

LETTER OF FAITH

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2024

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH



During 2023, Faith Lutheran Church identified four core values to shape our ministry: Centered in Jesus, Creating a Joyful Noise, Caring & Sharing, and Wide, Open, Welcome. These values celebrate who we are as a community of faith. This month, we explore the value of "Caring & Sharing"

Faith Lutheran Church Value: **Caring & Sharing**

- + We have big hearts; we care about people and organizations in our community and beyond.
- + We support and pray for each other.
- + We are thankful for God's gifts to us and delight in sharing them with others.

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

When I was praying about becoming your pastor, among the things that excited me is that this congregation values caring for your community. At the core of Faith Lutheran Church is your compassion for one another and the world around you. You exist not to serve your own needs, but to serve others. As your pastor, I have seen you share generously for community needs and respond with deep care for one another.

Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:35-36. Through the practical ways we care for people, we share the love of Jesus. The list of ways that this congregation cares and shares is long. To name a few...

- We regularly collect items for the Restoration Center, which brings blessing to the homeless population in downtown Minneapolis.
- Quilts, hats, scarves and more are shared with folks in our local community and beyond.
- Food and finances are shared with the Stevens County Food Pantry.
- Through our general budget, we support ministry partners: Luther Crest Bible Camp, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, Missionaries Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson in Tanzania, RUSC Kinship, Salvation Army, Someplace Safe, Southwestern MN Synod ELCA, Lutheran Youth Organization of SW MN Synod, and the Stevens County Food Pantry.
- You pray for each other. You listen to each other. You encourage each other.

Thanks for being witnesses of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Keep living in that overflowing love—keep caring and sharing for Jesus' sake!

Grace and peace to you, -Pastor Emmy

Faith Lutheran Church

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Pastor

Emmy Swedlund

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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 Mitteness

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 Dosdall

Molly Fluegel

Brent Gausman

Chris Hopkins

Lynnae Lina—President

Jenny Maras

Eric Meichsner—Secretary

Mike Nordquist—Vice President

Nancy Olson

Amy Swanson—Treasurer



In person - Sundays at 9:00 am
Also shared on Facebook Live and via Youtube

May 5 – Our Easter celebrations continues as we explore, “Risen Life: Living in Friendship.” Our worship will include a Baptism and Communion.

May 12 – On this last Sunday of Easter, we’ll explore “Risen Life: Living in Unity.” The Sunday School students will sing and our High School Seniors will be recognized. Communion will also be shared.

May 19—Pentecost Sunday! We’ll have a little fun together, as we celebrate all that the Holy Spirit is up to. **Wear red.**

May 26 - “Holy, Holy, Holy” It’s Holy Trinity Sunday. We’ll explore the fullness of who God is for us.

Congregational Transitions

Funeral

April 15 Richard “Dick” Roy Wente

Baptisms

April 21 Leo John Kessler

April 28 Bentley Lee Brunelle

Raymond Christopher Brunelle

Mason Charles Daly



**soup &
a group**

Where Bible study, food, and fellowship come together!

Wednesday, May 8 at Noon

Faith Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a provided lunch.

Bible Study Topic: Genesis 3

Free. Open to anyone.



The ELCA Youth Gathering is July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans. Please pray for these youth & adults who prepare for this life changing event: Piper Swanson, Bryn Lonergan, Addison Cihak, Morgan Harstad, Ryla Koehler, Jaedyn Marquart, Amy Swanson, Jen Cihak, and Pastor Emmy.

THANK YOU for the financial support you have provided. Your donations are an investment in the lives of these students and in the future of the church. **The Envelope Fundraiser** is still happening. Pick an envelope. Make a donation of the dollar amount listed. Fill out a yellow sheet and include it with your donation, so that we can send you a postcard from New Orleans.



Hey, church! Here are some opportunities to share of your time. Training will be provided.

-Tech Team: Be a part of a rotating group of volunteers to run the sound system, power point, and live stream our church services. Commitment is Sunday mornings from 8:30-10:00 on the Sundays that you commit to serve.

