

A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM: Generational Hope

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers. (Psalm 24:1-2)

LORD, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations. (Psalm 90:1)



I have great fondness in the fall when our church returns with Sunday School and our Wednesday evening Feast services commence. Perhaps you find joy in seeing the kids back at school as well? This fall we will have Bishop Jon Anderson, and others join us in Adult Forum settings - speaking to us about what God is up to in the world.

For the Psalmist, this world is God’s because God created it. When we recognize this, our heart gives thanks because we do not control everything. God handles the big things. God is our final dwelling place even as the generations pass in front of our eyes.

There are things to do of course - like blessing and hugging our children - celebrating the days we have together. But when we trust in God our fretting can be lessoned and our hope renewed. If that sounds appealing to you, please join us for our outdoor worship on the 8th of September and look for the notices of visitors joining us to learn about God’s work in this world.

We have a lot to celebrate around here! Blessings to you!

Pastor Tim (Labor Day 2024)

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: Last Sunday out at the GLLM Stave Chapel

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4: Confirmation Orientation

- 6th-8th grade at 6:00pm, 9th grade at 7:00pm
- Choir rehearsals start up for the year at 6:45pm

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6, 20 & OCT. 4: 5th Quarter at Peace

- For grades 6-8, join in the fun following the Varsity Football Game. There will be snacks and games before heading home at 11:00pm.

RALLY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: Back to one service at Faith - 9:00am

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: THE FEAST STARTS BACK UP

- Feast Meal at 5:15pm and Feast Worship at 6:00pm
- Seeds + Sprouts and 6th-8th grade Confirmation at 6:35pm
- Choir Rehearsal at 6:45pm, LYF High School Group at 7:30pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: Adult Forum led by Bishop Jon Anderson

- Following the 9:00am worship service

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17: MEA Paintball Trip!

- For grades 6-12, cost is \$35

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26: Save the date for the **LUTEFISK OPENER!**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27: 9th Grade Confirmation Sunday

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

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



September Newsletter

Website: faithspicer.org

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Address: 310 Medayto Drive, Spicer

Phone: 320.796.2522

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs

8:00am - 4:00pm



RALLY SUNDAY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 9:00AM



We will have an **OUTDOOR WORSHIP** at Faith’s amphitheater with the new pergola! During worship, there will be:



- Blessing of the Backpacks (so make sure to bring yours!). You’ll get a keychain to put on it for the year!



- Commissioning of this year’s Sunday School teachers as they get ready for another year of ministry!



- Presentation of 3yr old and 3rd/4th grade Bibles! (If your 3rd OR 4th grader hasn’t received an NRSV Bible yet, this is for you!)

Following worship, we will have coffee and treats, a **BOUNCE HOUSE**, and fun activities for the whole family!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Join Pastor Tim on **Saturday, October 12 from 9:00am -12:00pm** for Faith's First Communion Class to learn all about communion! For any age (parents, if you feel like your child is ready to learn about communion and participate, all are welcome!). Parents AND children should attend. **Kids will participate in Communion on Sunday, November 3.**



FALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Registrations are now open for 2024-2025 Sunday School, Seeds+Sprouts and 6th-8th Grade Confirmation! Go to our website: faithspicer.org and click on the CHILDREN/YOUTH tab to register today! You can also check out upcoming youth events.

UNWRAPPING GENEROSITY

Over the last 20 years, our piety around stewardship has evolved. Two decades ago, most folks in the pews and most stewardship leaders thought of stewardship as the annual campaign to raise money for next year’s congregational budget. Learning from our secular counterparts who’ve been talking about stewardship more broadly, stewardship leaders have started imagining what year-round stewardship looks like, and loosening the grip of stewardship rhetoric that sounds strictly financial.

These conversations should cover more ground than square one rolling out in the fall, deciding how much to give to a congregation as the year draws to a close. Stewardship is an orientation toward life, our task is twofold: form a “steward” identity and inspire generosity.

Identity Formation: Baptized → Disciple → Steward

There is a growth curve for people of faith; like branches on the vine, in our Christian context that growth is nourished and guided by Jesus. How does Jesus’ message of justice and mercy impact our daily decision-making about how we live, interact, vote, and budget? The budgeting decisions are not just about money and should be informed by both generosity, responsibility, and humble questioning. What percentage of the resources entrusted to me will I share with the neighbor (in the broadest sense of that term) for the sake of bringing the world closer to God’s vision of sufficiency for all? What does it mean to recognize the planet itself as a participant in and recipient of that sufficiency?

How can we frame the work of our congregation from this mission lens? And how do we best empower one another to both ask and answer the enormous question; ***how much is enough?***

Inspiring Generosity

Flowing out of identity-work, we build the characteristic of generosity in general. As with every area of ministry, listening is an important dimension of steward identity-formation, and in order to listen, sometimes we must first ask. Hearing one another’s stories and deepening our relationships draws us together in ways that inspire a caring generosity.

There are many G-words in the English-speaking church world; ***God, Good, Glory, Giving.*** But in the work of stewardship and congregation maintenance, peering closely at budgets and the results of giving campaigns, squinting at the numbers can obscure ***the bigger “G”s of Grace and Gratitude.*** Together, we can uncover the grace of God and respond with appreciation and generosity – the underpinning of all stewardship work.

