

February
2021

The Forecaster

FAITH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288

320.796.2522

faithspicer.org

When we were finally taking down and putting away our Christmas decorations last month, Brooklyn asked what the next holiday was so that we could put up new decorations. I told her it was Valentine's Day, but that we don't really decorate our house for that holiday, and she immediately said, "We can make some decorations and hang them up!" Now both Brooklyn and Maggie are excited for it.

It's funny how a holiday such as Valentine's Day changes throughout different stages of life. When I was in elementary school, it was all about decorating a shoebox and bringing in a card and candy for every kid in class. In middle and high school, much more speculation and scrutiny was put into the prewritten messages on the cards, both given and received (Does "You're the beary best" mean he likes me??). When we first started dating, I remember Justin bringing me flowers and a heart-shaped pizza for Valentine's Day. These days we don't even exchange gifts, and instead have to remember to get enough cards and treats for each of our kids' daycare/school classmates. The circle of life!



You may experience different stages of your relationship with God and your faith life. There may be times in your life when faith feels easy and God feels very close by; times when your faith is stretching and growing, perhaps even being challenged; and maybe times when God feels farther away, and faith feels like a lot of work. During all of these times, it is important to remember that no matter how you are feeling, no matter what stage of life you are in, God's love for you never shrinks or goes away. It is normal and even expected to experience some fluctuation in your faith and your relationship with God -- it's all part of being human. The thing to remember is that God is bigger than all of that and all of us, and God's love for us and presence with us never fluctuates, but is ever present. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Seyward Ask

Join us Sundays and Wednesdays in Lent!

This year for Lent, we invite you to weekly worship and weekly virtual gatherings! On Sunday mornings, we will have both in-person and livestreamed worship. On Wednesday evenings, we will gather over Zoom to watch a video series and then break into Zoom rooms for reflection and discussion. More details will be forthcoming, including instructions for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week. We hope you will join us this year for Lent!

Worship



We Are Back!

Have you heard? We have returned to worship, at FAITH! Sundays at 8:30am. We are allowed 120 worshipers. Please either go to faithspicer.org and click on the sign up tab to sign up to attend or you can call the church office at 796.2522 between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm Monday through Thursday. Our office will be closed on Fridays beginning February 1.

Don't feel comfortable coming? No problem. You can still watch worship online. Tune into our Facebook page or find us on YouTube. See instructions below.



Your Help Is Needed

Returning to worship is so exciting but with the return to in person worship comes the need of volunteers to make it happen. This is where you come in. Please sign up to help at faithspicer.org. Go to the sign up tab and click on Worship Assistants. If you haven't ever been an assistant before that is OK. Just call the office and speak with Joy who can explain how each position works. We look forward to seeing all of you soon!



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>.

February Scriptures

February 7 ~ Isaiah 40:21-31, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

February 14 ~ 2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

February 21 ~ Genesis 9:8-17, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

February 28 ~ Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38



“Guys on the Go” is In Person @ Faith

Pastor Todd will be hosting a Guys on the Go Men’s Bible Study in person the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month IN PERSON at 6:30am. You can also catch it on line via Zoom.

This study uses the Moravian Daily Text as the focus of our devotional. Look for a zoom link to this study on the Faith Facebook page and in the weekly Faith E-mail.

In Person Thursday Bible Study is BACK!

Want a sneak peek into Sunday’s sermon? Join the Faith Lutheran Thursday Morning Bible Study. This study is open to all members of Faith and is held right here at Faith.

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=Vkt1SEV3eFICaGFTZXVrMDdkRTIPZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 0968 3604
Password: 514395

Have you had a baby recently?

We are coordinating homemade meals for Faith families that recently had a baby!

If you have a new baby in your family, or know of someone in our congregation that does, please contact Joy in the Faith office at 796-2522 or office@faithspicer.org.

If you’d be willing to make meals and deliver them, please contact Nikki Fries at Nicole_fries@hotmail.com. She’ll be keeping a list of volunteers and will contact you when there is a need. Thank you!



Please pray for..

Mike Lien Dean Madsen Dean and Karen Erickson
Phil Scheevel Joyce Paulson & family

Deaths

Kathy Quam
Junnette Hovland

Faith Connections

Want to bring a little light to our Faith members that are in assisted living facilities? Pick up a FAITH CONNECTIONS envelope in the church entryway, and send them some mail! In the envelope you will find a name and address of a Faith member, along with some cards, envelopes, stickers, and some paper to make your own cards.

