

LETTER OF FAITH

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2024

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH



Over the next few months, Pastor Emmy will be reflecting on the four core values of Faith Lutheran Church in her monthly reflections. These core values were identified by congregation leadership in 2023 and shape our current ministry.

Faith Lutheran Church Value: **Centered in Jesus**

- + We are rooted in the Holy Scriptures and attentive to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- + We trust that Jesus meets us as we are and leads us into new possibilities.
- + We continue the mission of sharing Jesus' love in the world today.

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

I know that you love Jesus. I see it in your commitment to showing up for worship (in person & online). I see it in the prayers you offer for one another. I see it in your desire for your kids to know the stories of Jesus. I see it in your own commitments to study scripture and read devotions. I see it in the love you share, as you live out your faith in your daily lives.

As we gather on Sunday mornings, I marvel at how Jesus brings us together. In church, the young and old and middle age come together. In church, the so called "left" and "right" and the in the middle find a common ground. In church, long time friends and new acquaintances find connection. This all happens, not because of who we are, but because of Jesus. The love of Jesus is what draws us together, making us into the body of Christ in the world today.

As your pastor, it is my number one prayer that we be centered in Jesus Christ. There are many powers in this world (both good and not-so-good) that can pull us in all sorts of directions. Yet, it is Jesus Christ, who is our beginning and ending. As Revelation 1:0, reminds us: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

This month, we will continue to share in the holy days of Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Through worship and prayer, we open our hearts to God's compassion. In Jesus, God promises that we are never alone and not even death itself can put an end to God's love. When our ministry is centered in this good news, God makes possible things beyond our wildest dreams. Let's continue in the way of Jesus and his love!

Grace and peace to you,
-Pastor Emmy

Faith Lutheran Church

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Morris, MN 56267

320-589-2970

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Pastor Emmy Swedlund

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Office Manager Connie Tschetter

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Youth Director of Fusion Ministry

Heather Black

www.fusion-ministry.com

Pianist Rita Lambert

Director of Music John Kleinwolterink

Website Anne Mittness

Custodians Cassie & Ryan Snyder

Faith Lutheran Mission Statement:

*"Faith Lutheran is a
community of believers
living out our faith in
daily life."*

Council Members:

Zach Arnold

Jason Breuer

Vicky Dossdall

Molly Fluegel

Brent Gausman

Chris Hopkins

Lynnae Lina—President

Jenny Maras

Eric Meichsner

Mike Nordquist—Vice President

Nancy Olson

Amy Swanson—Treasurer

OPEN Our Hearts

Lent 2024

2 Churches. 2 Worship Times.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." -Psalm 51:10

First & Faith Lutheran Churches are partnering for 2024 mid-week Lenten Services. Join us at a time that works for you, to enrich your spirit this season. May God open our hearts!

HOLY LAMENT

Worship Wednesdays March 6, 13, and 20

12:05 pm at First Lutheran Church

We'll explore various kinds of lament found in scripture. We'll consider what it means to open our hearts, and be honest with God about our grief rather than push it aside. We will remember that God can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. Weekly themes are: March 6—Laments from the Depths, March 13—Individual Lament, March 20—Communal Lament. Join Pastor Emmy for this meaningful time of reflection. The plan is for Holden Prayer to be our liturgy.

THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

5:15 pm Supper is served (free will donation),

6:30 pm Worship

Through dramas, our youth will help us explore how some familiar games we've all played, can lead us to reflect on our spiritual life. Are our hearts really open to God? Weekly themes: March 6—Follow the Leader—We're lost without a leader, but how do we know which one

to follow?; March 13—King of the Hill—Would you do anything to get to the top?; March 20—Twenty Questions—Bringing our questions to God. Holden Prayer will be our liturgy.

Thank you for your generosity.

- Thanks to you, our building has been available for West Central Minnesota Communities Action to use for free tax preparation.
- Thanks to you, we get to gather on Wednesday nights for meals and worship.
- Thanks to you, our Sunday School children continue to learn great stories from the Bible.
- Thanks to you, residents at West Wind Village, Legacy, and Skyview shared in worship, without having to leave their buildings.
- Thanks to you, Someplace Safe has been available to provide support for people in need in our community.

