

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



- Rod Paulson
- The Dahl Family
- Lila Burmeister

A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM

February Thanks and Lenten Journey

Welcome to 2024! Thank you to everyone participating in our Annual meeting runup. The reports, the conversations about our mission, and the seeds being planted as we live under God's care are pleasing to me. Special thanks to those who helped in the preparation and publishing of our Annual Report as well. Please pick up a couple at the Welcome center if you have not seen it or look for it online at our website.

Living into 2024 means we will have an early Lenten season with Ash Wednesday being on February 14th. **Our Midweek Lenten Series: You Shall Love the Lord Your God** is centered around **the Shema from Deuteronomy and the encounter between Jesus and the scribe in Mark 12. The following weeks center on how we can love the Lord our God with all our hearts, our souls, our minds, and our strength.**

We hope to incorporate our confirmation class even more in our Lenten series along with continuing our fine worship led by Todd Anderson. One important note – **as part of our Lenten Journey, we will fast from taking communion on Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday until Maundy Thursday of Holy Week.** This is to allow our "hunger" to grow as we walk with Jesus together and reflect upon our hearts, minds, and strength with God.

We continue to pray for those grieving and will be collaborating with our council and staff on future planning during Lent as well.

God be with you!

Pastor Tim (January 2024)

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

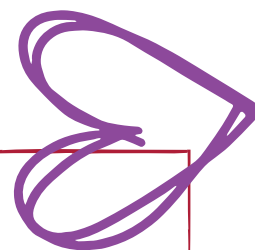


A BIG THANK YOU to all those who came out to give blood for our January Blood Drive! We had a total of **66 donors, 1 first time donor and a total of 63 units of blood was collected.**

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

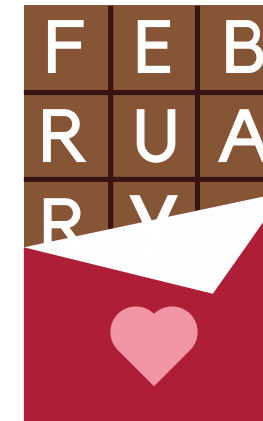
Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran today! If you are a Thrivent member with \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products or have \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars to your favorite non-profits. You can also choose to share the Dollars with multiple non-profits. March 31st, 2024 is the deadline to direct your 2023 Choice Dollars. You may do so by logging into your Thrivent account or contacting your Thrivent representative.

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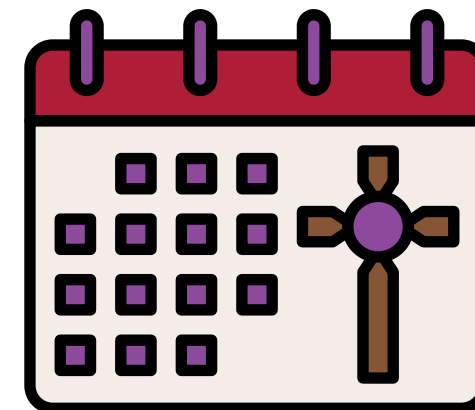
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
310 Medayto Drive
Spicer, MN 56288

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED



Newsletter

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.



THE SEASON OF LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 14

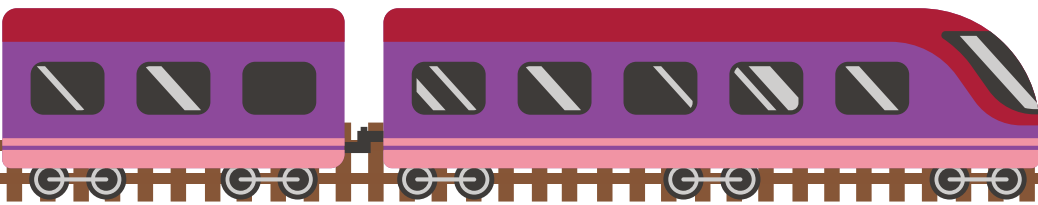
This year, our Lenten journey starts on Wednesday, February 14 with Ash Wednesday. You are invited to join us at 6:00pm for a special Ash Wednesday Service (it will be longer than the normal 30 minute Feast service). The Feast Meal will take place at 5:15pm. There will be no youth programming following the service.



ONLINE DIRECTORY

Faith's new online directory is up and running! All members and associate members should have received an email from the church office with instructions on how to create an account and login to view the directory. If you did not receive this email, please contact the church office and we can help you. Once your account is created, you can access the directory on our website under the WELCOME tab.

If you are willing to have your contact information available on the online directory, please contact the church office (we cannot include you until we get permission).



STEWARDSHIP, GIVING, AND THE THIRD RAIL

A third rail is the high voltage power line that runs along a subway train. It is the one you are warned NOT to touch. It powers the train. But don't touch it. It makes everything go, but if you touch it, it might kill you. Zap! Shock!

