

The Forecaster

December
2020

310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288

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faithspicer.org

Happy New Year!

No, I am not getting ahead of myself, at least not in the church world. December (actually November 29th) brings us the start of a new church calendar year. We have left the Gospel of Matthew and are now entering the Gospel of Mark. Each new year we start at the beginning, in the season of Advent and the preparation of the arrival of the Messiah.



The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four, as though the author had this sense of great urgency to spit out the story of Jesus as quickly as possible. And given all that has taken place over the past several months, many of us may be feeling this way about the year 2020: let's get it over with already! We may even be wanting to wish everyone a Happy New Year early in hopes that 2021 will give us all a fresh start, where we can put the past behind us and never look back. Hey 2020, don't let the door hit you on the way out!

Here's the thing. The year that Jesus was born wasn't exactly a great year. The census had thrown a huge wrench into everyone's normal schedules. Where people would normally be working and making an income to support their families, they now found themselves making lengthy and expensive travel plans to be registered in their hometowns. A cruel tyrant was the king of Judea, a man so consumed by power, he ordered the deaths of babies just to ensure that he kept his throne.

Into that world, God arrived, and in our world God remains: through good years, bad years, crazy years, and years that we never thought we'd be living through, years that make us want to hurry through to the next one and a fresh start. Emmanuel means "God with us." That's it. Not "God with us when things are good" or "God with us when things are normal." Just "God with us." The Gospel of Mark may be the briefest Gospel, but it still tells the full story of Jesus, and it doesn't leave out the bad years. 2020 is certainly a year that will be remembered for the rest of our lives, but just like every year, it is a year that includes the season of Advent, and the promise and hope and anticipation of the arrival of Jesus. Emmanuel. God with us.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Seyward

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP UPDATE

Due to ever-changing circumstances surrounding the Covid 19 Pandemic, Faith is currently evaluating the most meaningful and safe way for us to celebrate Christmas. As we near a decision, we will inform the congregation of our plans through our website, Facebook, electronic sign, email, and by mail. 2020 has taught us the importance of flexibility and creativity. Please know that your church staff is working diligently to provide a meaningful and memorable Advent and Christmas.

Worship

What is Advent?

The Advent season is a four week period before Christmas that celebrates the anticipation and coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The origin of "advent" is from the Latin word *adventus* which simply translates "coming" or "arrival". Not only is the Christian meaning for preparation and celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ, his birth at Christmas, but also to celebrate the new life when someone accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior, and lastly, the anticipation of Jesus returning again.

There are many beautiful and rich traditions behind the celebration of Advent. Our hope is that you find time to slow down this Christmas season, say "no" to the things that distract you from Jesus and say "yes" to the gift that God wants you to experience.



Worship Goes Online

Sundays at 8:30am

With the rapid rise in Covid 19 cases in our county, Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services has sent out a letter imploring everyone to stay at home as much as possible and refrain from gathering in person for events and activities. This plea is being given specifically to places of worship, as well as business and other community groups and organizations.

Because of this, Faith Lutheran Church is suspending all in-person activities effective immediately. This includes worship, Sunday school, Confirmation, and Bible studies. Online versions of many of these will be made available, which can be found on our YouTube channel: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCLTLXQpoTV56NW6pC6rU3Zg>

We are thankful for your ongoing support and flexibility as we continue to navigate being church in a pandemic. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, and right now the best way we can do that is by following the guidelines of our local health experts to keep the virus at bay and hospital beds open for those who need them. Faith has once again gone to Worship services online.



Faith Lutheran Now on YouTube

Faith is now using YouTube to live stream our worship services so you can watch our services in a variety of ways. Livestream from our Faith FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/faith.lutheranchurch.12> or by subscribing to the Faith Lutheran Church of Spicer MN YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTLXQpoTV56NW6pC6rU3Zg/featured>.

Simple Things to Pray For During Advent:

1. Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
2. Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
3. Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
4. Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
5. Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of a loving community.
6. Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
7. Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
8. Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.
9. Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
10. Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
11. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
12. Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.
13. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
14. Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.