Your regular and ongoing support of our general ministry budget is needed. For your convenience, you may give online at faithlutheranmorris.org or set up electronic giving with Connie in the church office.

JOINT
GOOD FRIDAY
JAZZ
WORSHIP

Friday, March 29 at 7:00 pm
Faith Lutheran Church
108 W 8th St, Morris, MN

Surrounded by music, we'll reflect on the story of Christ's passion and death. All ages are welcome.

This service is hosted in partnership with
First Lutheran Church, Morris
The Federated Church, Morris
Faith Lutheran Church, Morris
Trinity Lutheran Church, Cyrus
and other friends of our ministries.

Midweek Lenten Meals
at Faith Lutheran

Served Wednesday nights starting at 5:15 pm.
Let someone else do the cooking and enjoy a meal together with others. Free will donation.

March 6	Scalloped Potatoes & Ham Do Days Quilting
March 13	BBQ's, Coleslaw and Chips Operation Christmas Child
March 20	Meatballs, Potatoes and Gravy Outreach Committee

MAUNDY
Thursday

Volunteers
Needed for
the Living
Last Supper

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Please talk to Mike Nordquist or leave
your name in the church office.
Thank You

Make A Difference!

It's back! It's that month of the year where you can make a difference in the lives of your friends, neighbors, and those in your community. It's time to stretch your monetary donation to the Stevens County Food Shelf and double your impact on helping those in need. The Celebrate and Share Committee would like to remind you that March is FoodShare Month. Food insecurity is real, and your donations can make such a difference. Please consider a monetary or food donation to our Stevens County Food Shelf Drive this month. This is the 43rd year of FoodShare Month in Minnesota. It is an annual campaign where churches, businesses, and individuals all come together to address the issue of food insecurity in our state. All funds collected during March are eligible for matching funds and grants. In addition, your donation dollars can be stretched even farther as funds collected can be used by our local food shelf to purchase food at discount prices through North Country Services. Food shelf usage in MN has doubled in the last year. Our local Stevens County Food Shelf reports that customer visits were up as well. We hope you will continue to be the generous congregation you have been in the past and donate an item of food or put a donation in one of the Stevens County Food Shelf envelopes on the Narthex Welcome Center. You can also send your donation to the church office. Thank you for making a difference!

"You have two hands—one for helping yourself, the other for helping others."

Audrey Hepburn

Upcoming...



Faith Milestones

Watch for a postcard or check the website for details...

2nd Grade Resurrection Eggs | Sunday, March 17 during Sunday School

5th Grade Class & Bread Baking with students and parents | Sunday, March 24 at 4:00 pm

First Communion Celebration | Thursday, March 28 at Maundy Thursday Service

Glacial Ridge Conference

Sunday, March 10th

Meeting begins at 3:00pm

Location: Trinity Lutheran
Church, Alberta

All are welcome.

Vacation Bible School Survey

Please complete the survey online

The link is available on the face book page.

—Which week works best for your family
for VBS 2024:

July 22nd—July 26th OR July 29th—

August 2nd

—Time of day that works best for your family:

Morning OR Evening



Keep your life Centered in Jesus!

Now is a great time to begin a devotion or prayer practice or to try something new. A few ideas...

--Pick up a "Christ in our Home" or "Portals of Prayer" devotion book, from the stand in the East Entryway.

--Download and use the "Pray As You Go" or the "d365 Daily Devotion" App.

--Find Weekly Prayer Prompts at the ELCA Worship Blog - "For What Shall We Pray?" - <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/>

A Noisy Offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, March 24 for the Stevens County Food Shelf. Save up your coins and bring them that day, as the children take up a special offering for our community.

Congregational Transitions

Funeral

February 2 James Loren Gades (non-member)

Radio Broadcast

Faith Lutheran sponsors the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Worship eight times during the year—if you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in honor or memory of someone, please call the church office. The cost is \$65.00 per time. **THANK YOU**

YOUR PRAYERS NEEDED

-Pray for Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson and their children who are serving in Tanzania.

-Pray for our ongoing ministry as we join with our brothers and sisters in ministry from South Africa. Pray for the churches of the South Eastern Diocese of South Africa.

Do Days—Tuesday Mornings

Join them on Tuesdays at 9:00—bring a sack lunch. No experience necessary. Come when you can and help make quilts—you do not need to know how to sew.



