

LETTER OF FAITH

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2022

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH

Lent me your favorite Bible verses

Lent is almost here! It's a sacred time of year, and it begins in less than a week. Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season and is on Wednesday, March 2nd. Worship including Holy Communion and Imposition of ashes will begin at 6:30pm. This special season provides roughly six weeks to pause, pray and prepare our hearts and minds for Easter.

For the month of March, I have an idea and I hope you'll join me for this adventure. For the next weeks, let's explore a bit of the Bible together. This week, I'll share a reflection on why I think the Bible is great. Then, throughout the next several weeks, I'd love to have you share with me some of your favorite Bible verses. Please email me with the passages you hold most dear at: vtoutges001@luthersem.edu. If you prefer regular mail, you can send a note to me right to the church at 108 W 8th St, Morris, MN 56267. You can also drop off your favorites when you are at Faith for worship or other events. Please share a verse or two that has been meaningful to you and if you feel comfortable, why the verse or verses are meaningful to you. I'm excited that by the beginning of April, we could all have a nice collection of meaningful Bible verses to turn to when we need encouragement, hope, or motivation.

My plan is to collect them throughout the month of March up until the April newsletter is to be printed. Then I will include them in the April newsletter for all of us to have. If you want your name printed with your verse, include your name. If you prefer your name to not be included, don't include your name or include your name but ask for it to be listed as anonymous.

I like to think of the Bible as a beautiful, complex, quirky family scrapbook. It tells the story of generations and generations of people. We get to hear about their ups and downs, the times when everything seemed to go right and the times when it all seemed to go wrong. The biblical family tree is filled with all sorts of characters, just like my regular family tree — yours, too, right? I find this refreshing. The Bible **is not** a boring book; that's for sure.

The New Testament tells the story of the early Christian tradition. We hear about Jesus' ministry in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And after that, there are a variety of letters and books that reveal details about what early Christianity was like.

Faith Lutheran Church

108 West Eighth Street

Morris, MN 56267

320-589-2970

www.faithlutheranmorris.org

Interim Pastor Vicki Toutges
vtoutges001@luthersem.edu

Office Manager Connie Tschetter
faithful@hometownsolutions.net

Youth Director of Fusion Ministry
Heather Black

Pianist Rita Lambert

Director of Music John Kleinwolterink

Custodians Ryan & Cassie Snyder

Website Anne Mittness

Faith Lutheran Mission Statement:

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

Remember to check the website for future happenings at Faith. If you know someone who does not have access to the website remember to share information with them.

If you have questions, please call the church office at 589-2970.

Pastor Vicki's Letter continued—

The Bible is terrific for a lot of reasons.

Here are a few.

- The Bible isn't about perfect people. Instead, both the Old and New Testaments are filled with descriptions of relatively "normal" folks doing their best to figure out what a life of faith is all about.
- The Bible can be read in a variety of ways, and each way is important. We can approach the Bible historically and learn about what was happening at the time a specific book was written. We can also approach the Scriptures devotionally and allow specific passages to speak right to our hearts.
- We live in a time and place with high literacy rates and easy access to Bibles. This is not something to take for granted. For a very long time, most people didn't have access to God's written word. What a gift we have!
- Our faith gives us the freedom to really explore God's word. We have nothing to fear. We can dive in. We can ask questions. We can even wrestle with the Bible! God's word often challenges our assumptions, and it also inspires our spirits. It's an amazing collection of books, letters, and poetry!

In the coming weeks of Lent, let's explore some special Bible passages. Then if you are willing to share your discoveries, drop a note through email, mail, or put in the offering plate or in one of our offices.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. These holy weeks give us the opportunity to carve out moments for prayer and God's word. Happy exploring!

Blessings to you and yours this Lenten season.

Pastor Vicki Toutges

vtoutges001@luthersem.edu

320-221-0806

Lent — Wednesday Midweek Services

Suppers will be served from 5:00-6:15

Worship Services are at 6:30



If your group/ministry/committee is interested in serving a Midweek Lenten Supper, please talk to Connie to get on the calendar. Thank You!!

Lenten Suppers at Faith Lutheran

Lenten suppers will be held at Faith Lutheran this year.

We realize the Covid numbers are coming down in the area, but we want everyone to feel safe coming to these suppers.

To all that will be serving food, please follow these guidelines:

All kitchen help and servers are to wear a mask and to wear gloves at all times.

When serving food, please put the food on the plates for the people.

