

## LETTER OF FAITH

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH

### What time is it?

The Steve Miller Band sings, “Time keeps on slippin’, slippin’, slippin’, into the future. As I reach the one year mark of being your pastor and living in Morris this rings true for me. My church office still isn’t settled. There are walls we still want to get painted at our home. There are local towns I still haven’t visited. There are many of you who I am still getting to know. Somehow, a year has slipped by and I feel as though I am just beginning to get my feet under myself in this place.

Does time keep slippin’ into the future for you, as well? Another summer come and gone. Friends who you’d like to connect with, but it just doesn’t happen. A project that just never happens. A devotion book or prayer practice that you just can’t seem to get started. Time keeps on slippin’ into the future. Maybe sometimes, we feel like we (and the projects we hope to do) are left behind.

In this ever changing and evolving world, I appreciate the wisdom in the poetry of Ecclesiastes 3:1-9:

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

- <sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die;
- a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- <sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal;
- a time to break down and a time to build up;
- <sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn and a time to dance;
- <sup>5</sup> a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
- <sup>6</sup> a time to seek and a time to lose;
- a time to keep and a time to throw away;
- <sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
- <sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate;
- a time for war and a time for peace.

These words, I think, give us permission to take things as they come. We can’t and won’t always be able to accomplish everything that comes to mind. Some chapters in our lives are a little fuller and some a little slower. God gives us all sorts of times, all sorts of days. Rather than pushing back on what we think “should” be the case, our faith gives us permission to accept what is the case and trust that God is present in the midst of it.

Time keeps on slippin’ into the future. Yet, God promises to be with us in this time and in the time to come. Accept the time that you are in, as a gift from God.

Grace and peace to you,  
Pastor Emmy

Faith Lutheran Church

108 West Eighth Street

Morris, MN 56267

320-589-2970

[www.faithlutheranmorris.org](http://www.faithlutheranmorris.org)

Pastor Emmy Swedlund

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(701) 552-2419

Office Manager Connie Tschetter

[faithful@hometownsolutions.net](mailto:faithful@hometownsolutions.net)

Youth Director of Fusion Ministry

Heather Black

[www.fusion-ministry.com](http://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

Vicky Dossdall

Molly Fluegel

Brent Gausman

Chris Hopkins

Lynnae Lina—President

Tom Loew

Jenny Maras—Secretary

Eric Meichsner

Mike Nordquist—Vice President

Nancy Olson

Liz Spohr—Treasurer

## Stepping Stones 2023-2024 Dates

Families – Please mark your calendars.

The Stepping Stones are given as milestones through their young faith building years to encourage both the child and parent to nurture the seed of faith given in baptism. This is the plan for the year. Please watch for a postcard closer to the date with more information!

1-year-old	Blessing & Baptismal Banner – the Sunday before 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary of baptism
2-year-old	Baptism Book - October 15 at Worship
3-year-old	The Beginner's Bible – October 8 at Worship
4-year-old	Prayer Book – February 18 at Worship
Kindergarten	Martin Luther Book - October 29 at 9:00 Worship service
1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Advent at Home – Given to families after worship on Sunday, December 3.
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	Resurrection Eggs – Sunday, March 17 during Sunday School
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	Bible Presentation – October 8 at Worship
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Bible Story Retreat – Wednesday, February 7 from 12:30ish-5:00 pm.
5 <sup>th</sup> grade	Communion Celebration: Class on March 24 & First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28



### Affirmation of Baptism Confirmation Sunday Sunday, October 29

Reception at 10:00am

Service at 11:00am

Travis Buss

Zack Buss

Hazel Hall

Heika Hall

Sienna Koehler

Jacob Kolden

Jack LeTendre

Hailey Manthei

Congratulations to our  
Confirmation Students



Bring a favorite **stuffed animal** to worship on **Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** for a blessing of the stuffed animals.

Following in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi who blessed the animals, we'll bless our stuffed animals. We'll also have a blessing available for you to bring home and bless your pets.



*Thank You Pastor  
Emmy*

*October is Clergy Appreciation Month*

Thank You to Pastor Emmy for being with us at Faith.

We appreciate you!

**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**



**Do Days—Tuesday Mornings**

Join them on Tuesdays at 9:30—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. Thanks



**LIVING OUT  
OUR FAITH**



**October Worship Themes**

- October 1 | Living Out Our Faith: Be Kind, Communion Sunday
- October 8 | Living Out Our Faith: Point People to Jesus, Communion Sunday
- October 15 | Living Out Our Faith: Go to the Sick
- October 22 | "I Pledge Allegiance..."
- October 29 | 9:00 am Reformation Worship and 11:00 am Worship with Affirmation of Faith, Communion at both services



**Chancel Choir**

They meet on Wednesdays at 6:00pm

They are requesting new members!