SKOL PA FISKEN AGAIN A VERY MERRY COVID CHRISTMAS

This year Green Lake Lutheran Ministries is taking the Dinner Theater On-Line. The Town Folks of Woodtick Landing are trying to figure out how to continue the Fingar Fingarson Annual Fishing Derby. This year's cast is fully represented by Faith Lutheran. Some of your favorite characters are back along with some new faces as well.

This year's performance will be a hoot! Join us as we check in on the characters from last year's show, *Skol På Fisken*, written by Dave Eliason and Brian Pearson. In Woodtick Landing, the ice fishing capital of Minnesota, our friends are getting ready for the 26th Annual Fingar Fingarson Memorial Ice Fishing Derby amidst the coronavirus pandemic. Will they still be able to celebrate? Don't worry if you missed last year's show - you will still enjoy this clever story!

Check out this link <https://e.givesmart.com/events/jc4/> for more information on this year's Dinner Theater.

Need Christmas Ideas?

How about a new Faith t-shirt?

Or a Faith tumbler?

Shirts are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids.

Tumblers are \$15



Don't forget the popcorn!

It's just \$5 a tub and proceeds go to our Youth!



Thursday Bible Study is Online Only

Want a sneak peek into Sunday's sermon? Join the Faith Lutheran Thursday Morning Bible Study via Zoom. This study is open to all members of Faith and is held on-line. If you would like to join the Bible Study On-line, check out the Faith Facebook Page for the Zoom link. Please use this Zoom link to access our weekly bible study:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86009683604?pwd=Vkt1SEV3eFICaGFTZXVrMDdkRTlPZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 0968 3604

Password: 514395

Where is my mask?

Is this something that you have found yourself asking as you walk out the door? We have some help for you. We received a donation from United Way of some reusable masks. They are individually packaged, some are home made and some are store bought. They will be on a table in the gathering area. If you or someone you know is in need of a reusable mask or two please help yourself. Thanks to Steve Gerberding for setting this up for us.



Teal's Receipts

Thank you to all those faithful savers! We have continued to receive A LOT of receipts and we just wanted to let you know, please continue bringing them in! The box is in the main entry way. Just stop by and drop them off. You make a difference!

Church News

Who's Who

Mission Plan for 2020: \$702,500

	October	October w/o Endowment Gift
Income	\$142,616.70	\$40,060.94
Expense	\$79,706.61	\$62,613.99
Net Income	\$62,910.09	\$-22,553.05
Other		
Income/Expense	\$4,239.15	\$4,239.16
Net Profit (Loss)	\$67,149.25	\$18,313.89

October's Income looks unbelievable thanks to a generous estate gift received last month. Faith Lutheran has a gift acceptance policy for large gifts like this which directs the council to designate a minimum of 10% for congregational benevolences, a minimum of 40% of the gift as an addition to the congregation's endowment fund. No more than 50% will be used for the current operating expenses of the congregation. Use of those funds will be determined at a later time. Sixty percent of the gift is included in October's Income. The far right column shows a clear picture of what the financials would be without that unique gift.

As you can see what a blessing an estate gift can be to your congregation. If you are interested in learning about ways you may include Faith Lutheran in your estate plans feel free to speak to Pastor Todd or Pastor Seyward. We are fortunate to have the resources in our backyard, of Pastor Keith Pearson an ELCA Gift Planner.

Legacy Gift Received

Faith has been the recipient of a Legacy Gift of \$170,000.00 from Al and Elaine Iverson. The Iverson's established an IRA for Faith Lutheran, and this faithful and fruitful manner of giving will leave a lasting legacy here at Faith. In accordance with the Faith Lutheran Major Gifts Policy, 10 % of the gift has been passed on to ministries beyond our walls. 40% of the gift will be deposited in the Faith general Endowment Fund, and the remaining proceeds of the gift will be available to further our ministry in the congregation and community. We give thanks to God for the lasting legacy Al and Elaine Iverson will leave in our congregation.

Council Updates

Our congregation recently received a large gift of over \$170,000 from the Iverson family. The council voted to split the benevolence portion of the Iverson gift equally between Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, The Link, and Family Promise.

The budget committee continues to work on a 2021 mission plan in a difficult time of uncertainty.