Materials are located in the entry way at Faith.



Don’t forget to show your PRIDE

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!

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.



Teal’s Receipts

We continue to receive receipts so please keep 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

Faith's Financials January - December 2020

	2019	2020	Difference
Income	\$767,712.50	\$563,791.52	-\$203,920.98
Expense	\$769,260.42	\$641,870.59	-\$127,389.83
Net Income	-\$1,547.92	-\$78,079.07	- \$76,531.15
Grant Income PPP		\$72,309.31	
Other Income/Exp	\$55,528.00	\$58,803.26	\$3,275.26
Net Profit (loss)	\$53,980.08	\$53,033.50	-\$946.58

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.

Council Notes

1. The council is excited to "re-launch" the endowment committee and feels good about the slate of nominations.
2. With declining COVID numbers in our area, we support the recommendations of the COVID taskforce and are excited for a hybrid of in person and virtual ministry options.
3. We're thankful for the work, commitment, and passion of our outgoing council members. Mari Kooiman, Tim Renner, and Landon Fries will be missed!

Thank You

Thank you for investing in the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf. Your donation of \$3,284 in December will help us in serving our neighbors in need.
The KCFS Board of Directors and Staff

Thank you for your combined donations of \$8,476.54 in December. Your gift makes a difference for so many people in your community. A grateful heart is all we have to express our appreciation for your support. It is such an amazing gift!
Chasity Ommodt Executive Director

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,052.99 to ELCA Global Mission. Your support enables ELCA Global Mission to send missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission, to serve in over 40 countries. It provides scholarships to international women leaders responding to God's call to ministry.

With gratitude,

Rahel Mwitula Williams - Director, ELCA Global Mission Funding

Thank you for your gift of \$95 to ELCA World Hunger. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice.

In Christ,

The Rev. Robin Brown - Mission funding Director, Congregations

Thank you for your generous gift and continued partnership! We have been blessed to stay in contact with students through Wednesday lunches even during this pandemic. We pray we can keep lunches going this spring and be back to full speed in the fall - everyone healthy, vaccinated, and ready for ministry together.

Ridgewater Chaplain, Amy

**NEW
OFFICE
HOURS**



New Office Hours

Beginning February 1 our office will be open:
Monday through Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm ONLY.
Fridays the church will be closed.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Praise + Play Preschool Updates

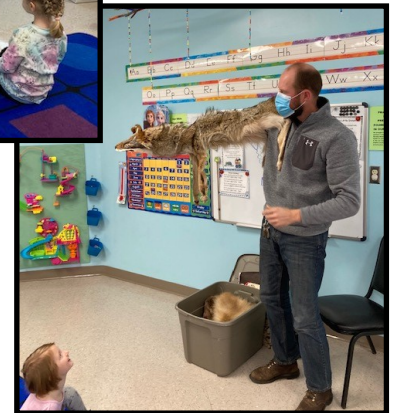


In January, we had our annual frozen Lake Praise set up in our dramatic play area for ice fishing and skating. We had a hot chocolate stand set up as well as a clothesline to match up real mittens. We graphed our own gloves and mittens as well as bare hands one day to see which is the most popular hand dress on cold January days. Gloves or mittens, waterproof ones are a must! We finished our Winter Fun Unit with a Frozen Day, where the children could wear Frozen costumes or tee shirts, anything regarding winter or the movie Frozen. We had a guest speaker, January 13th. Cory Netland, who works for the DNR, the Dad of Grant, brought in all his furs he has collected through trapping. Children got to see: a coyote, a bobcat, a fisher, a skunk, a beaver and their skulls with their long teeth, a mink, a weasel, a raccoon, a muskrat, and feathers from a swan, a turkey, and a pheasant. Some of the furs Cory had sewed into a puppet style skin, which the children really loved. A huge shout out to Cory for taking the time to show us all the Minnesota animals!

February brings much talk of kindness and love. We have a huge heart on our wall where anytime we see a child show kindness, we write the child's name on a small heart and place that on our big heart. Parents enjoy checking out the hearts their children have earned. We also spend time writing valentines to classmates so we practice writing other names for more handwriting practice.

