

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE - THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

If your group or committee writes a report each year for our annual report, the 2025 reports are due by this upcoming Thursday, January 8. Please reach out to the main office if you have any questions or need a copy of last year's report for reference.

ANNUAL BUDGET REVIEW & ANNUAL MEETING

Join Sonya, our Treasurer, on Sunday, January 18 for a review of the 2025 Financials & the 2026 Budget. This will take place in the Fireside Room following 9:00am Worship. **Annual Meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 25.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATES

Sunday School Resumes Sunday, January 4 at 10:00am in the kids worship room. 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. See you January 4th!

Looking ahead - no Sunday School February 15.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, January 12 @ 12:00-6:00pm - Sign up at redcrossblood.com

QUILTING

January 12 & 13 & January 26 & 27, 9:00am-3:00pm

RACHEL CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, January 22 at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room at Faith

WOMEN, WINE AND THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, January 29 @ 6:00pm | 4495 141st Ave NE, Spicer

Join together with some other awesome women for an evening of devotion, conversation and fun fellowship! Heather Thompson is hosting this month's event. RSVP on Facebook or at faithspicer.org.

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: SAFE AVENUES

Safe Avenues provides domestic and sexual violence victim advocacy services throughout a five county area in Southwestern Minnesota. Safe Avenues is home to the only emergency safe shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence in 18 counties in the Southwestern corner of Minnesota.

FOOTNOTES FROM A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM

1 Catholic Biblical Association (Great Britain), *The Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition* (New York: National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, 1994), Ps 20:1-4.

2 Consultation on Common Texts, *Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2011).

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JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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ETERNAL GOD, YOU HAVE PLACED US IN A WORLD OF SPACE AND TIME, AND THROUGH THE EVENTS OF OUR LIVES YOU BLESS US WITH YOUR LOVE. GRANT THAT IN THE NEW YEAR WE MAY KNOW YOUR PRESENCE, SEE YOUR LOVE AT WORK, AND LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF THE EVENT THAT GIVES US JOY FOREVER—THE COMING OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.



A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM: A New Year's Blessing

God be with you!

This reading is for January 1st as we look toward 2026 with hope. Please join me in giving thanks to God for the year we had together. Please join me in a prayer of blessing leading into the New Year from Psalm 20!

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble!

The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

*May he send you help from the sanctuary,
and give you support from Zion!*

*May he remember all your offerings,
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! [Selah]*

*May he grant you your heart's desire,
and fulfil all your plans!*¹

And from Numbers 6, we see Moses putting God's name on the people so it may be known to them.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

*So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.*²

May the name of God be known to us this year because with this name God saves the world.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Timothy W. Routh



JUNE 10-14, 2026
SPARK'DWELL
HIGH SCHOOL
SERVICE TRIP
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

SPARK'DWELL PEACE LUTHERAN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

It's official... our High School Summer Trip is heading to Winston-Salem, North Carolina from June 10-14! We'll be serving alongside Spark'Dwell, a partnership between SPARK and The Dwelling. The Dwelling is a congregation that centers and uplifts people experiencing homelessness, creating a community where every person is known, welcomed, and valued. Through Spark'Dwell, students learn, serve, and build relationships in ways that honor the stories and dignity of our neighbors. **This is open to Peace & Faith Students & friends!** We can't wait to share this experience with our students. **Registration is due by January 20.** If you have questions, reach out to Deacon Amanda.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR KATHERINE



"Come now, let us talk this over...Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow;"

(Isaiah 1:18)

We've certainly had a couple of beautiful snowfalls to close out the year 2025! I'm always awed by the pristine freshness of the countryside and muffled quiet of the earth at rest. The "freshness" of it all holds my attention and draws me into moments of prayerful reflection, reminding me this "freshness" is a gift God offers to us each new year.

I am not certain that we always enter into the new year with our focus on the whiteness, the freshness, the brand-new beginnings possible for our hearts and lives. We tend to let our glance rest a little too long on all those areas of our lives where we feel we have failed or not given our best. Why else would we still make resolutions based on what has gone before? We look into the past year and feel guilty or discouraged when we realize that we are still struggling with the same failures and weaknesses, age-old shadows that still pursue us relentlessly.

It can be beneficial to glance backward over the past year if we do not stay there and become fixated on our incompleteness. As long as we do not base all our vision of the new year on that backward glance, we can learn from what we see and move on.

The new year is such a good time to deliberately begin again, to give ourselves over to the promises of the future. January is the month when we look, really look, at our life's journey and rejoice over the gift of another year given to us. Our "God of freshness" enables us to walk into a new year with hope and confidence, believing all things are possible.

If we are to walk into the new year hopefully, we need to look at God as well as to ourselves. When we look to the scriptures, we learn how much God desires new beginnings for us. We hear again and again that God refreshes, renews, heals, blesses, makes whole, and cleanses what has become mired, clears what has become blurred, restores what has died, recovers what has gone astray.

God in Christ Jesus encourages us by holding out a new year like an unmarred, snow-covered landscape, saying: *"Look, it's new. It's clean. It's fresh. Let's walk it together. Do not keep looking back. You cannot undo the past, but you can walk the present with me. Treasure my love for you and believe in my presence with you. I have so many wonderful surprises if you will but begin anew relying on me instead of just yourself."*

This is God's "Happy New Year" to us as individuals and as a community of faith! Instead of simply working hard all by ourselves on some resolutions that we hope will change us into better people, a better congregation, we can offer ourselves to him anew. His mercy, healing, and touch is what we most need.

We cannot force old habits and attitudes to disappear; what we need is God's grace active in our hearts. Just as the waiting, brown earth cannot force its regeneration, neither can we force the inner change we long for. We can only be open, ready, waiting, yearning, trusting that God desires we have abundant life in Christ's name.

As we begin this new year, with its myriad possibilities as individuals, families, a community of faith, a state, a nation and global citizens I pray we may increasingly be aware of God's love for us and all people. May we open our hearts, minds, and very lives to the fresh new Kingdom God is offering us.

Last but not least, thank you to all who gifted Les and I with your kindness, generosity, and partnership this Christmas and...

A Happy and Fresh New Year to All!

God's Peace,
Reverend Katherine Rood

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

My hope for Faith Church in 2026 is found in Matthew 5:16. "Let your light shine before others...." Let's do our part in living out our lives with faith and hope, setting good examples through our actions and leading others to see God's Glory!!

Our Council extends a big "Thank You" to three faithful stewards: Dean Lindquist, Mike Buboltz, and Mary Felt as they retire off the board. Friends, do your part and give them a pat on the back for the AWESOME work they have done for our Faith community!

A few key dates to put on your calendar:

- Sunday, January 18th after worship** - Sonya Erickson, treasurer, will be presenting an in depth look at our 2026 financial budget. This is a time to review our mission plan & answer any questions.
- Sunday, January 25th after worship** - Faith Church Annual Meeting. I encourage all of you to attend!

Let us be mindful of the Season of Epiphany as God reveals his only Son to you and the world!

Carla Miller

	YTD Income	YTD Budget	Compared to Budget
Income	479,601.54	596,890.83	(117,289.29)
Expense	539,937.46	539,345.36	592.1
Net Income	(60,335.92)	57,545.47	(117,881.39)

Principal mortgage payment of \$5,208 per month not included in 2025. Average of \$52,757 needed each month to make budget & mortgage principal. As of Nov. 31 we have borrowed \$69,236 from our designated funds in order to pay our bills and staff.