The COVID Worship Task Force (formerly known as the Re-entering Worship Task Force) will continue meeting regularly to plan next steps in worship that meet our needs as a congregation while also ensuring our safety and following guidelines set by local and state health professionals. Thank you to Dave Eliason, Steve Gerberding, Chery Johnson, Louise Stenberg, Jody Wharton, Pastor Seyward, and Pastor Todd.

Saints who were remembered in November

Below is a list of friends we have lost this past year.

Duane Loe 3/25/29 - 12/31/19	Ruben Hoglund 7/16/22 - 8/13/20
Eugene Adams 5/21/48 - 1/26/20	Janelle Joneson 10/9/54 - 9/17/20
Karen Dresser 3/14/40 - 2/22/20	Jody Kamholz 2/7/1957 - 9/25/20
Beatrice Anderson 11/12/24 - 3/17/20	Harold Skaalrud 10/4/33 - 10/5/20
Elaine Iverson 11/19/29—4/1/20	Brian Jensen 5/30/68 - 7/11/20
Phyllis Tompt 2/14/1924 - 10/25/2020	Robert Wiley 5/3/25 - 7/11/20

Prayer Concerns for November

Ed Norby
Arlyns Winkelman

Deaths

Robert Peterson

Church Council

Landon Fries - President
Chad Haugen - Vice President
Mari Kooiman - Secretary
Sonya Erickson - Treasurer
Michelle Goltz
Dean Lindquist
Louise Stenberg
Ben Hoffman
Travis Aufderheide

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 Teacher

Pam Fox

Updates in your family?

Please notify the church office of any recent changes including your preferred contact phone and e-mail to office@faithspicer.org or call Joy White at 796.2522.

Praise + Play Preschool Updates

Praise + Play Preschool wants to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to all that helped make our annual fundraiser event, Butter Braids, a HUGE SUCCESS! We were very worried about undertaking this within a Covid pandemic and yet our children sold their hearts out and all of you stepped up to make a purchase. We even surpassed our goal of 500 breads, which I thought was way too high, and sold 750 braids! That was totally amazing. Two children sold 60 or more so win a \$40 visa gift card from our Butter Braid company. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

December is always our favorite month at Praise + Play with all the excitement of the birth of our Savior! Please check out our Facebook page: Praise and Play Preschool as we will be videotaping a Christmas Concert preschool style the week of December 14-17. We have super singers this year according to Pastor Todd who leads our Chapel days so it will be an awesome concert!

A December favorite is when we turn our dramatic play area into Santa's workshop where elves build toys, pretend to paint them and then another set of elves wrap them up and put them in Santa's bag. If you aren't an elf, you might be a baker in Mrs. Claus' bakery or one of Santa's reindeer pulling the sleigh. But, we always remember the real reason for the season, Jesus' Birthday!

We ended November with a Thanksgiving village including a log cabin and a teepee with a river between the two where we went to get our water and catch our fish. We also had a corn field where we had a good harvest. Corn shucking was one of our favorite pastimes!

Veteran's Day had all the preschoolers painting huge Poppies on our easels and making "Thank You Veterans Windssocks" we hung in our hallway.

Strengthening our fine motor skills, including finger muscles, we spend time daily doing some type of play that encourages using all those fingers whether it's sewing cards, playdough, stringing beads or picking up a variety of things with our rubber thongs. All fun activities but still developing those fine motor skills.

As far as Covid-19 is happening around us, we have awesome parents who take precautions when needed and support us in all our Covid policies. The church staff also is backing all our decisions we need to make so it is wonderful to have all that support. We pray daily for Covid to stay away!

May you all enjoy the Advent season! Wishing our entire Faith Family, a blessed Christmas season from all of us at Praise + Play.



Times are a changing, again...

Children and Youth Education



Check it out on our Facebook page.

Children's Christmas Program

Our kids will be putting together a Christmas program that will be aired on our Facebook page.
Keep a look out!

Confirmation Goes Online

Recently Kandiyohi county asked businesses, places of worship, and community groups/clubs/organizations to decrease in person activities. This comes shortly after the Governor's Executive Order 20-96.