Please use paper and plastic products.

Be sure to properly wipe down the tables and serving area with the proper cleaning products.

There will be no passing of food at the table. All food and beverages will be served by committee serving the supper.

Lenten Season begins on March 2nd.

On Wednesday, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m., Faith will begin the Lenten season with the Ash Wednesday worship. This service will include an invitation to Lent, Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. The Worship and Music Committee is working on the details so all will feel safe. There will be options offered if you feel more comfortable. We will offer continuous communion and imposition of ashes in the front of the worship space. If anyone feels uncomfortable with that, they may remain in their seat and can either be served by the communion servers or they may pick up the individual wafer and wine cups placed in baskets in the narthex as they enter the building.

Beginning on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m., our Lenten Midweek Services will begin and will continue every Wednesday evening through Wednesday, April 6th. We will again be using the Holden Evening Prayer service. Confirmation students will be doing a skit each week except on Ash Wednesday. Our plan is for the skits to be done with puppets representing Jesus, Charlie Brown, and Lucy.

A meal will be served prior to the worship service at 5:00-6:15. The meals will continue each Wednesday night through April 6th at the same time.

I hope you and your family will join us as we strive to grow closer to our Lord and Savior this Lenten season. Pastor Vicki

During this Lenten season, why not try one or more of these top ten list ideas. It's good to add more discipline to your life. Imagine what would happen if we each did just one of these ideas each day during Lent.

Top Ten List: THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, Guitar Hero, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.

9. Start a prayer rhythm. Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your e-mail. Before you text someone, pray for them.

8. Read one chapter in the Bible each day. (Matthew's a good book to start with. Psalms, too.)

7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.)

6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee. Give the money you save to help folks in crisis.

5. Create a daily quiet time. Spend 30 minutes a day in silence and prayer.

4. Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.

3. Be kind to someone each day.

2. Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.

1. Volunteer one hour or more each week with a homeless shelter, food shelf, tutoring program, nursing home, jail or prison ministry, Habitat for Humanity project or any other volunteer opportunity.

Church Council Meeting March 13

(Sunday)

10:00 Following the Worship Service

Burgers, Beverages and Blessings

Will not meet until after Easter

Mission:Stitch

JOIN US FOR MISSION: STITCH!

Tuesday afternoons in the lounge at Faith Lutheran Church
TUESDAYS beginning at 1:30



Come when you can, stay as long as you feel like it. You do not need to be present for the whole time. This group is open to anyone. You do not have to be a member of Faith Lutheran – invite your friends, family, anyone who is interested in joining us.

Questions—talk to Anita Stoker

Do Days

Will meet on **all Tuesdays beginning at 9:00am**

Bring a sack lunch

All are welcome

No experience necessary

Come for the fellowship



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

Glacial Ridge Conference Assembly

March 13, 2022—3:00pm

First Lutheran Church, Morris

Registration begins at 2:30. If you are interested in attending the Conference, please talk to Pastor Vicki or Liz Spohr. Thank You

Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

Show: Footloose

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Leave the church at 7:30am. One stop on the way for a bathroom break, then arrive by 11:00am. Lunch prior to the show, with the show beginning at 1:00pm. Show is over around 3:30, then head back to Morris with another stop on the way home, if needed.

Mask use is required at all times. Proof of vaccination or a negative test is required to attend the performance.

\$85.00 includes bus, lunch and show. 27 seats available.

Please pay when you sign up, making the check to Women of Faith.

Sr. High Fusion Youth: Youth in 9th-12th Grade



March 6th – Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church

March 11th – Toby Mac Concert – At the Fargo Dome – (Times TBA)

March 13th – Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church

March 20th - Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church

March 27th - Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church



Element Schedule: Youth in 6th-8th Grade

Element will not be meeting during Lent. Please attend your church's Lenten services. We will resume meeting April 20th.

Sometimes plans change so please check out Fusion's updated website for more information.
www.fusion-ministry.com

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

TOBYMAC'S
HITS DEEP
TOUR 2022

TOBYMAC
CROWDER
CAIN
COCHREN & CO
TERRIAN



Friday, March 11th 2022 **At the Fargo Dome**

Contact Heather Black if you are interested. We only have a few tickets left.



Bridal Card Shower for Paige Loew

You are invited to a Bridal Card Shower for Paige Loew. Paige is the daughter of Tom and Lisa Loew. Paige is living in Kingston, New Hampshire and is engaged to Cam Arlen. They will be married on May 6th in York, Maine. We would like to honor Paige with a card shower. Paige and Cam are registered at Target. There will be a basket in the church office. Please have all cards delivered to the church prior to April 1st.