-Pray-ers: Would you be willing to write and lead our Prayers of the People on Sunday morning? Dates could be scheduled at your convenience. Prayers can be written, using some provided resources for inspiration.

-Readers of Scripture on Sunday mornings: You will receive the information on the readings ahead of time.

-Vacation Bible School: Be inspired in your own faith as you walk alongside of youth during these special days. VBS is held during the morning on July 22-25. Volunteers for everyday or just a few are welcome.

Please leave your name and preferred contact information in the church office if you are interested in serving or learning more.



First Communion
Class with Pastor
Emmy on
Maundy Thursday

Students: Gloria Gausman, Anastasia Fluegel, Jenna Looker, Greyson Meichsner, Keason Cihak, Paden Rinkenberger, Alexander Kolden



Give Online

If you LOVE the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church, we'd LOVE your support!

Each week the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church touches hundreds of lives.

Through our Sunday morning worship, people find a fresh start for the week ahead, are encouraged to live faithfully, and enjoy a community that reminds them that they aren't alone.

Through our Sunday School, Element, and Fusion Ministries, faith is handed on to the next generation. Students learn the stories of Jesus, along with both the comfort and challenge that life with Jesus brings.

Through our daily (Monday-Friday) radio devotions, peoples' lives are interrupted for a moment with a message of inspiration. They are reminded, whoever they are, where ever they are, God loves them.

Faith Lutheran Church, you make a difference! Your ongoing support of our ministry makes this and so much more possible.

Offerings may be shared Sunday morning or given online at www.faithlutheranmorris.org. Please also consider setting up reoccurring gifts either through our website or through Simply Giving automatic withdrawal (contact Connie in the church office for this option).

Vacation Bible School 2024

Monday, July 22 — Thursday, July 25

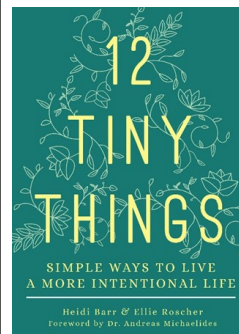
8:00-noon each day

The Education Committee is planning for a GREAT VBS Scuba Week—mark your calendars.



Invite Your Friends !

"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.

May 5 – Chapter Five: Style

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

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.

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

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

Kayla (Evink) and Josh Kirchner Baby Shower



Please join us **Saturday, May 4 from 2:00-4:00p.m.** at **Faith Lutheran** for an open house baby shower in honor of Kayla. All are welcome and invited to attend.

They are registered at

www.babylist.com/list/kayla-kirchner



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).

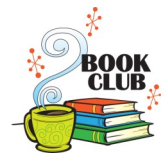
Gatherings for Widows and Widowers

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, May 14**. 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

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.

Invite from First Lutheran Church, Morris, MN: Maker's Space for Kids held at First Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall at 200 East 5th Street, Morris

Hosted by the First Lutheran Church Mission & Evangelism Committee, these Maker's Space for Kids sessions are an intergenerational activity to learn new skills.

Registration is FREE and open to all students in Grades 3 through 8. A light snack will be served.

Dates—Saturdays, May 4 and June 1 from 9:30am to 11:00am each day—come to one or come to all of these dates.

Schedule: 9:30 Worship/Devotional time | 9:45 to 10:45 Workshop session | 10:45 Snack | 11:00 Dismissal

Sessions (sessions are subject to change upon availability of volunteers)

May 4: Woobles Kits (crochet) | Jams, Jellies and Pies | Lefse

June 1: Wood working | Woobles Kits (crochet) | Jams, Jellies and Pies | Lefse | Painting

Registration Forms are available at Faith Lutheran or you can register on First Lutheran Church website. This link is at www.flcmorris.org under the Education tab.



A Reminder: Know that I want to be available to you as your pastor for conversation and prayer. Most weeks, I work Sunday-Thursday; however, I am in and out of the office during those days. If you'd like to connect, please reach out to me or the church office in advance so that I can be sure to be around.