This means that Faith Lutheran Confirmation has begun **online instruction**. We will email students and/or families the lesson each scheduled Wednesday evening (see below). These lessons will continue to cover the chapters of the Bible in the Old Testament. If you have not already provided an email address for your student, please do so. We plan to utilize this online approach and schedule until further notice. Below is a schedule through January.

- ◆ December 2nd - Online Confirmation Lesson
- ◆ December 9th - Online Confirmation Lesson
- ◆ December 16th - Online Confirmation Lesson
- ◆ December 23rd - NO LESSON - Winter Break
- ◆ December 30th - NO LESSON - Winter Break
- ◆ January 6th - Online Confirmation Lesson
- ◆ January 13th - Online Confirmation Lesson
- ◆ January 20th - Online Confirmation Lesson
- ◆ January 27th - Online Confirmation Lesson

These lessons can be completed between the Wednesday they are emailed out, and the following Sunday evening. Each lesson will have a google forms "Lesson Questions" to fill out and complete.

Family Promise serves Families Experiencing Homelessness During a Pandemic

As most of us ride out the pandemic in our homes, the guests of Family Promise have been living in the Day Center rather than sleeping at churches. When you're feeling in a slump because of the disruptions in your usual activities, please be thankful that you have a home to sleep in, and prayerfully consider how you can help. Homeless numbers have been increasing during the pandemic, and the space at the Day Center is very limited. Our Family Promise Director has been busy coordinating with other area agencies to help families avoid becoming homeless during this pandemic.

Faith will be providing meals to families at the Day Center the week of December 27th - Jan 3rd. A sign-up sheet will be available on Faith's website using Sign Up Genius. Financial donations can be mailed to: Family Promise of Kandiyohi County, 312 6th St. SW, Willmar, MN 56201

We also want to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated feminine hygiene products during the month of October. This collection was very successful!



The Link
LINKING PEOPLE : BUILDING COMMUNITY

In October, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 3 new families, served 56 children, 83 adults and 19 seniors. 3695 pounds of food was distributed and 654.5 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. The need for food for families is really starting to increase as the month of November has already brought 11 new families.

The Wildcat Backpack Program is going to be run a little differently now that school is going to the distant learning model. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

Senior Food Delivery- The Senior Food Delivery Program continues to serve seniors in need of grocery delivery. With COVID cases increasing in our county, there has been an increased amount of calls of those not wanting to leave home and we are thankful we have a way to serve them. If you are interested in delivering or if you know a senior family (or a family that has a difficult time getting out and about), please call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 5 families in the month of October, which was a little less than normal, however, we have seen a great increase of need now in November. With COVID cases spreading quickly, there are more families out of work to be quarantined and less income coming in for those who have lost their jobs. If you are making a financial donation in the near future, please consider this program or donate to the general fund so the money can be used where it is needed most.

The Revive and Redeem Thrift Store, along with The Community Closet continues to be open for the time being. There has been conversation on how to move forward with the new restrictions as safety comes first and foremost. Store changes or closures will be announced on our facebook page. If you would like to call and check in, we can be reached at 354-5555. Revive and Redeem and The Community Closet are located at 206 Main ST. N. and is open Thursdays and Fridays 10-3 and Saturdays from 9-1.

With Christmas soon approaching, we have started to have families calling to see if they can get help with gifts. If you or anyone you know would like to adopt a family or donate any gifts or gift cards, please let us know. As always, The Link is humbled and so grateful for the amount of giving in the community. From volunteers, to those who donate, nothing goes unnoticed. We are blessed to have the ability to continue our mission here by giving to those that need it most. YOU are The Link.

Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org or directly through your bank. If you would like to make a one time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at ashley@youarethelink.org for more information.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, MN 56288

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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



**Church will close at noon:
December 24 & 31**

**Church will be closed all day:
December 25 & January 1**

PHONE
320.796.2522

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

Current Worship Times

**Sundays at 8:30am
Online Only
Until further notice**

Details Inside!

Christmas Poinsettias

Purchase a Poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. Cost is \$12. Forms are located at the Welcome Center. Or you can mail your request in with the following:

Name of person purchasing: _____

In honor of: _____ or In memory of: _____

Please include \$12 and **please print all names clearly.**

