

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FAITH

If you haven't attended yet, you can still come! We offer preschool through 5th grade each Sunday at 10:00am. We start with some songs and prayers that are led by Paul and Katherine Ragan and then we head to our classrooms for the lesson of the day with some fun activities and games. Got questions? Email Joy White at jwhite@faithspicer.org.

Each week during our kid worship time, we collect an offering. The current round of offerings collected will go towards NLS Wildcat Backpack Program. **Looking ahead - no Sunday School February 15.**

ABOVE ALL, KEEP LOVING EACH OTHER EARNESTLY

A WORD FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Friends!

In February, the Church Council will be assigning a council member to a number of committees. The Council challenges you to volunteer! There are many opportunities to serve!

What is your calling? Perhaps you like Hospitality, or maybe it is in Education, or how about creating a team to lead the Community Garden?

This spring, the Council wants to form a task force to evaluate how Faith Church can revitalize our Youth Ministry! We are looking for parents of children and youth to participate! Teens are welcome too! Contact the Pastors or any council member. We would be grateful for your consideration!

Volunteering is a great way to make new friends within our church community and fill yours hearts by serving others!

Carla Miller

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community Garden Leader(s) Needed:

We are looking for an individual or group of people who would lead our Community Garden at Faith. Help coordinate plots, communicate with participants and help lead the future of this amazing garden!

Pizza Oven Website Volunteer Needed:

We wanted to update you on what has been happening on the west side of the parking lot over the past several or more months. Yes, indeed that is real Woodfired Pizza Oven. While not all the construction is completed, the project is far enough along to begin planning for welcoming the public to enjoy genuine wood fired pizza prepared by volunteers once a week through the coming summer. Watch the bulletin for ways to volunteer.

For now we are seeking someone with the technical skills to help us build a website to invite our community to enjoy a pizza, order one or more pizzas or volunteer their not-for-profit organization to help serve. We have an idea of what the website should look like but lack the skills to make it a reality. If you have experience with WordPress, GoDaddy or something similar we could use your help. Please contact a Steering Committee member: Dean & Paulette Lindquist, Todd & Jill Jackson or Jeff & Chery Johnson for more information on this. Sooner is better than later. Thanks so much.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PERMIT #8
SPICER, MN 56288



FAITH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
nurture | inspire | share



LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL HEART

Website: faithspicer.org

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.

WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP

It's time to think about summer camp already with Water's Edge Ministries! The information below refers to overnight camper opportunities for those completing Grades 1 and up. [Pick up a summer camp brochure from the Welcome Center too see all programs offered!](#)

Our Camp Week: July 26 - 30

- You can choose another week (choose any week of the summer!), but we will have a lot of Faith & Peace campers attending this specific week of camp together!!
- This is also the week we are doing Onsite Day Camp for grades 1-5 (older siblings can attend camp the same week!)

Discounts Available:

- Early Bird - \$65 before 2/19
- Sibling Discount - \$25/\$15 when registering 2 from one household
- Church Discount - Faith will be raising money this spring for our Summer Camp Scholarship program!! From the money raised, we will divide out scholarship payments for all Faith kids attending camp! You won't see a discount option on the camp registration page (as we don't know the amount yet), but Faith will announce and pay out to camp scholarships in late May.

We can't wait for another summer filled with faith, fun, and community at camp!

WHOEVER ABIDES IN LOVE ABIDES IN GOD

ONSITE DAY CAMP 2026

Join us this summer for our annual Onsite Day Camp at Shores of Lake Andrew Bible Camp in New London! The cost is \$90 (if you use the NLS Onsite Day Camp Code during registration), and kids will be transported from Faith to camp in the mornings and then back to Faith from camp in the afternoons. Join us for another amazing camp week as we explore the theme: Living Stories! *Registration is done through Water's Edge Ministries.*

A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM: TIMING

By the time you receive this, I will be starting my fourth year as one of your pastors. I am surprised to say this! It has gone quickly! Thank you for your partnership in the gospel ministry! I pray God's blessings upon your lives and a heart for Jesus' ministry together.

In our baptismal liturgy, we called to strive for justice and peace on the earth. All of us – in our own way – in our place of living - are called to consider these words from Matthew 25: **“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”**^[1]

This baptismal calling goes out to all Christian people. Thank you for living out your faith in the community! Pastor Katherine and I are asking “Where are we needed?” as we speak. From young to old, we are Christ's body living out our faith in the world.

For Lent this year, we will be using Luther's Mark's of the Church. For Luther, because God is speaking - the church will always be present - just not in the ways we expect. **We start Lent on Wednesday, February 18 with our Ash Wednesday service at 6:00pm.** Look for more writing on the series when I get back from vacation.

God bless you!

Pastor Timothy W. Routh
(3rd Week of Epiphany)

^[1]The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Mt 25:37–40.

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL HEART

A WORD FROM PASTOR KATHERINE

In the midst of quiet hills
steeped with green pines,
I heard within my heart the call
of the gentle Jesus-Shepherd.

a haunting of my heart
yet with consolation offered,
for the valley indeed was dark
and I, in need of courage.