For some congregations, the topics of stewardship and giving are the third rail of church work. Even though money and giving empower and enable so much good to happen, many church leaders feel uncomfortable asking for what is needed.

A Bible-Safe Topic

The Bible takes a very healthy and positive approach to the subject of giving. It does not treat the subject as taboo. Instead, it seems to *over-emphasize* it.

- In the Bible, giving is a way to honor God (Malachi 3:10).
- It is an expression of a redeemed life (Matthew 5:24).
- It is a sign of trust and confidence in God; an investment in the future (Luke 6:38).
- Giving helps others in ways that they could not help themselves (Acts 11:29).
- And giving is something that every household in every church is expected to do (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Here are only a few examples of how giving is both seen and, in some cases, celebrated in the Scripture.

- King David's famous prayer before God about giving is a motivational encouragement commending his giving and the generosity of the people. *"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you"* (1 Chronicles 29:12-15).
- God's wisdom highlights generosity in ways that should inspire us. *"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed"* (Proverbs 11:25). Who doesn't want to prosper; who doesn't want refreshment?
- A little-observed fact in the life of Jesus is that he seemed to take an interest in what some people gave and how they gave it. Remember the story of the Widow's Mite? (Luke 21:1-4). Jesus makes it his business to notice not just what people gave but their attitude in giving it.
- The Apostle Paul touches the third rail of church life boldly in his encouragement of the Corinthians. He actually *compares* the pokey-slow pledge payment he's collecting for the believers in Judea with the overwhelming generosity of the Macedonian churches (2 Corinthians 8-9).

- Paul also coaches young Timothy to actually *touch* the third rail on purpose! He tells his young protégé to stand up to the wealthy patrons in Ephesus and warn them about putting their trust in riches (1 Timothy 6).

In the new year unfolding before us, pray that we may be faithful and diligent in our giving to the Lord!

God's Peace,
Rev. Katherine Rood

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP AT CAMP



March 16, 9:00am-4:30pm | Green Lake Bible Camp | ~~\$75 per kid~~ **FREE!**

This is a great option for any kids who couldn't make it to the Fall First Communion Event at Faith. Pastor Tim is planning to attend with the Faith kids who go, and the instruction will be similar to our class in the Fall. [Register at gllm.org/youth-retreats.html](http://gllm.org/youth-retreats.html).

PRESIDENT'S DAY SKI TRIP

One of our most popular trips of the year is back for **grades 6-12 on Monday, February 19!** Join us for a fun day on the slopes at Andes Tower Hills near Alexandria, MN. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center. Please see Quentin with questions!

The cost ranges from \$23 to \$81 based upon needed equipment:

- \$23 Bus Fee (required by all)
- \$8 Helmet Rental (required by everyone unless you bring your own)
- \$10 Lift Ticket
- \$30 Ski Equipment Rental 
- \$40 Snowboard Equipment Rental 

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP AT GLLM

The early bird discount ends on February 15 - \$50 off per registration!

All Faith kids who are attending camp this summer will receive **\$100 off for a full week of camp and \$50 for a half week of camp**. Simply mark Faith Lutheran Church as your congregation during your camp registration, and Faith will send the money to GLLM when we receive the list of kids from Faith attending camp. Additional scholarships are also available for those who need it, simply contact the church office.

PLASTIC BAG COLLECTION BOX

The Spicer Sunrise Lions have dropped off a plastic bag recycling collection box in our east entrance.

BRING IN YOUR: grocery bags, Amazon-type shipping bags, bread bags, plastic wrap, bubble wrap, water softener bags, etc. (about the only thing not to bring is pet food bags)



FROM THE COUNCIL:

January 1-December 31, 2023					
	YTD Budget	2023	2022	Difference	Compared to Budget
Income	716,750.00	556,972.61	550,628.18	6,344.43	(159,777.39)
Expense	716,221.00	573,947.01	602,314.60	(28,367.59)	(142,273.99)
Net Income	529.00	(16,974.40)	(51,686.42)	34,712.02	(17,503.40)
Mortgage Principal TTL	59,373.00	58,423.78	56,729.57	1,694.21	(949.22)
Other Income		1,470.00	100,267.53	(98,797.53)	1,470.00
Net Profit (Loss)	59,902.00	42,919.38	105,310.68	(62,391.30)	(16,982.62)

The other income in 2022 contains preschool payback and ERC funds.

WOMEN, WINE & THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, February 22 @ 6:30pm | 310 5th Ave, Spicer

Join together with some other awesome women for an evening of devotion led by Pastor Katherine and fun fellowship!

QUILTING

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

RACHEL CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, February 22 @ 1:30 - place TBD



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 involvement is pivotal, and we invite you to consider contributing through a one-time donation or becoming a monthly donor. Your support is integral to reaching the goal of our winter appeal, ensuring we can continue our vital work in Kandiyohi County.

We genuinely appreciate your consideration of this request and the impactful support you provide. Your contribution makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children in our community.