We are loving the mild winter days which allow us much longer outdoor times. We have a great shoveling crew with 8 small shovels. There is nothing more exciting than to run out on the playground to new snow that we are the first to walk on or make snow angels in! Children 3 years and up quickly learn the enjoyment of a Minnesota winter!

We are gearing up for registration for next year, and through the ELEA, Evangelical Lutheran Education Association- a part of the ELCA, we have the opportunity to have a professional put our short video clips together to make a professional virtual tour as with tours not being allowed due to Covid. We will be starting to put that together soon! When complete it will be on our Praise + Play Facebook page, Faith Lutheran's Facebook page as well as our website faithspicer.org.



If you would like information about Praise + Play Preschool please contact our Director Patsy Cordes at: pandp@faithspicer.org.

You can also check out our website: faithspicer.org and go to the preschool page for more details.



Education

In Person Sunday School Is Back!

All children welcome! **Sundays at 9:30am.**
Haven't been to Sunday School yet this year?
No problem! Start anytime!
Contact James Lucas at education@faithspicer.org to get started!

Lesson dates are:

- ⇒ Sunday, February 7
- ⇒ Sunday, February 14
- ⇒ Sunday, February 21
- ⇒ Sunday, February 28



In Person Confirmation is Happening

Faith Lutheran Confirmation is IN PERSON! Please join us on **Wednesdays at 6:45pm.** It's so good to be back and see everyone! All students welcome! Haven't been to Confirmation yet this year? No problem! Start anytime! Contact James Lucas at education@faithspicer.org to get started!

- ◆ Wednesday, February 3
- ◆ Wednesday, February 10
- ◆ Wednesday, February 17 NO Confirmation - ASH WEDNESDAY
- ◆ Wednesday, February 24



Register for Summer Camp at GLLM

Go to the gllm.org website to register for a week of life changing fun!
First day of camp is June 20.
Call Steph Holme at GLLM w/questions (320) 796-2181.

Here are some examples of things to expect:

- The camp schedule will be adapted to accommodate "pods." Pods are essentially cabin groups that function as a family unit. Anything done in close proximity to others will be done in these pods, which will help to minimize the potential spread of viruses.
- There will still be large group activities, but they will be implemented in safe, distanced ways. We will create a fun camp community in new ways!
- Our staffing model will change so that within the pod structure, all campers will still have opportunities for swimming, crafts, games, campfires...CAMP!
- Enhanced cleaning procedures will be implemented.
- As often as possible, we will be outdoors -- something we already do!

A promotional banner for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. The background is a dark, scenic view of a lake at dusk or dawn. The text "EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT IS BACK" is written in large, bold, sans-serif letters. "EARLY BIRD" is in red, "DISCOUNT" is in yellow, and "IS BACK" is in white. Below the text is a yellow circular logo with a fish icon and the text "GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN ministries". At the bottom, it says "REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 1 FOR \$40 OFF EACH REGISTRATION" in white and red text.

(CMT) Children's Ministry Team Meeting

Sunday, February 28 at 11:30am

Contact James Lucas at education@faithspicer.org for more information.

A circular logo with a colorful bokeh background. The text "CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines within the circle.

Family Promise serves Families Experiencing Homelessness During a Pandemic

Our campaign this year is INVEST IN THE CHILDREN. It is our mission to cushion the impact poverty brings. Please help us to meet our \$150,000 budget so that we may continue to serve. This annual drive funds most of our expenses! We are again blessed this year with a \$20,000 matching grant from a local family foundation. You can invest through our website www.familypromiseofkc.org/donate/

You can also contribute through Faith Lutheran or by sending funds directly to: **Family Promise of Kandiyohi County 312-6th St. SW Willmar, MN 56201**



Faith will be providing meals to families at the Day Center the week of February 28 through March 6. 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**

From the Property Team

Only a month and a half until the first day of spring. Time does fly by and the winter has been kind so far. We can still use some help with snow shoveling of the sidewalks to ensure that everyone has a safe place to enter our church so please contact the office or myself at 320.905.1539 to offer your help.

