

A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM:
The Grace We Share is Related to the Grace We Have Received.

Greetings to all! I have put together a spiritual devotion for our August newsletter. I hope you can discern my intent. May God grant us wisdom!

I used for over 10 years of my life the devotional of Oswald Chambers, “My Utmost for His Highest.” He wrote: “Can that sinner be turned into a saint? Can that twisted life be put right? There is only one answer: ‘O Lord, Thou knowest, I don’t.’ Never trample in with religious common sense and say – ‘Oh, yes, with a little more Bible reading and devotion and prayer, I see how it can be done.’

It is much easier to do something than to trust in God; we mistake panic for inspiration. That is why there are so few fellow workers with God and so many workers for Him. We would far rather work for God than believe in Him. Am I quite sure that God will do what I cannot do? I despair of men in the degree in which I have never realized that God has done anything for me. Is my experience such a wonderful realization of God’s power and might that I can never despair of anyone I see? Have I had any spiritual work done in me at all? The degree of panic is the degree of the lack of personal spiritual experience.

‘Behold, O my people, I will open your graves.’ When God wants to show you what human nature is like apart from Himself, He has to show it you in yourself. If the Spirit of God has given you a vision of what you are apart from the grace of God, you know there is no criminal who is half so bad in actuality as you know yourself to be in possibility. My ‘grave’ has been opened by God...”

The spiritual work God has done in us is often related to the grace and forgiveness we can share with others. A thankful person to God is often a thankful person to others. Have you been forgiven? Who is forgivable in the world? When we realize God is working on us as sinners/saints it opens our eyes to the possibilities of others.

Thank you for your honest and humble hearts!
God be with you!

Pastor Tim

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FALL 2024



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1:

- Last Sunday out at the GLLM Stave Chapel

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4:

- Confirmation Orientation for students and parents
 - 6th-8th grade at 6:00pm, 9th grade at 7:00pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8:

- RALLY SUNDAY - back to one worship service at Faith @ 9:00am with coffee and treats to follow.
- Lot of fun activities for kids of all ages!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:

- THE FEAST STARTS BACK UP
 - Feast Meal at 5:15pm
 - Feast Worship at 6:00pm
 - Seeds + Sprouts and 6th-8th grade Confirmation at 6:35pm
 - Choir Rehearsal at 6:45pm
 - LYF High School Group at 7:30pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12:

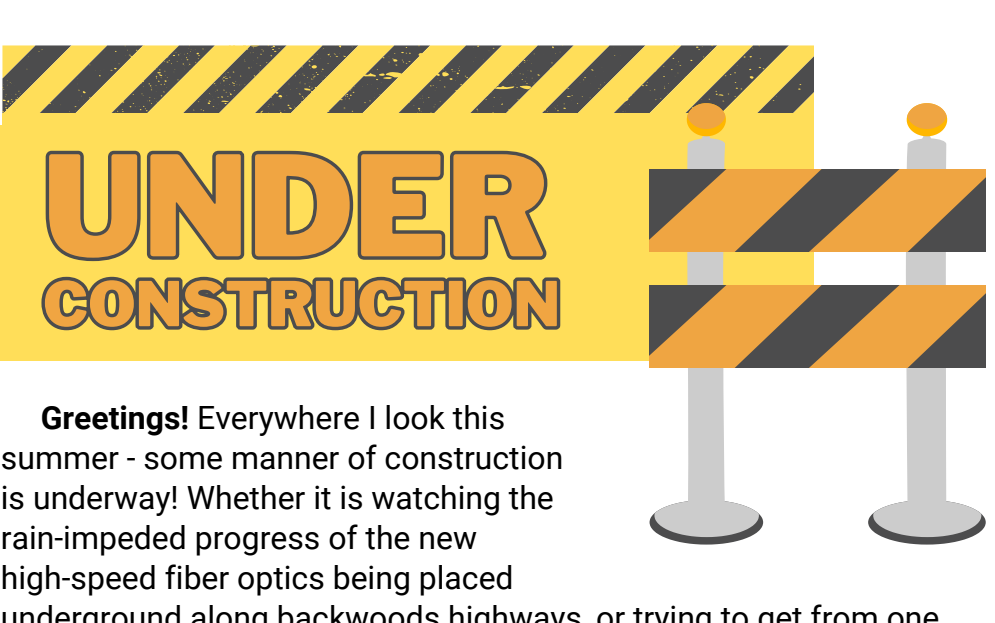
- First Communion Class from 9:00am-12:00pm
 - For any age (If you feel like your child is ready to learn about communion and participate, all are welcome!). Parent(s) AND children should plan to attend.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26:

- LUTEFISK OPENER! Save the date, our favorite fundraiser is back!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27:

- 9th Grade Confirmation Sunday



Greetings! Everywhere I look this summer - some manner of construction is underway! Whether it is watching the rain-impeded progress of the new high-speed fiber optics being placed underground along backwoods highways, or trying to get from one side of St. Cloud to the other, I am discovering new ways to get places where I'm either hoping or needing to go.

Even hitting the open road this summer has proved challenging because of all the construction. Detours are inevitable! Traveling to spend time with our children, grandchildren, and great grandbaby - more detours! Trying to go shopping, detours! Every destination has required careful mapping, looking at alternate routes while determinedly never veering from the goal. I know you've all experienced the same reality, and for those whose city streets are being redone, just getting the groceries in the house can be a humdinger!

