

## ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE!

Faith's Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 26, 2025** following the 9:00am service. We would love to have as many members attend as possible! The nursery will be staffed and Sunday School kids will be watching a movie. All committee reports are due by Tuesday, January 7 to the church office.

## NEXT ADULT FORUM - JANUARY 12

Join us on **Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10:00am** after worship for our next Adult Forum with Jason Burnett, Executive Director of Family Promise. We will be learning all about Family Promise and how we can help support their amazing ministry!

## 6th - 12th GRADE EVENTS:

### MALL OF AMERICA YOUTH TRIP

It's time for our annual 9-12 grade retreat to the Mall of America on **Saturday January 4th and 5th!** On Saturday we'll travel to the Twin Cities for a day at the Mall of America with shopping and a group game of laser tag. Saturday evening we will stay at an area host church before joining them for Worship on Sunday. We'll be back in NL-S early Sunday afternoon. The cost is \$75 and includes transportation, laser tag, and meals.

### JANUARY LYF EVENT: THE AMAZING GRACE

Our 9-12 grade LYF Event for January will be a race around Spicer similar to the gameshow "The Amazing Race". On **Wednesday, January 8**, we'll meet at Faith Lutheran at 7:30pm to form teams and then form teams lead by adult drivers to go around the Spicer area and complete tasks and challenges. It's sure to be a fun night!

### 3RD HALF AT PEACE

Winter is here, and so is our winter version of 5th Quarter! Students in grades 6-8 are invited to join Quentin at Peace on three Fridays this basketball season after doubleheader games. We'll have snacks, open gym, and large group games from 9pm-11pm on Dec. 13, **Jan. 10th, & Jan. 31st**. Friends are always welcome! Additional adults are needed to help supervise these nights.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, January 27 @ 12:00-6:00pm - Sign up at [redcrossblood.com](http://redcrossblood.com)

### QUILTING

January 13 & 14 & January 27 & 28, 9:00am-3:00pm

### RACHEL CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, January 16 at 1:30 pm at the home of Arlys Ousman.

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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
310 Medayto Drive  
Spicer, MN 56288  
ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED



## NEWSLETTER

**Website:** [faithspicer.org](http://faithspicer.org)

**Email:** [office@faithspicer.org](mailto:office@faithspicer.org)

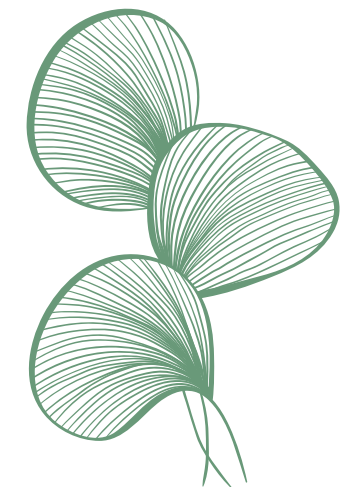
**Address:** 310 Medayto Drive, Spicer, MN 56288

**Phone:** 320.796.2522

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules  
The work of Christmas begins:

To welcome the refugee,  
To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people,  
To bring Christ's light to the world.



- by Michael Dougherty, a variation on Howard Thurman's 'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled'  
<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/new-years-prayers>

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

**On Sunday, January 5**, we will be holding a New Member Orientation at 10:00am following the 9:00am worship.

## NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

**On Sunday, January 19**, we will be having New Member Sunday to welcome those who wish to join our Faith family!

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining, please reach out to the church office at [office@faithspicer.org](mailto:office@faithspicer.org) or 320-796-2522 and we will coordinate a time to meet with you!

## A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM: Thanks and Prayers

Happy New Year everyone! Wherever God finds you today, may it be a blessing!

I want to start this New Year by giving thanks to our staff and volunteers at Faith. When you have large events like our worship on Christmas Eve, it takes a ton of help to decorate, assist in worship, and plan for guests. Thank you to all! Our church looks great, and our worship was blessed. I hope your time with your family was a blessing. There were surprises and gift sharing in my family as well.

As the calendar turns to 2025, I want to mark the closing of Praise and Play Daycare and Preschool on our property on December 31st, 2024. I am grieving this event even though the church was landlord of the space and not owner of the ministry...

The council is looking for your help in planning the future for the space with our community. We will be setting up a short-term task force to review what is possible and give recommendations to the council. If you are interested in helping with that, please contact me or a council member.

This month at church we will have a new member class and our annual meeting. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. We will also welcome the new director of Family Promise of Willmar for an Adult Forum.