We wish Paige and Cam the very best in the days ahead.

The Morris Senior Center is looking for a volunteer to deliver home delivered meals one day a week in the community of Morris.

If you are able to help out on Thursdays from about 10:30-11:30 please contact Robert or Donna at 589-2951 between the hours of 6-noon. Thank you!

SCMC
STEVENS COMMUNITY
MEDICAL CENTER

GIFT SHOP
PATIENT GUIDE
ADMINISTRATIVE HELP
FUNDRAISING EFFORTS
COURAGE COTTAGE ACTIVITIES
SHARE YOUR SKILLS!

Call (320) 208-7803 *Email* sbackman@scmcinc.org

The MN Department of Health requires SCMC to run a background check on all volunteers. Volunteers must also be COVID-19 vaccinated to work inside our facilities.

Luther Crest Summer 2022 Camp Registration

Registration for Summer Camp 2022 opened on November 1, 2021.

You will be able to register your camper on their website at www.luthercrest.org.

Reminder – Faith Lutheran Church will pay half of the registration fee (on the lowest fee for the camp) for members of Faith – one camp per child per year.

Early Bird Deadline was February 14th

Inspiring faith, community, and
stewardship in God's creation.



Sunday—Winter Months at Faith Lutheran

Just a note—please be careful when walking in and out of church. The parking lot can be very slippery. If you foresee needing help — please let us know. We do not want anyone to fall. We will try to have someone that will be available to help you. **Please be cautious and keep an eye out for your neighbor who might need help. Thank You**

Radio Broadcast—Daily Devotions Sponsorship

The daily devotion radio broadcasts (Monday—Friday) on KMRS and KKOK are \$90.00 per week—if you would like to help with this ministry please call the church office and let us know. Any amount is appreciated.

Thank You!

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

March date is Monday, March 28.

All are Welcome.

March book will be “The Second Life of Mirielle West” by Amanda Skenandore.

If you have questions, talk to Karen Uphoff.

Please bring book suggestions so we can plan a few months ahead.

Happy Reading!



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 **Common Cup** on Sunday, March 6. Order and purchase your lunch, and enjoy the company of others.

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

Noisy Offering Sunday

March 13th will be the next time

The second Sunday of each month will be Noisy Offering Sunday – remember to bring your change to church for the children to collect in buckets.

October amount collected was **\$158.23**

November amount collected was **\$209.05**

December amount collected was **\$124.42**

January amount collected was **\$94.60**

February amount collected was **\$160.43**

Thank You to Everyone who contributed!

March Daily Bible Verses

1. Psalm 19:14	11. II Peter 1:10,11	21. Revelation 21:4,5
2. Hebrews 12:1,2	12. Psalm 119:162	22. Romans 5:19
3. James 3:8-10	13. Isaiah 28:26	23. John 14:26
4. II Timothy 3:16	14. Luke 11:1,2	24. James 1:2,3
5. Galatians 6:9	15. Luke 11:3,4	25. I Peter 2:9
6. Romans 5:6	16. Revelation 1:8	26. Romans 6:22,23
7. Proverbs 17:27,28	17. Romans 6:3,4	27. Revelation 4:11
8. Psalm 138:8	18. Isaiah 30:18	28. I John 4:4
9. Isaiah 28:26	19. John 15:5	29. Jude 1:24,25
10. I John 4:7	20. Psalm 112:1,2	30. Romans 8:26
		31. John 3:16

**YOUR PRAYERS
NEEDED**

-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.

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

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (NRSV)

Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting January 30, 2022

Council Members present: Liz Spohr, Mark Torgerson, Lynnae Lina, Lisa Loew, Nancy Olson, Vicky Dossall, Mike Nordquist, Nichole Mahoney, Eric Meichsner, Tony Reimers

Members absent: Todd Hodenfield, Matt Solemsaas

Call to order Liz Spohr

Motion to approve agenda - agenda approved MMSP

Opening worship - Liz Spohr since Pastor Vicki could not be present

Motion to approve 2021 Annual Meeting - approved MMSP

Motion to approve Treasurer's report for 2021 - approved MMSP

Motion to approve Parochial report for 2021 - approved MMSP

Synod report - Anita Stoker congregational member gave overview

Liz Spohr - Council President Report

Old business: None

New Business:

Call Committee - update by Lynnae Lina. Two names interviewed - one was given a no because not a good fit and waiting to hear back from the other candidate.