If you or a family member are hospitalized and would like a visit, please also reach out. Hospitals do not necessarily notify us when you have been admitted.

If you call my cell and I miss your call, please do leave a message so that I can get back to you.

Thanks,
Pastor Emmy
Call/Text (701)552-2419



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

May 1 - Element 6-7:30pm at First Lutheran Church

May 8 - Element 6-7:30pm at First Lutheran Church



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

May 1—Sr. High Fusion 7-8:30pm @First Lutheran Church

May 8— Sr. High Fusion 7-8:30pm @First Lutheran Church

Friday, May 10— Fusion Friday Breakfast 7:15-8am-Common Cup

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

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

You are invited.....

Faith Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

May 8, 2024 at 3pm please join us for an Informational Session on Hospice Services: "MYTH BUSTERS". This event is sponsored by Knute Nelson Hospice Staff.

Coffee and cookies will be served. ☺

Knute Nelson Hospice values it's Christian heritage and this guides us in all we do.



"one body in Christ"

Our Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly is June 7-8, held both in person at Gustavus Adolphus College and Online. The theme of the 2024 Synod Assembly is **Romans 12:5** "So we, who are many, are **ONE BODY IN CHRIST**, and individually we are members one of another." NRSV.

Voting members from Faith Lutheran Church are Anita Stoker, Amy Swanson, Piper Swanson, and Pastor Emmy Swedlund.

Faith Lutheran Church Council Highlights

April 14, 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: Jason Breuer, Vicky Dosdall, Molly Fluegel, Brent Gausman, Chris Hopkins, Mike Nordquist, Nancy Olson, Amy Swanson, Pastor Emmy, Connie Tschetter

Members Absent: Zach Arnold, Lynnae Lina, Jenny Maras, Eric Meichsner

Guest: Jessica Kirwin

Call to Order: Mike Nordquist

Opening Devotion: Pastor Emmy - *"Tagging people in"*

Jessica Kirwin was invited to the Council Meeting to share about Fusion/Element

Information was shared/discussed on the churches involved, the Fusion/Element Program, the Fusion Board. The director of Fusion is Heather Black, Pastor Emmy is the supervising pastor. There are 2 board members from each church represented. The council was invited to check out the Fusion website—a lot of information on the website; it is kept up to date.

REPORTS

Pastor's Report:

Written Report Shared. Busy with Holy Week, Easter services, First Communion class. May 12th will be Graduate Recognition Sunday.

Office Manager's Report:

Written Report Shared. Reminder for May Newsletter items.

Ministry Reports:

Congregation Life - The "Spring Fling" event planned for Tuesday, April 23 from 11 am - 1 pm.

Outreach - Designing a logo for the church was discussed. April 30th—LCM dinner—will be dropped off at LCM; planning Breakfast fundraiser for May 19th.

Worship & Music - Holy Week and Easter services went well—a lot of positive comments on the "Living Last Supper" Maundy Thursday and "Jazz" Good Friday worship services.

Memorial/Endowment - No recent meeting.

Property—New door coming for side delivery entrance; lights outside are fixed—timer was set; oven/stove—now installed; refrigerator—making repairs; question on stripping the parking lot/handicap spots

Education - VBS will be July 22-25; it will be 8:00am-12:00 noon and we will be running the program ourselves; everyone is welcome. Last day of Sunday school is May 19th. Glacial Ridge Conference will have an appreciation of Education Leaders on May 22nd at Faith Lutheran.

Celebrate & Share - March Food Shelf month went great—thank you for all donations; meeting next week.

Women of Faith - Quilt show and luncheon Saturday, April 13 went great

Secretary Report - MMSP

Treasurer's Report - MMSP

OLD BUSINESS — No old business

NEW BUSINESS

Assignment for Council Members—as you "Enter the church" take note of what you see; what someone else coming into the church would see.

Next Meeting

Regular scheduled date would be May 12 (Mother's Day) - will cancel this meeting for now—if something comes up watch for email notification of a meeting.

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer

MMSP

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Tschetter

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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