

The Forecaster

January
2021

310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288 320.796.2522 faithspicer.org

*"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating."
Isaiah 65:17-18*

Faithful Friends on the Journey,

2020 might be described if we put a positive spin on it as difficult. Some might use other more pointed and harsh words to explain a year that gave us pandemics, racial injustice and unrest, a divisive election, and horrific natural disasters of wildfires, tropical storms and hurricanes. If you are like me, I am sure you are eager to turn the page on the calendar and are praying for a fresh start to 2021.

There are some things we have learned about ourselves and our ministry this past year that will help us move into God's promised and preferred future in 2021.

- We have realized how much we lean upon the grace of God and upon one another. Collectively we have discovered new ways to worship, be it online or outdoors. These opportunities have shown us how much we need the gifts of others in order to faithfully worship God.
- We have discovered a variety of talents and gifts of members of our church family that have been encouraged and engaged creatively in our shared ministry. Thank you to everyone who has tried something new and shared their gifts in our life together.
- We have been reminded of the importance of human connections. Indeed we are weathering this storm together. While we all experienced the past year in different ways, we cannot help but recognize that we have all experienced adversity. The good news is that we have walked with one another through these tough times.
- We have also learned the importance of listening to one another, supporting one another, and of respecting one another.
- We continue to learn important lessons of patience, trust, faith, and partnership.

The scriptures remind us time and time again of God's power and promise to create and re-create. The Prophet Isaiah spoke of the Lord's promise to create a new heaven and new earth, helping us to set aside the brokenness of the past, and look with joy and hope to a new day. And the Apostle Paul proclaimed a promise for each of us, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Friends, I believe God is about to do new and glorious things at Faith Lutheran. May we use the lessons learned this past year to continue to *nurture, inspire, and share the love of Jesus with all people. May God bless you with joy and peace as we venture into this New Year.*

In Christ,
Pastor Todd

Worship & Studies



Faith Lutheran's Annual Meeting will be held virtually on January 31st. During the annual meeting, members of Faith will receive ministry reports, financial updates, be asked to select leadership for 2021-2023, and vote on the 2021 Mission Plan. Please understand we are still in the process of determining the format of this virtual meeting and will inform the congregation on our plans as soon as they are available.

Worship Continues Online

Sundays at 8:30am

Faith Lutheran Church continues to suspended all in-person activities. 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>

Please stay tuned as our Covid Taskforce continues to meet and reassess each month.

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 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>.



Guys on The Go - Home Edition

Pastor Todd will be hosting a Guys on the Go Men's Bible Study on-line beginning Tuesday morning, January 5th at 6:30am. This study will be held over Zoom and use 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.

Thursday Online Bible Study

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86009683604?pwd=Vkt1SEV3eFICaGFTZXVrMDdkRTIPZz09)

[pwd=Vkt1SEV3eFICaGFTZXVrMDdkRTIPZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86009683604?pwd=Vkt1SEV3eFICaGFTZXVrMDdkRTIPZz09)

Meeting ID: 860 0968 3604

Password: 514395

Virtual Bible Study

Join us via Zoom conference call
on your computer or phone





We Have a Hospitality Team!

This past November, some dedicated members joined forces to form our new Hospitality Team! This team has come up with many great ideas to keep our Faith community feeling connected to one another, even when we're apart. In November, the Hospitality Team assembled and delivered Thanksgiving treat bags to several of our members who live alone. In December, they organized a drive-through event to view our nativity set, listen to Christmas carolers, and receive a family Advent devotional kit. They are also responsible for our Faith Connections card kits, encouraging members to write notes to our members who are homebound or in care facilities, and they have revived the ministry of making and delivering meals to those who have welcomed a newborn into their family. If you would like to be part of this amazing and very important ministry of our church, or you're interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Seyward at: seywarda@faithspicer.org.

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!



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.



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.

Need something new for 2021?

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!

Please pray for...