Elections:

Council members - Zach Arnold, Chris Hopkins, Jenny Maras, Nancy Olson

Synod Assembly - Amy Swanson, Karen Uphoff, Jake Rooks

Audit committee - Barb Valnes

Nominating committee - Lisa Loew, Nichole Mahoney, Matt Solemsaas and three people from congregation - Anita Stoker, Matt Fluegel, Molly Fluegel

Common Cup - Anita Stoker

Luther Crest - Piper Swanson, Rita Lambert, Stephanie Oberg

All other committees have names

Need one more for education committee - Jacob Torgerson, Anita Stoker

Motion to accept ballot as filled out - Approved MMSP

Excess funds - council recommendation \$9,000 to be donated: Local - Stevens County Food Shelf \$3,000; Regional - Luther Crest Bible Camp \$3,000; Global - Swanson—Tanzania Missionaries \$3,000

\$3,000 - possible money used for electronic equipment upgrade

\$1,000 - bonus for Connie Tschetter, Office Manager; \$1,000 - bonus to pension for Connie Tschetter

Motion to approve excess funds disbursement as listed above and the remainder of the excess will go into our reserve funds

Discussion held about proposed amounts. Motion failed.

Motion made to increase bonus to Connie by \$1,000 to \$2,000 total and the rest of the proposal remains as is - approved MMSP

Presentation of 2022 Budget

Motion to adopt budget for 2022 - approved MMSP

Motion to adjourn and second—MMSP

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Loew, Council Secretary

Ministry Members and Term Year

Celebrate and Share

Rita Lambert	2023
Deb McNally	2023
Elissa Breuer	2024
Nate Haseman	2024
Lyle and Londa Rambow	2025
Amy Swanson	2025
Todd Hodenfield	Council Representative
Connie Tschetter	Staff

Congregational Life

Wendy Evink	2023
Kristi Giese	2023
Lacey Harstad	2024
Amanda Lee	2024
Deb Hacker	2025
Ashli Johnson	2025
Jenny Maras	Council Representative
Tony Reimers	Council Representative
Connie Tschetter	Staff

Education

Michelle Manthei	2023
Tammy Radtke-Looker	2023
Britta Haseman	2024
Alyssa Holland	2024
Anita Stoker	2025
Jacob Torgerson	2025
Vicky Dosdall	Council Representative
Lynnae Lina	Council Representative

Outreach

Jodi Asmus	2023
Kathy Bahr	2023
Molly Fluegel	2024
Max Koehntop	2024
C J Fromm	2025
Jake Rooks	2025
Chris Hopkins	Council Representative

Property and Safety

Scott Bahr	2023
Dennis Bye	2023
Jeremy Kolden	2024
Gabe Arnold	2025
Timothy Uphoff	2025
Zach Arnold	Council Representative
Eric Meichsner	Council Representative
Ryan & Cassie Snyder	Staff

Worship & Music

Janelle Brunkow	2023
Stephanie Oberg	2023
Sonja Amundson	2024
Beth Hottovy	2024
Linda Anderson	2025
Tisha Woodke	2025
Mike Nordquist	Council Representative
Liz Spohr	Council Representative
John Kleinwolterink	Staff
Rita Lambert	Staff
Pastor Vicki Toutges	Staff

Endowment

Gary Bruns	2023	Secretary
Craig Swanson	2024	
Mark Torgerson	2025 and	Council Representative
Karen Uphoff	2025	

Memorial

Zoe Bankord
Cheryl Estenson
Linda Hagen
Barb Valnes

Mutual Ministry

Karen Arnold	2023
Dee Daly	2023
Lisa Kleinwolterink	2024
Brian Olson	2024
Curt Pekarek	2025
Gary Uphoff	2025

Women of Faith

Wendy LeTendre	2023
Cindy Torgerson	2023
Kathy Bahr	2024
Deb Larsen	2024
Nichole Mahoney	2025
Susan Uphoff	2025
Nancy Olson	Council Representative

Council Members

Lynnae Lina	2023
Mike Nordquist	2023
Tony Reimers	2023
Mark Torgerson	2023
Vicky Dosdall	2024
Todd Hodenfield	2024
Eric Meichsner	2024
Liz Spohr	2024
Zach Arnold	2025
Chris Hopkins	2025
Jenny Maras	2025
Nancy Olson	2025

Faith Lutheran Church Council Highlights

February 13, 2022

Members Present:

Pastor Vicki, Connie Tschetter, Lynnae Lina, Mike Nordquist, Tony Reimers, Mark Torgerson, Vicky Dossdall, Todd Hodenfield, Eric Meichsner, Liz Spohr, Zach Arnold, Chris Hopkins, Jenny Maras, and Nancy Olson

Members Absent: None

Call to Order: Liz

Opening Prayer & Devotion:

Pastor Vicki - "Get off your donkey."