MISSION STITCH! Tuesday Afternoons



Join the group for stitching— at 1:30. Bring your projects; come when you can; stay as long as you can. Every Tuesday. If you have questions, talk to Karen Uphoff or Anita Stoker.

Faith Lutheran Church

2024 Budget for Mission \$339,062.70

January 2024

Year to Date Expense \$24,749.30

Year to Date Income \$17,441.36

Difference - 7,307.94



Give online

Items for the Restoration Center at Central Lutheran

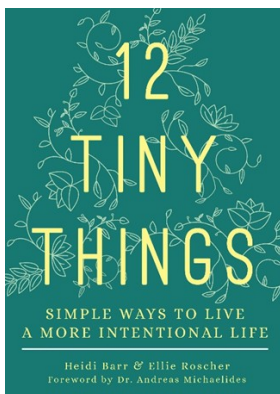
They are always in need of men's clothing, socks, underwear and shoes. Also suitcases with wheels that work. Some of their clients are beginning to be able to move into apartments so they can use items such as bedding, towels, silverware, dishes, etc. Thank you for your generosity to this project.

If you are going to the cities and could take a load to Central Lutheran please let us know – Thank You

Volunteers to serve Tuesday Night Meals for Lutheran Campus Ministry are needed in March and April.

If you would be willing to prepare a meal for 10-15 people, please contact Garret at gdcolton99@gmail.com.

What a fun way to share in community!



“12 Tiny Things: Simple Ways to Live a More Intentional Life” Discussion Group.

New members to the group are welcome at any time. Come even if you haven't read the chapter.

March 3 – Chapter Three: Spirituality

April 7 – Chapter Four: Food

Meets from 10:10-11:00am in Room 14 (off the Fellowship Hall).

Throughout the week, Faith Lutheran Church shares a daily devotion through our local radio station. Radio Devotionals can be heard Monday through Friday on KMRS (1230 AM or 107.7 FM) at 1:05 p.m., KKOK (95.7 FM) at 2:35 p.m. and can be found on the YouTube link on the website. You can help support this ministry that stretches out into our community to share the good news of Jesus. Donations in support of this ongoing ministry are needed. Donate to support a day (\$18), a week (\$90), or a month (\$360).

Gatherings for Widows and Widowers

Please join with others who have experienced the loss of their spouse, partner or significant other for a wonderful time of fellowship and conversation. *Gatherings* for Widows and Widowers will meet for lunch, **12:00 noon**, at **Old #1** on **Tuesday, March 12**. Order and purchase your lunch, and enjoy the company of others.

For questions, please call Pedersen Funeral Home at 589-3220.

Come join us for a Book Club at Faith Lutheran Church on the last Monday of each month at 1:30

- March 25 "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shleby Van Pelt
- April 29 "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon
- May 20 "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus (date change because of Memorial Day holiday)



ALL ARE WELCOME

If you are interested in joining the group, please come to Book Club. Maybe you have a book to suggest.



Morgan Benson and Tyler Reimers

Please join us **Saturday, April 6** from **10:00-11:30 a.m.** at **Faith Lutheran** for an open house bridal shower for Morgan Benson, bride to be of Tyler Reimers. All are welcome and invited to attend.

The couple is registered at Amazon, Crate & Barrel and Target.

Katelyn Wehking and Riley Reimers

Please join us **Saturday, April 20** from **9:00-11:00 a.m.** at the **Morris Community Center** (the old Morris Senior Center) for an open house bridal shower for Katelyn Wehking, bride to be of Riley Reimers. All are welcome and invited to attend. The couple is registered at Amazon.

Nicole Gillespie and Tyler Zaun

Please join us **Saturday, April 27** from **9:00-11:00a.m.** at **Faith Lutheran Church** for an open house bridal shower for Nicole Gillespie, bride to be of Tyler Zaun. All are welcome and invited to attend.

The couple is registered at Target and Amazon.



Element's Schedule: (6th-8th Grades)

Element - Will not be meeting on Wednesdays, please attend your church's Lent services! Element will resume on April 3rd at First Lutheran Church.



Sr. High Fusion's Schedule: (9th-12th Grades)

Sr. High - Will not be meeting on Wednesdays, please attend your church's Lent services!