Jerry and Margaret Saetveit at the death of Jerry's brother, Phil
Mike Lien
Al Rohman
Phil Scheevel
Kathy Quam
Ed Norby
Arlys Winkelman

Deaths

Ernest Erickson
Florence Wangen
Leland Kallevig

Church News

Mission Plan for 2020: \$702,500

November

Income	\$588,058.20
Expense	\$582,842.33
Net Income	\$5,215.87
Grant Income PPP	\$72,309.31
Other Income/Exp	\$46,213.75
Net Profit (loss)	\$123,738.93

Faith Lutheran's PPP Loan Forgiveness application was approved in full! This means we will not have to pay any of the loan back. Those funds are reflected in the Grant Income (PPP) line.

Council Notes

- Terms of three council members will come to a close in January of 2021. We are looking for people who are willing to accept a 3 year term and represent our congregation. Please submit your nominations to a council members, Pastor Todd or Pastor Seyward.
- Council is working on restructuring and reviewing policies of our endowments. We have had a number of people step forward to be a part of this committee but would like to have a couple more names added to this list. Please let us know if you would be interested in being a part of this team.
- The Mission Planning Team gave a thorough overview and is finalizing the budget for 2021.

Thank You

Thank you so very much for the bag of goodies that I received. It was a day brightener and included the extra treat of seeing and visiting with Anna. It feels good to be part of a congregation that reaches out to others. Thanks!

Marlene Vossen

I want to thank you for the Thanksgiving "cheer" bag I received. The nicest family delivered a goodie bag which I have and will enjoy. Thank you!

Doreen DeVos

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the very nice bag of Thanksgiving goodies. That was so thoughtful of my Faith "friends"!

Sincerely and with God's blessings, Arlys Ousman

I want to thank Faith Friends for the nice gift I received Wednesday before Thanksgiving for me to eat and enjoy and to get the preschool children involved in this ministry. I love doing Word Search when I am watching TV. I love the Lord and he gives me better health each day as I recover. Thank you again.

Marlys Jacobson

Thank you to everyone who built our outdoor nativity scene. And to all those who helped decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Your time and effort never goes unnoticed. Thank you so much!

Receiving your gift was an absolute blessing! We are completely blown away by your generosity and dedication to this ministry! Thank you for your incredible gift of \$5,697.54! Your gift will do so much more than keep our lights on - it's a gift that will change lives and impact so many campers and their families. We're so thankful for your partnership in ministry. Thank you!

Travis Aufderheide - Executive Director Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

Who's Who

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 is moving through this Covid-19 Pandemic as best as possible. A couple of staff and half of our enrollment have had to quarantine at different times but we are able to continue to stay open and are so thankful for the support of our parents and church staff. It takes a village....

December is always the month filled with excitement for the coming of our Savior! We put our Christmas concert on our Facebook page so we hope everyone enjoyed our singing about the excitement of the stable that held the most wonderful birth.

In January, we have our annual frozen Lake Praise set up in our dramatic play area for ice fishing and skating. We have 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!

One of our favorite winter activities is to watch the variety of birds and animals that make use of our bird feeders out our back windows. We keep a list of all the ones that we see each year. It's amazing how the children will see a new bird and are able then to find it in our Minnesota Bird Book. We have binoculars hanging by our windows for the children to use at their choice.

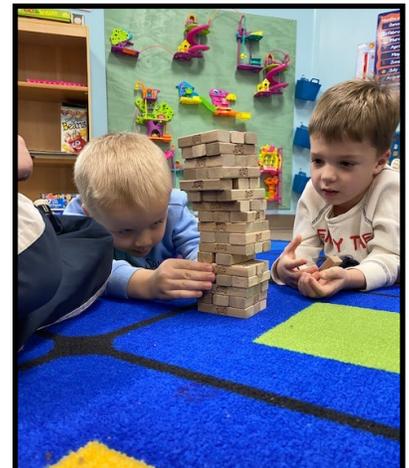
Through the State of Minnesota, we have been blessed with three months of Covid grant dollars to use as needed to keep us open and safe during Covid. There is talk that they may extend this for another three months. Blessed to live in a state that sees the importance of early childhood during this time.

During the winter months our Bible stories revolve around the life of Jesus while he walked on Earth. The children love going to Chapel. A great way to share the importance of worship as a group in the sanctuary. This year we have amazing praise voices when singing. It warms my heart to hear!



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

Sunday School Continues Online

Check us out on Facebook and You tube for our Online Sunday School lesson! Our January supply bags will be available for a no-contact pickup outside of the church by door #7, near the front. See picture.