REPORTS

Pastor's Report: Shut in updates included continual lifting of Covid restrictions in regard to outside visitors, which is promising.

Connie's Report: Handout - A lot of time has been spent updating finances.

Fusion Youth Update: Heather Black plans to do an upcoming children's sermon. Updates are being made with Fusion's new treasurer.

Call Committee Report: Another first-round interview of a new candidate will take place. One of the names interviewed prior to Christmas has accepted the second-round in-person interview. Details are being worked out and both interviews will happen prior to the end of February 2022.

Ministry Reports:

Congregation Life - 25+ Valentine's baskets/bags were delivered to shut-ins. (Tony)

Outreach - No Report

Worship & Music - Lenten discussion in the works. (Mike)

Memorial/Endowment - The Kingery Family was well received. (Mark)

Property & Safety - The bats are back! (Eric)

Education - Planning in the works for Ash Wednesday. (Vicky)

Celebrate & Share - More meetings and planning to come. (Todd)

Women of Faith - No Report

Secretary Report:

January Meeting & Annual Meeting - MMSP

Treasurer's Report: MMSP

OLD BUSINESS

Worship Service: Online worship views are averaging 150 views over a week. The Kingery Family Sunday had approximately 450 online views.

Goal Setting: This will continue to be on hold with on-going discussion. A list of goals was attached to the council agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Covid Protocols & Guidelines: Updates will be posted on the door and online. Continuing members to stay home if they are sick will continue to the norm. In regard to serving out of the kitchen, especially with Lenten meals coming up, suggested protocols will be posted in the kitchen. Masks and gloves will be provided. The suggestion was made that we begin transitioning back to a more traditional way of sharing in communion at the altar, while still using the pre-packaged wine/wafer capsules. More information to follow on that.

Executive Committee: The following council members will serve on the Executive Committee: Liz Spohr (President), Lynnae Lina (Vice President), Mark Torgerson (Treasurer), and Jenny Maras (Secretary). MMSP to slate the executive committee.

Committee Assignments for Council Members:

Council members volunteered for the following roles on the various ministries: Todd Hodenfield (Celebrate & Share), Tony Reimers and Jenny Maras (Congregational Life), Vicky Dossdall and Lynnae Lina (Education), Chris Hopkins (Outreach), Eric Meichsner and Zach Arnold (Property & Safety), Liz Spohr and Mike Nordquist (Worship & Music), Mark Torgerson (Endowment), and Nancy Olson (Women of Faith).

Annual Meeting: The 2022 annual meeting went well.

Excess Funds: With excess funds available, the council discussed three arenas of use. We could be more generous in our financial giving. We could spend some of the excess on improvements to the building. Mike is looking into improvements to the sound system, while Vicky is exploring flooring upgrades in the narthex. We could also leave the healthy excess funds as a way to be attractive to a future full-time pastor. This will be an on-going conversation with a formal re-visit in June.

Custodial Fees: Nothing is charged for non-profit groups who use the church building. Building use for private non-members will be looked at

.

Employee Retention Credit (ERC) Opportunity:

Information was attached.

Other: Electronic giving was discussed. Pastor Vicki will casually remind members and links can be provided online.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, March 13, 2022

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer

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

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Youth Director of Fusion Ministry	Heather Black	
Pianist	Rita Lambert	
Director of Music	John Kleinwolterink	
Custodians	Ryan & Cassie Snyder	
Website	Anne Mitteness	

Congregational Church Council

Liz Spohr —President	Lynnae Lina—Vice President		
Jenny Maras —Secretary	Mark Torgerson—Treasurer		
Zach Arnold	Vicky Dosedall	Todd Hodenfield	Chris Hopkins
Eric Meichsner	Mike Nordquist	Nancy Olson	Tony Reimers

Church Office (320) 589-2970 e-mail: faithful@hometownsolutions.net

Website www.faithlutheranmorris.org (Worship Services can be viewed on the website)