In the early church, people banded together out of necessity for safety, encouragement, and to be spiritually fed. They wouldn’t have imagined going out to share the Gospel without first being strengthened and accompanied on the journey. Relationships with Christ and others were, and still are today, the key element of discipleship. In fact, Jesus made a point of calling his disciples “friends”, because he intentionally made known to them all that the Father had given to him.

Remembering who we are, our shared identity in Christ through the waters of Baptism, helps us receive the greatest gift of all, Life and Salvation in Jesus’ name. How can we not want to share that good news and do everything in our power to live generously, giving as we ourselves have freely received?! Stewarding the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our privilege and highest calling. Indeed, what will we give in response to the outrageous generosity of God who counted no cost too great that we may have eternal life, now and forever? ***Answer: Everything we have and are!***

More Mission Opportunities...

Faith Lutheran’s “*Wine, Women, & the Word*” has, among other things, been discussing the impact of AI, digital, and social media on children, which led to a decision to read a book by Jonathan Haidt, titled, “*The Anxious Generation*”. I encourage everyone and anyone who might care to join the conversation to purchase a copy of this excellent, readable, interdisciplinary work and consider joining us in September. **Who should read it?** Church Leaders, Teachers, Parents, Grandparents, Clergy and anyone who interacts regularly with youth. There are no reading assignments or requirements, just start reading, note your questions or observations and join the conversation! Stay tuned for the location (we meet in homes), date, and time of our gathering. PS: Hosts appreciate folks signing up online or directly contacting them to best accommodate everyone.

God’s Peace, Rev. Katherine Rood

SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH: FREEZER MEALS MINISTRY PROGRAM

This is a creative ministry here at Faith Lutheran Church! Every few months, a group gets together to make 4 different delicious meals. Participants get to take home one of each of these meals for their families to enjoy back home, and extra meals are made to be given out for Faith visitation and support visits. These wonderful meals help spread God's love through food!

Fall Parish Arts Fun: Four Options for YOU!

The Parish Arts Team has been hard at work preparing engaging activities for Fall fellowship for all.

How have you seen God this summer?

We want you –**yes YOU**, to exercise your creativity and fill our display case with imagery/visual art that speaks to how you encounter God at work in the world, how you feel God’s divine presence or places that feel steeped in the Holy Spirit to you. Submissions can be any medium: photography, painting, woodwork, textiles, beadwork, needlepoint, the sky is the limit (literally). We simply ask that your artwork is ready to hang in our display upon submission. Submissions can be dropped off at the Welcome Center. **Submit no later than Oct. 1 (we are taking submissions beginning Sept. 1).**

Diamond Dotz Project

All are invited to help create a beautiful nativity scene to grace our gathering area this Christmas. Keep your eye out for this fun, ongoing project for all ages beginning Rally Sunday.

Advent Mural

As requested, the Parish Arts team has been busy collaborating with members on a new, seasonal mural for our Sanctuary. Please watch for how you can be involved in the coming weeks, we will need many hands for this guided painting project. Stay tuned!

Prayer Wall

A reminder that our prayer wall is located just outside the Sanctuary doors. All are encouraged to jot down silent prayer requests, concerns, exaltations of joy or whatever is on your heart. This can be a lovely, private way of silently offering up our petitions to God. Slips of paper and writing utensils are provided

JOIN FAITH’S CHANCEL CHOIR!

Are you hoping to find a creative outlet or an uplifting new community in the upcoming school year? Join Faith’s Chancel Choir! **We will begin rehearsal on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:45pm.**

Unable to join for the entire season? That’s no problem! We’d love to have you join us as much or as little as what works for your schedule. Check out our calendar and simply attend the rehearsals and Sundays that work for you. Uncomfortable with your singing voice? That’s the beauty of singing in a choir. Individual voices blend together and make a wonderful combined sound. No solo singing necessary! If voice lessons would help you feel more comfortable, reach out to Katherine Ragan. We hope you’ll consider making music with us! Contact Katherine Ragan at kragan@faithspicer.org.

Quilting starts back up for the season:

Sept. 9 & 10, 9:00am-3:00pm, Sept. 23 & 24, 9:00am-3:00pm

Rachel Circle Bible Study:

Sept. 26 at 1:30 pm at the home of Sandy George - All are welcome!

STAFFING UPDATE

Starting mid-September, Tina, our Office Administrator, will be going down to 4 days a week. She will still be in the office Monday - Thursday, so you won’t notice too much of a change! She will be starting a 2 year internship with her church in Atwater to complete her training to become a Deacon in the ELCA.

WELCOME JULIE KNUTSON TO THE FAITH STAFF!! We are so excited to share that Julie is our new Education Coordinator and will be working with Pastor Tim and the Education Committee to help make sure our education programs here at Faith continue to thrive!

January 1, 2024 - JULY 31, 2024					
	YTD Budget	2024	2023	Difference	Compared to Budget
Income	359,381.20	326,310.12	283,725.63	42,584.49	(33,071.08)
Expense	357,754.90	366,219.29	323,861.50	42,357.79	8,464.39
Net Income	1,626.30	(39,909.17)	(40,135.87)	226.70	(41,535.47)
Mortgage Principal TTL	34,675.65	37,874.66	34,446.72	3,427.94	3,199.01
Other Income			1,470.00	(1,470.00)	0.00
Net Profit (Loss)	36,301.95	(2,034.51)	(4,219.15)	2,184.64	(38,336.46)

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