Lesson dates are:

- ⇒ January 10
- ⇒ January 17
- ⇒ January 24
- ⇒ January 31



Confirmation Continues Online

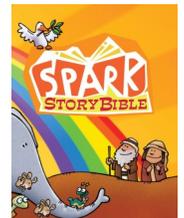
Faith Lutheran Confirmation continues **online instruction** and will resume lessons on January 6. Check your email inboxes for the lessons. If you have not received any lessons, please contact James Lucas at education@faithspicer.org. We plan to utilize this online approach and schedule until further notice. Below is a schedule for January.

- ◆ 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.

Caterpillar Class and Families

Typically in January we hand out these Spark Story Book Bibles to our 3 year olds. This year will be a bit different. Please stay tuned for further updates on when we will do this. We will contact families soon with a plan.



Faith Lutheran Church and Youth,

WOW! Thank you so much for your generous support of Bethesda Foundations Sweetest Christmas Soiree event. Because of your generous gift of cookies we were able to raise just over \$5,000 to support COVID-19 response efforts at Bethesda all while spreading the joy of Christmas with our residents, tenants and staff.

Many families called and requested your decorated cookies be delivered to their loved ones at Bethesda.

Thank you! We are incredibly grateful. We wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Joyfully, Caroline and the Bethesda Foundation



FAMILY PROMISE - INVEST IN THE CHILDREN - WINTER FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Our campaign this year is INVEST IN THE CHILDREN. We invite you to INVEST in our children as we enter our Winter Fundraising Drive. Now through February 28, 2021 we are looking for a team of investors of which includes you, your community partners and volunteers as our community is in a pivotal time. Families have sought assistance from Family Promise this year in significantly higher numbers; seeking shelter, food, and help in getting back on their feet. We have humbly been taught through the children that walk through our doors, they are the ones that bear the burden of poverty and homelessness.



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 to get our drive started. You can invest through our website <http://www.familypromiseofkc.org/donate/>

Or you can contribute through Faith Lutheran or by sending funds directly to us:

Missionary Update

I know that this holiday season will be unlike any other, with many of the usual celebrations and gatherings cancelled because of Covid-19. As cases surge in the upper Midwest, you are all in our prayers. I hope that you will stay safe and find meaningful ways to celebrate in spite the difficult circumstances.



Here in Cameroon, it seems we have been spared, so far, the high infection rates current in the United States. For the sake of comparison, there have been about 900 cases per million population in Cameroon, whereas in the U.S. it is over 40,000 per million population (www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries). I will leave it to experts to explain why that is the case and simply say that I am very grateful that infection rates are not so high here. Hospitals would be very quickly overwhelmed if the situation were anything like that in the U.S.

At the Lutheran Institute of Theology, we were able to start the 2020-2021 academic year on schedule at the beginning of October. Our total number of students is around 50 as usual, but what is new this year is that we have seven female students – an all-time high! The first semester is progressing well.

David and Etienne began kindergarten in October. On November 6, their school held a “graduation” ceremony for those who had finished preschool and were starting primary school, a ceremony that had been postponed since June because of the pandemic. They were very proud to wear their caps and gowns! More importantly, they are enjoying being back in school and learning lots every day.

That is all for now. I pray that the season of Advent and the expectation of our coming Savior will bring you hope and peace.

+ Grace and peace +

Elisabeth (with Eric, Schekina, David, and Etienne)

elisajo@msn.com /mailing address : Lutheran Institute of Theology, B.P. 9, Meiganga, Cameroon

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

December 2020 Updates

Christmas is definitely upon us here at The Link! We have been extremely busy with people reaching out, not only looking for help, but offering to help those in need. There has been many food and gift donations, monetary donations and families wanting to shop for other families to ensure children have something to open on Christmas. The staff and volunteers have spent many hours serving families, taking donations and organizing Christmas Joy. Seeing the giving spirit definitely reminds us what Christmas is all about and makes us excited to be a part of such a compassionate and God serving community.

For Thanksgiving, The Link was able to help provide 116 families and 503 individuals with Thanksgiving meals thanks to those who donated money to help us purchase baskets and those who shopped themselves. There were a lot of people that were able to save a trip to the grocery store in these uncertain times thanks to these food baskets and everyone who picked up expressed extreme gratitude.

