)	0.00
Net Profit (Loss)	41,487.96	(13,870.95)	211.06	(14,082.01)	(55,358.91)

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