Yet, we all know that when final touches are completed, the signs and cones have disappeared, travel to our anticipated destinations will be a much better and a less time-consuming experience! It's the time in between: the waiting, frustration with wasting too much time and the resulting anxiousness that gets us out of sorts! Of course, we know keeping our focus on the desired outcome, even when challenging, is always the most fruitful way forward.

That said, summer is already half over as I am writing! While I know that gives us all a little twinge of panic as we think about projects we had hoped to accomplish, the time we wanted to spend with family and friends, and preparations necessary for the inevitable changes that arrive with each new season – this time of year in the church is also accompanied by an ever-accelerating bit of panic as well! Just as in other vocations, pastors, church staff and leaders find themselves in a complicated web of construction as we attempt to map out another year of Worship, education, stewardship, budget planning and shaping our collective mission of serving the Gospel and handing on of faith.

In the next weeks, planning for Worships, Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Education will be seriously under construction as the paths to the intended goals are evaluated to assure the most impactful outcome. There is no way to escape the necessary maintenance and upkeep required to assure that our spiritual travel together provides access to our intended destination, a faithful and active relationship with Jesus Christ.

Each new year, programming at Faith Lutheran enters a spiritual construction zone as we attempt to provide a unified whole that flows

thematically across all age groups and ministries. Prayerfully, our faith experiences together will enhance and build up our calling as disciples And, as with all construction - the context, view, and shared purpose are not intended to cause further delays or confusion, but rather to streamline and make more visible the Christ we follow! Transformation and a lived-Christian witness demand careful attention and discernment as an ongoing process toward serving Christ and our neighbor in faith, hope and love.

Keep in mind, initially there may be some unavoidable inconvenience and unforeseeable challenges as we endeavor to hand on faith in a new or adaptive format. However, changes to blueprints are always expected! Our hope is that the long-range outcome will better equip the saints to serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ HERE and NOW.

Please hold Faith Lutheran's leaders, teachers, guides, students, parents, myriad volunteers, and your Pastors in prayer - that in all things, God may be glorified! Enjoy what remains of our Minnesota summer!

God's Peace,
Rev. Katherine Rood



SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

M.S. CROW WING RIVER CANOE TRIP

August 5th-8th: Back for another trip is a fun week on the Crow Wing River in northern Minnesota. It's fun adventure with two full days and two half days in canoeing and camping in God's creation. Each day we will canoe a section of the river with stops for lunch and swimming. Each evening at camp we'll cook our meal, have campfire worship, and try a new kind of s'more each night! This is a rustic trip with no access to running water.

NIGHT GAMES AT CHURCH

Quentin will be hosting our last Night Games on **Wednesday August 14th at Peace Lutheran from 8pm-10pm** for students who have completed grades 6-8. We'll play night games, enjoy campfire worship, large group night games, and campfire worship with smores to close the night. Students from both Peace and Faith are invited and friends are always welcome!

VALLEY FAIR TRIP

Our High School ValleyFair Trip has a new date! **On Saturday August 17th we will leave Peace at 8am for a fun day at ValleyFair. The cost is \$60** and includes round-trip transportation, admission to ValleyFair & Soak City, as well as all day dining and drink wristbands for each participant. Registration forms can be picked up at the Welcome Center. This trip is for students who have completed grades 8-12. As always, friends are always welcome! Please contact Quentin at youth@faithspicer.org with questions.

YOU'RE INVITED TO GET CREATIVE!

The Parish Arts Team would like to invite you to explore Gods imagery by creating a visual art project. Projects can be photographs, paintings, textile arts, wood working, etc., and should include a meaningful phrase or scripture. **The theme of the works should be Nurture, Inspire, Share.**

Artworks need to be turned into the Welcome Center between Sept. 1- Oct. 6 in a display ready format.



AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH: WILDCAT BACKPACK PROGRAM

One in four students at the New London-Spicer Schools receives free/reduced-priced school meals. Each of these students is at-risk of hunger, especially over the weekend. During the school year, each child receives a backpack of food (about 5 pounds) for the weekend. Food items are healthy, easy to open and easy to prepare. They include: two entrees, two breakfast items, two snacks, two juice boxes a treat and a fruit. Participation in the program is voluntary and confidential.

Donations of all sizes are needed to support the program: \$6 gets food for a week, \$60 for ten weeks, \$234 for the school year

| January 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2024 | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| | YTD Budget | 2024 | 2023 | Difference | Compared to Budget |
| Income | 308,041.04 | 282,552.39 | 246,181.54 | 36,370.85 | (25,488.65) |
| Expense | 306,647.08 | 316,906.51 | 286,547.54 | 30,358.97 | 10,259.43 |
| Net Income | 1,393.96 | (34,354.12) | (40,366.00) | 6,011.88 | (35,748.08) |
| Mortgage Principal TTL | 29,721.98 | 29,373.97 | 29,664.67 | (290.70) | (348.01) |
| Other Income | | | 1,470.00 | (1,470.00) | 0.00 |
| Net Profit (Loss) | 31,115.94 | (4,980.15) | (9,231.33) | 4,251.18 | (36,096.09) |

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