Sunday, March 17th - Katie Moser's Sr. High Fusion Baby Shower! - Location and times to be announced soon.

Friday, March 22nd - Fusion Friday Breakfast - Make your own pancakes! 7:15am at Faith Lutheran Church. Rides will be provided to Hancock and Morris Schools afterwards!

Wednesday, March 27th - Fusion Meets at 6:30-8:30pm at First Lutheran Church for a special pre-Easter celebration!

Please check out Fusion's updated website for more information. www.fusion-ministry.com

Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267

Sr. High Youth Gathering

All 9th-12th students are invited to the Synod's annual Senior High Youth Gathering!



It will be held March 8-9, 2024 (we will leave around 3pm on Friday and be back around 8pm on Saturday) at Best Western Convention Center in New Ulm, MN. This event is coordinated and planned by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO). The theme this year is **"Forever Unbroken," based on Romans 8:37-39.**

Signup here! <https://www.fusion-ministry.com/events-2-1/srhighyouthgathering2024>

Students who plan to attend a Lutheran College should contact Connie in the office to get the form that needs to be filled out. Many of the colleges match the church scholarship, but the intent needs to be sent to them quite early so we would like your application as soon as possible.

Parents please notify your students so no one is left out who wants to apply.



Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Faith Lutheran Annual Meeting Highlights

Before the meeting started Pastor Emmy asked that attendees doodle – what you think about Faith Lutheran Church. Also think about a COLOR – what color do you think about when you think of Faith Lutheran Church.

10:10 meeting called to order by President Lynnae Lina

Quorum was established.

Going out of order – but to start the meeting everyone was asked to look at the Ballot. Look at the empty spots for openings that may be of interest.

Approve Agenda – MMSP

Opening Prayer – Pastor Emmy

Approve 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes – MMSP

Approve 2023 Treasurer’s Report – MMSP

Parochial Report – MMSP

SW MN Synod Report – in the Annual Meeting Report – look at the report

Pastor Emmy’s Report – The Word “Overflow” was selected in worship for the church word for 2024. When she thinks of “overflow” - Pastor Emmy thinks of Psalm 23 – my cup overflows. Reminded us to think about the color and doodle activity. Also write on sticky notes: Looking back – Thanks; Looking ahead – Prayers

Fusion Ministry Report – Pastor Emmy had a video to show with Jr High Element and Sr High Fusion. Reminder that it has been a ministry for 4 years so it is a young ministry. Pastor Emmy looks forward to the Mission of Fusion.

Summary of Reports – no questions/be sure and look at the reports – busy year

Old Business – None

New Business

Elections

Church Council – Jason Breuer, Vicky Dosedall, Eric Meichsner, Amy Swanson

Synod Assembly – (June 7 and 8 in St. Peter, MN) Anita Stoker, Amy Swanson, Piper Swanson

Nominating Committee – Mary Asche, Tony Reimers, Mark Torgerson

Audit Committee – Mary Philip

Common Cup Coffeehouse – Vicky Dosedall

Luther Crest Bible Camp – Mike Nordquist, Anita Stoker, Jim Stoker

Worship & Music Committee – Mike Koehler, Liz Spohr

Education Committee – Alyssa Holland, Marilyn Searle

Property & Safety Committee – Jason Kirwin

Congregation Life Committee – Lacey Harstad, Amanda Lee

Outreach Committee – Molly Fluegel, Christa Greeley

Celebrate & Share Committee – Elissa Breuer, Tanya Estenson

Mutual Ministry – Lisa Kleinwolterink, Brian Olson

Women of Faith – Kathy Bahr, Ann Farwell

Endowment – Craig Swanson

Lutheran Campus Ministry – Anita Stoker

West Central Christian Homes – Donna Severance

Elections - MMSP

Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 28, 2024 continued

Budget

Budget was presented as printed in the Annual Report.

Piper Swanson made a request to add Lutheran Youth Organization Board of the SW MN Synod to the budget for \$1,000.00. MMSP

Fusion – additional \$8,000.00 added to the budget from last year. Discussion on the increase. This will be to grow and expand the program. Half of the youth come from Faith Lutheran. 5 churches contribute to the budget; they all have Fusion board members. Fusion board handles the Fusion budget. Request made - for future Annual Meetings would like to have the Fusion Budget included in our Annual Report – current year and budget for the next year.