Lastly, please keep your staff and pastors in prayer! Some will be on vacation early in the month and some are fighting illness. We are thankful to serve God with you!

God be with you!  
Pastor Tim

## CHRISTMAS 2024



## JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: SAFE AVENUES

Safe Avenues provides domestic and sexual violence victim advocacy services throughout a five county area in Southwestern Minnesota. Safe Avenues is home to the only emergency safe shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence in 18 counties in the Southwestern corner of Minnesota. Harmony Visitation Center, a program of Safe Avenues, is the only agency to provide parenting time services within a 50 mile radius of Kandiyohi County.

January 1-November 30, 2024					
	YTD Budget	2024	2023	Difference	Compared to Budget
<b>Income</b>	564,741.84	512,896.51	474,593.17	38,303.34	(51,845.33)
<b>Expense</b>	562,186.18	568,319.24	511,814.38	56,504.86	6,133.06
<b>Net Income</b>	2,555.66	(55,422.73)	(37,221.21)	(18,201.52)	(57,978.39)
Mortgage Principal TTL	54,490.33	57,875.46	53,558.27	4,317.19	3,385.13
<b>Other Income</b>			1,470.00	(1,470.00)	0.00
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	57,045.99	2,452.73	17,807.06	(15,354.33)	(54,593.26)

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

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR KATHERINE: Trusting God

Tony Campolo tells of being invited to speak at a ladies meeting. There were 300 women there. Before he spoke the president of the organization read a letter from a missionary. It was a very moving letter. In the letter the missionary expressed a need for \$4,000 to take care of an emergency that had cropped up.

So the president of the organization said, "We need to pray that God will provide the resources to meet the need of this missionary. Brother Campolo, will you please pray for us?" Tony Campolo, who is very outspoken said, "No."

Startled, she said, "I beg your pardon!"

He said, "No, I won't pray for that, I believe that God has already provided the resources and that all we need to do is give. Tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to step up to this table and give every bit of cash I have with me. If all of you will do the same thing, I think we'll see that God has already provided the resources."

The president of the organization chuckled a little bit and said, "Well, I guess we get the point. He is trying to teach us that we all need

to give sacrificially." Campolo said, "No, that is not what I am trying to teach you. I'm trying to teach you that God has already provided for this missionary. All we need to do is give it." So he emptied his pockets and then looked at the president of the organization. Reluctantly, she opened her purse and took out all of her money, which was about \$40, and put it on the table. One by one the rest of the ladies filed by and put their money on the table, too. When the money was counted they had collected more than \$4,000."

Tony Campolo said, "Now, here's the lesson. God always supplies for our needs, and he supplied for this missionary, too. The only problem was we were keeping it for ourselves. Now let's pray and thank God for His provision."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We have had an amazing year at Faith Lutheran and I'm honored to have had a small part in our Gospel Mission. BUT...friends there is still work TO DO!

Your church leaders are digging deep to discern God's Vision for what lies ahead at Faith Lutheran. Identifying what our Mission Field is – is an endeavor to be undertaken every 3-5 years, depending on changing needs, and absolutely we are PRAYING! We can't know God's will without communicating with God – and THEN, ACTION that is Spirit driven can follow! BUT, my friends, here is where WE are stuck, at least the majority of us. Did you know that in any congregation the ledger of financial giving reveals that 60%+ of membership contributes \$0 annually?! It's true here as well, which makes actively partnering in God's will, calling a new Pastor (Deacon), or growing our mission, beyond reach.

Our membership has *wonderful* ideas about new ministries, worship styles and faith opportunities, but these all require *additional* financial support! Of course, we have many generous members who give of their time, talent and finances regularly!! And we thank you!! However, 20% of the membership cannot carry the ministry alone nor should they. To move forward, that needs to change!! We need YOU, EVERYONE, because every contribution, great or small can move the needle!

As 2025 opens before us, the possibilities are endless! Will **WE** step up to the table, trust Gods' future for us, and give what God has already provided for Christ's mission in this time and place? A leap of faith, beloved friends, is what God desires, so we might fully receive the LIFE God wills for us and ALL people!

**On a Personal Note:** "Thank You" to Pastor Tim Routh for his partnership and to all the staff who labor in love to share the Gospel at Faith. "Thank You" to our musicians and vocalists for their celebrative sharing of the Good News! "Thank You" to all who sent greetings, prayed for, and gifted Les and I this Christmas Season, we are humbled and delighted in partnering with you! "Thank You" to all who participated in our art projects for Christmas and all the behind the scene folks who made it happen! God bless you all!

God's Peace,  
Rev. Katherine Rood