In November, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 14 new families, served 41 children, 79 adults and 21 seniors. 3960 pounds of food was distributed and 1688 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. The Food Pantry has been busier this past month than it has been since March. We have seen an increased need for food and more and more new families calling to sign up for services.

The Wildcat Backpack Program continues to serve the kids in the Headstart program at Prairie Meadows. When school opens back up in January, we hope to find a plan that works well with all the schools in getting food delivered. 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 8 families in the month of November by helping with medical bills, utility bills and rental payments. This program also connected families with needed appliances and furniture as well as financial resources outside of The Link to help with bigger bills and necessities. There has also been a lot of referrals to The Hope Care Pantry over the past month for people in need of hygiene items, toiletries and other household essentials as well.

As always, a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has reached out to help in any way, to those who have donated food and/or monetarily and to those who have prayed for and with us here at The Link! God is working in many wonderful ways this holiday season and we are grateful to serve such an amazing community and an even more amazing God! Merry Christmas and God Bless!

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.

January Special Offering - Tuesday's Table

It's been a while since we've had our free community meal called Tuesday's Table BUT it will happen again and we need to be ready! We have dedicated our special offering for the month of January to this ministry. If you are able to help contribute please send any checks into Faith with Tuesday's Table in the memo line. Thank you!





Faith Pulls Together During the Holidays

- 1) Matt Bisek, Deric DeSchepper, Judy Lundeen, Rodney Paulson
- 2) Natalie Boone, Dean Gylten, Brody Lien
- 3) Hayden Downey, Colton Kriese, Rick Negen
- 4) Tom Beyer, Rachel Mitchell, Brennan Reich
- 5) Ian Carlson, Jason Eisenbacher, Makenzie Erickson, Ava Hauer, Eli Haugen, Kari Kuehneman, Anita Lewison, Ed Rauk, Grace Toutges, Nathan Verch
- 6) Derek Doty, Ashley Holien, Ramona Keller, Lenore Schaffnit
- 7) Keith Nelson, Norma Wacholz
- 8) Dylon Hunter, Molly Olson, Corey Strom, Jamie Swenson
- 9) Ruth Fairchild, Lily Verch
- 10) Lloyd Hoekstra, Aidan Paulson
- 11) Jonathan Wessels
- 12) Ashley Baker, Richard Ford, Emmanuel Lopez, Marlo Lopez, Harper Olness, Kinley Olson, Emma Solsrud
- 13) Mary Larsen
- 14) Denise Gjerde, Tom Groth, Ellie Hanson, Kirsten Palan, Gary Swanson
- 15) Wyatt Debner, Lola Mitchell, Lilly Prentice, Roger Radel, Sarah Vauk
- 16) Dick Ladwig, Chris Rueckert, Jared Swenson
- 17) Cheryl DeZeeuw, Nathan Klaers, Kellie Prentice, Mark Thompson, Jeff Vetsch
- 18) Caleb Louwagie, Derrick Nieland, Robert Sogge
- 19) David Eliason, Brooke Lien, Sharon Willen
- 20) Dee Dee Hanson, Marlys Jacobson
- 21) Debbie Hoekstra, Jacob Reich, Susan Rime, Jody Wharton
- 22) Michelle Revermann
- 23) Gavin Degner, Christopher Isdal, Elmer Mead, Nicole Pederson
- 24) Brianna Fredrick, Bri Johnson, Lincoln Pederson
- 25) Gayle Kass, Elin Kriese, Alicia Larsen, Jeremy Pfeifer
- 26) Loretta Fenske, Gail Johnson, Dean Madsen, Lauren Marquardt, Jack Noeldner, Amanda Steffensen
- 27) Sara Goebel, Steve Hunt, Linda Lucas, Linda Stai
- 28) Johanna Asche, Phil Quam
- 29) Kathy Anderson, Kory Klebe, Karen Peterson, Ella Quale, Logan Schaaf
- 30) Andrea Bloedel, Geri Brandt, Jeni Gafkjin, Kodi Goracke, Janet Johnson, Sam Nelson
- 31) Steve Brisendine, Watson Hood, Cal Knudsen, Cynthia Mathisen



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:
January 1**

PHONE
320.796.2522

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

Current Worship Times

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

Details Inside!

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!