I saw him standing there,
hand outstretched in welcome:
“Ah, little lamb, I love you.
trust in me to care well for you.”

I looked from the window
cautious like a Much-Afraid:
then quietly Courage knelt inside me
and my valley of fear began to fade.

the sun took over the shadows,
the Shepherd took over my life.
I knew how precious the tenderness
and believed once more God's love.

Joyce Rupp



The winter, with its harsh cold winds and layers of frozen earth is a natural proclamation of patient courage. In time, the snow melts and the greening of spring WILL come. But, during this season of darkness moving slowly toward light, many of us struggle with old recurring stories or the uncertainty of new challenges that threaten life as we have grown accustomed to it. Jim Wolff states in his book *As I Have Loved You*: “Until put to the test, no one can really know who or what he or she is; life alone manifests the quality of individual existence.”

While I know that every age has seen its share of hardship and sacrifice, in this coldest of months, Minnesota in the year 2026, presents us with an inescapable crisis. It doesn't matter which political party we align with, our state - our identity as “Minnesota Nice”, seems to be circling the drain. People are on edge, frightened, and bewildered. In true “fight or flight” mode, we can find our emotions boiling over or we feel hesitant to share or get involved for fear of reprisal. It struck me that NOW might be an opportune time to ponder “courage”.

Courage does **not** mean just gritting our teeth, waiting for the moment or time to pass; faithful courage invites us to draw from an inner source, relying on the Lord's strength to give us the confidence and hope we need. It means believing, not on our own power, but on the divine power that is always available if we ask for it. Being brave enough to face whatever life sends us, courage can help us grow through the hardships of life without bitterness or cynicism. In fact, true courage can develop in us a mellowness and a deeper sensitivity to the struggles of our neighbor, the plight of our world, and move us to action.

I believe there is great opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal if we are willing to practice the discipline of courage. Faithful courage helps us to accept what cannot be changed and to struggle through what needs changing. It helps us to gently say what we believe and to hold on to what we know is of value despite the fear of failure or rejection. Faithful courage enables us to offer forgiveness whether or not there is a response and to love generously even when all odds seem against that love being received or return.

It occurs to me that courage and the Holy Spirit are somewhat synonymous. If you are experiencing one of those times that require an extra measure of courage - the prayer of the faithful might best be a petition for a greater share of Christ's Holy Spirit! Of course we know that, it's just that when we are overly anxious, we have a tendency to place our trust in plans or ideas conformed to this world. It's good to remind ourselves that courage separated from the Holy Spirit often leads to very bold mistakes with far-reaching consequences!

Courageous and Spirit-filled people are those who despite their fears constantly stretch themselves to take risks and to meet challenges, crossing boundaries just as Jesus did. Living the Gospel, they know how to laugh and enjoy life even in the most difficult of times; they see opportunities in the midst of crisis for bearing witness to the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. Together, by God's grace, they have what they need to live and serve according to his will.

In this time, when relying on a particular world view no longer assures an escape, I pray the sun will take over our shadows, and the Shepherd take over our lives again and again!

God's Peace,
Reverend Katherine Rood

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT AT CAMP

Open to all youth | Green Lake Bible Camp, Chrysalis House
March 14, 2026 | Fee: ~~\$\$\$~~ \$45 (Faith covers half!)

Practice communion with oreos and make your own communion bread while being taught by local pastors who are passionate about this important sacrament! There will be time for crafts and games, and the exciting camp worships your campers know! **Register by Wednesday, March 4.** Register at gllm.org/youth-retreats.html

This is a great option for any kids who couldn't make it to the fall First Communion Event at Faith. While our own pastors are not leading this class, it is similar instruction to our fall class. We will host another fall First Communion Class in October at Faith.

WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: FAMILY PROMISE

At Family Promise, our mission is to unite faith communities to bridge socioeconomic and generational divides by providing Food, Shelter, and Friends to children in need.

Your support is integral to ensuring we can continue our vital work in Kandiyohi County. **Your contribution makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children in our community.**

ABOVE ALL, KEEP LOVING EACH OTHER EARNESTLY

QUILTING: Feb. 9 & 10 and Feb. 23 & 24, 9:00am-3:00pm

RACHEL CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY: Feb. 26 at 1:30pm in the Fireside Room.

WHOEVER ABIDES IN LOVE ABIDES IN GOD

LYF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Grades 9-12 are invited to LYF every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. Each week alternates between Faith & Peace. The schedule for this month is: Feb. 4 @ Faith, Feb. 11 @ Peace, NO LYF on Feb. 18 (Ash Wednesday), Feb. 25: Romans & Christians Night Game @ Peace

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND

January - December 2025			
	YTD Income	YTD Budget	Compared to Budget
Income	562,851.18	651,153.62	(88,302.44)
Expense	581,982.31	588,376.73	(6,394.42)
Net Income	(19,131.13)	62,776.89	(81,908.02)

Average of \$52,757 needed each month to make budget & mortgage principal.
As of December 31st \$12,433 was borrowed from our designated funds.