With spring just around the corner, we must start thinking about gardens and flower beds. After several years of enjoying Anita Lewison's green thumb around the front of the church it is now time to ask for someone new to plant and maintain the flower beds around the church and prayer garden area. Anita is retiring from this position and we thank her immensely for bringing her skillset to these beautiful beds. Please consider forming a team to take care of these areas. Other things happening around the church. You will notice the sanitizer dispensers around the gathering area. Please use them to protect yourself and others. Looking forward we are working on some carpet repairs near the kitchen doorway. We are also working on a master color plan for the entire facility. This is being undertaken to ensure that when we paint certain areas that the colors utilized fit the plan and complement each other to provide a pleasing, aesthetically friendly area to gather and worship.

The Property Team is working on long range facility and equipment maintenance needs, costs, and prioritization. I have had to repair some plumbing issues as well and am always looking for additional individuals that are knowledgeable and can help with plumbing repairs. Like your own house our church facility needs ongoing care and financial commitment to ensure that it is here 100 or more years from now. I was looking at my notes from 1992 when I was part of the Board of Properties. We were looking for volunteers then as well so let us know your talents and passions and we will find something for you to help with over the course of the year. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at 320.905.1539.

For now - Jeff Johnson, Interim Property Manager.



Got Shoes?

Faith has a shoe collection box. The Spicer Sunrise Lions are collecting shoes for distribution to needy people around the world. The Lions will accept any footwear you'd care to donate: New shoes, old shoes, adult shoes, children's shoes, boots (and yes, even old ski boots and high heels!). Shoes that cannot be used for footwear are ground up and used as roadbed material in third world countries. We'll take 'em all!

Please sign in when you arrive at church and wear your mask. Thanks!



The Link

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” – Fred Rogers

This quote sums up this past year quite well. 2020 came with a lot of uncertainty and fear, yet there were always people looking for ways to help. When COVID began to affect our local community, there was a lot of questions as to what that would mean for The Link and its’ programs (especially when all of the typical fundraising events needed to be cancelled), yet, The Link was able to continue running programs as usual because of the outpouring support that came from our local churches, businesses and community members. It was humbling to see the amounts of people that called, stopped in or sent messages wondering what they could do to help their neighbors.

For Christmas, The Link was able to help provide 80 families with Christmas food baskets and 56 families with gifts! This year, there were 43 families that reached out wanting to “adopt” a family for Christmas which is more than The Link has seen in previous years. There was also \$3800 worth of gift cards donated to help families with food and gifts. Looking at numbers in years past, The Link was able to help more families than usual, despite the fact that more families were facing hardship. It is hard to put into words the gratitude that came from the families that received help- there were a lot of “thank-you’s” and many tears.

In December, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 20 new families, served 76 children, 106 adults and 17 seniors. 4690 pounds of food was distributed and 1839 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches.

The Wildcat Backpack Program continues to deliver to Prairie Meadows Headstart program. There is hope that this program will serve the other schools as soon as there is a new routine established with school re-opening. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

Senior Food Delivery- If you, or someone you know, is interested in hearing more about this program please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Link’s **Client Outreach** program served 11 families in the month of December. There were also some generous donors who wanted to help families experiencing hardship due to COVID. With that, we were able to pay rent for 2 families, make a car payment for another and take care of a medical bill.

There really are no words to express how it felt to feel God’s presence this past year through the kindness of others. There is rarely a day that goes by that someone doesn’t call looking for ways to help, even if they don’t have much.

Tuesday’s Table:

Tuesday’s Table continues to be cancelled until further notice.

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.



February Special Offering Green Lake Bible Camp Scholarships

We are celebrating camp this month! Do you remember going to camp as a child? Would you like to help send a child to camp this summer? It is such a blessing for kids to get away from modern technology and get back to the basics of camp and learning about Jesus Christ. Bible Camp becomes such a special time in their lives that they remember forever and can make life long friends. Along with the possibility of discovering their own calling to work at a camp later. Please help send a child to camp by sending in a special offering to Faith with GLBC scholarship in the memo line. Thank you!





Finding Balance Webinars Free Family Resiliency Webinars 2021

Mental well-being in the midst of isolation: How do we re-energize.

Wednesday, February 24; 10-11 am

Reserve this hour to focus on mental well-being and learn strategies to re-energize during this time of isolation. Register at <https://z.umn.edu/renenergize>

Who gets grandma's yellow pie plate?