Budget – MMSP

Acknowledgements – Thank You to Pastor Emmy, the Council, Committee Members, improvements to the church. The impact of these all spread out to the committees.

Adjournment – MMSP
Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Tschetter, Office Manager

Faith Lutheran Church 108 West 8th Street, Morris MN (320)589-2970 www.faithlutheranmorris.org



Our Vision

Faith Lutheran is a community of believers living out their faith in daily life.

Our Values

+ Centered in Jesus + Caring & Sharing + Creating a Joyful Noise + Wide Open Welcome

Our Mission

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Faith Lutheran Church is a community of believers striving to:

invite and welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ

nurture and equip people with a living faith in response to God's love

send disciples into our prairie communities and beyond in Christ's service

Congregation Theme Verse

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2:8-10

Faith Lutheran Church Council Highlights

February 11, 2024

Faith Lutheran Mission Statement

"Faith Lutheran is a community of believers living out their faith in daily life."

Congregation Values We are: Centered in Jesus, Caring & Sharing, Creating a Joyful Noise, Wide Open Welcome

Members Present: Mike Nordquist, Zach Arnold, Chris Hopkins, Jenny Maras, Lynnae Lina, Connie Tschetter, Vicky Dosedall, Eric Meichsner, Molly Fluegel, Pastor Emmy, Amy Swanson, Jason Breuer, Nancy Olson

Members Absent: Brent Gausman

Call to Order: Lynnae Lina

Opening Devotion: Pastor Emmy

REPORTS

Pastor's Report: Written Report Shared - Ponderings for the year ahead

Office Manager's Report: Written Report Shared

Ministry Reports:

Congregation Life (Jenny & Lynnae) - Upcoming meeting in February to prepare care packages for recent high school graduates.

Outreach (Chris) - No Recent Meeting.

Worship & Music (Mike) - Discussed the upcoming Lenten season. The Living Last Supper will be part of the Lent season. Online worship continues to be strong.

Memorial/Endowment (Eric) - No Recent Meeting.

Property & Safety (Zach & Brent) - Facility improvements continue with sheet rocking and texturing. Questions posed about lighting, outlets, and painting.

Education (Vicky & Molly) - Everything is lined up for the Ash Wednesday supper. Planning is underway for VBS with a "Scuba" theme being hosted at Faith Lutheran with area churches invited. The committee is working with Heather Black to secure assistants. Alyssa Holland was elected as the new committee president.

Celebrate & Share (Tom & Connie) - No Recent Meeting. March Food Share Month

Women of Faith (Nancy) - No Report Shared. Conversational notes were shared.

Secretary Report - MMSP

Treasurer's Report - MMSP

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Improvement Committee

The hallway was discussed in the Property & Safety

Other None

NEW BUSINESS

Fusion Youth Update:

There was good conversation at the annual meeting. Pastor Emmy shared the financial breakdown in the council's written report with income and expenses with explanations. The Fusion board would like to have more financial transparency with all of the congregations involved. Concerns and questions from council members and congregation members were shared from conversations and emails. Faith Lutheran's Fusion board members will be invited to the March council meeting to assist in addressing concerns/questions. Pastor Emmy invited people to continue to pray for Fusion.

Executive Committee

President - Lynnae

Vice President - Mike

Treasurer - Amy

MMSP

Secretary - Will be filled in the March meeting.

The Executive Committee will be installed at the end of the church service on March 10, 2024.

Committee Assignments

Congregational Life (Jenny)

Outreach (Jason & Lynnae)

Worship & Music (Mike)

Memorial/Endowment (Eric)

Property & Safety (Zach & Brent)

Education (Vicky & Molly)

Celebrate & Share (Amy & Chris)

Women of Faith (Nancy)

Next Meeting Sunday, March 10, 2024

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer MMSP

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Maras - Council Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA
108 West Eighth Street
Morris, MN 56267

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MORRIS, MN 56267

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	March 24 at 9:00 am
Maundy Thursday	March 28 at 6:30 pm—Living Last Supper
Good Friday	March 29 at 7:00 pm—Joint Jazz Good Friday Service
Easter Sunday	March 31 at 7:00 & 9:00 am Breakfast from 8:00-9:00am