Thursday, March 4; noon-1 pm

Learn how you can leave a legacy and manage family relationships while making decisions about your possessions. Register at <https://z.umn.edu/WGGYPP>

Advance care planning: Now more than ever Thursday, March 11; 11 am-noon

If you've been putting off preparing a Minnesota Health Care Directive or need to revisit your preferences given the risk of COVID-19 this webinar is for you. Advance care planning is a gift to yourself and to others. Register at <https://z.umn.edu/ACPMarch>

When it's family:

Financial exploitation of older adults

Wednesday, March 18; 1-2 pm

Learn the facts about elder family financial exploitation (EFFE), a prevalent type of elder abuse, and lessons learned from those who have experienced EFFE. Register at <https://z.umn.edu/whenitsfamily>

For more online programs:

Check out UMN Extension Family News to stay current with information, resources, and programming. Also follow us on Facebook and Twitter @UMNExtFD. To find additional online offerings, visit the University of Minnesota Extension events and courses page.

New to online programs? Our online webinars are offered using Zoom. If you have not used Zoom before, please go online here to learn how: <https://it.umn.edu/services-technologies/how-tos/zoom-join-or-test-audio-video>

- 1) Dianna Erickson, Brian Fredrick, Kira Grotelueschen, Riley Lorensen, Lois Meyer, Patrick Rolighed
- 2) Bev Bahr, Kendra Spillman
- 3) Dean Anfinson, Bonnie Rae Dutchak, Chelsea Eckhoff, Abby Reich, Craig Shuck, Aliza Strand
- 4) Jodi Chastek, Gary Hanson, Eddie Hauer, Paulette Lien
- 5) Gabriel Hoffman, Lyndsey Paffrath-Bice, Brian Paulson
- 6) Palmer Dalton, Austin Holden, Brian McComb
- 7) Jessica Madsen
- 8) Joan Espelien, Collins Kershner, Annie Larson
- 9) Jesse Banks, Jackie Condon, Darlene Lind, Riley Nelson
- 10) Doris Fossen, Kareen Hayden, Jessica Jacobsen, Greta Torison
- 11) Janet Novak, Jake Rooney, Lisa Sampson
- 12) Mari Kooiman, Shari May, Collin Peterson, Claire Verch
- 13) Colton Anfinson, Archer Brown, Lilly Doty, Chris Fellows, Joshua Proehl, Caleb Reich, Brandon Shuck, Joel Steffensen
- 14) Rylee Bice, Loni Bultman, Lynda Manselle, Karen Peters, Sandy Radel, Gary Ruter
- 15) Lindsey Buboltz, Jacob Pederson, Lori Reich
- 16) David Spears
- 17) Lacey Ninow
- 18) Aaron Halvorson, Ethan Haugen, Aaron Peterson
- 19)
- 20) Vanessa Henjum, Diane Hoffman, Charlie Peterson, Watson Peterson, Matthew Robnik
- 21) Josh Boone, Tom Lenz
- 22) Isaiah Klein, Diane Minke, David Schmiedeker, Lindsay Sukalski
- 23) Jessica Eichhorst, Claire Fries, Blaine Goracke, Lolly Jammeh, Blake Shuck, Maurice Thompson
- 24) Mitchell Knight, Patty Kruger, Todd Malchow
- 25) Lachlan Smith
- 26) Harper Hoffman, Averi Prentice
- 27) Paul Carlson, Kerin Christiansen, Kyndal Collins, Hadley Olness
- 28) Heather DeSchepper, Mylo Gjerde, Hayden Klebe, Ron Peterson, Joann Skaalrud, Roger Wig
- 29) Jarl Borresen

March Special Offering - Food Shelf

March is right around the corner and we will once again be doing a March special offering for the Food Shelf. If you are able, please send a check to Faith with Food Shelf in the memo line. Or you can drop off donations in our front entry way. Remember, our new office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00am-4:00pm. Thank you!

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 be closed all day:
February 15 President's Day**

PHONE
320.796.2522

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

Current Worship Times

Sundays at 8:30am

In person Worship.

Sign up on faithspicer.org to attend.

Online services will continue.

Details Inside!

New Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

8:00am-4:00pm

Don't forget to call the church office when:

- ◆ You move and have a change of address
- ◆ Get a new email address
- ◆ You have a baby
- ◆ You or someone in your family is ill
- ◆ You need prayers
- ◆ You want to get married
- ◆ You get a new phone number

We want to make sure we stay in contact with all of you so please let us know. Thank you!