No auditions required!!

If interested and/or you have questions, please talk to John Kleinwolterink.

Faith Lutheran Church	
2023 Budget for Mission	\$317,156.22
<u>August 2023</u>	
Year to Date Expense	\$195,248.61
Year to Date Income	<u>\$169,659.14</u>
Difference	-\$25,589.47

**Please consider a one time or reoccurring gift to support our ministry.**

- Donate in the offering plate on Sunday.
- Drop off/mail to the church office
- Give online at [www.faithlutheranmorris.org](http://www.faithlutheranmorris.org)
- Stop in the church office to set up electronic withdrawals through Simply Giving/Vanco.

Give Now



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).

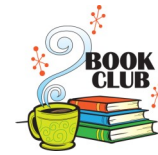
Gatherings for Widows and Widowers

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, October 10**. 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

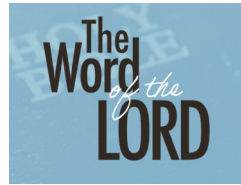
- October 30 "Murder on the Red River" by Marcie Rendon
- November 27 "Britt-Marie Was Here" by Fredrik Backman
- December—No meeting
- January 29 "The Water Keeper" by Charles Martin
- February 26 "The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride" by Joe Siple



**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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

October Daily Bible Verses



1. Joshua 1:8	11. Deuteronomy 32:1	21. Ecclesiastes 3:1
2. Nehemiah 9:27	12. Psalm 119:18	22. Exodus 35:35
3. Matthew 7:7-8	13. Psalm 118:5	23. Psalm 96:2, 7
4. John 6:48	14. Ecclesiastes 4:11	24. Matthew 6:12
5. I Thessalonians 5:15	15. II Corinthians 4:18	25. Hebrews 10:25
6. Matthew 2:1,11	16. Isaiah 8:18	26. II Corinthians 1:4
7. Proverbs 16:18	17. Job 27:11	27. Philippians 4:6
8. Isaiah 43:18-19	18. II Timothy 3:16	28. Psalm 141:5
9. Psalm 4:5	19. Micah 6:8	29. Psalm 119:81
10. Isaiah 51:12	20. Psalm 9:1	30. Romans 6:13
		31. Ephesians 1:5

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)



**Element's Schedule: (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

**Wed, October 4<sup>th</sup>:** Element 6-7:30pm @First Lutheran Church

**Wed, October 11<sup>th</sup>:** Element 6-7:30pm @First Lutheran Church

**Wed, October 18<sup>th</sup>:** No Element due to MEA Weekend!

**Wed, October 25<sup>th</sup>:** Element 6-7:30pm @First Lutheran Church



**Sr. High Fusion's Schedule: (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

**Wed, October 4<sup>th</sup>:** Sr. High Fusion 7-8:30pm @First Lutheran Church

**Wed, October 11<sup>th</sup>:** Sr. High Fusion 7-8:30pm @First Lutheran Church

**Wed, October 18<sup>th</sup>:** No Sr. High Fusion due to MEA Weekend!

**Wed, October 25<sup>th</sup>:** Sr. High Fusion 7-8:30pm @First Lutheran Church



**SR. HIGH FUSION (9TH-12TH GRADES) WILL NOW BE MEETING ON WEDNESDAYS 7-8:30PM AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

[www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com)



SR. HIGH FUSION FRIDAY

**BREAKFAST**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**BREAKFAST**

ENJOY A YUMMY BREAKFAST AND HEAR A STUDENT LED DEVOTION. A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR FRIDAY!! FUSION WILL PAY FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU COME!

Oct 27th 7:15-8AM  
9th-12th Graders Invited

[www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com)

**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>:** Fusion Friday Breakfast 7:15-8am  
(Location TBA – see Website for more details)

Please check out Fusion's updated website for more information. [www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com)

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





**Faith Lutheran Meatball Supper** will be held on **Wednesday, November 8.**

We are again looking for monetary donations to go towards the meat expense and other ingredients.

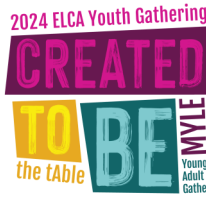
If you want to give towards this, please drop off your donation in the church office.

For updates and more information:

Watch the bulletin, website and

Facebook page.

Thank You



Attention 9-12th Grade Students

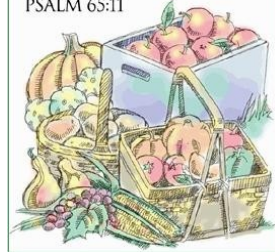
The ELCA Youth Gathering is next summer, July 16-20, in New Orleans. Learn more at

[/lca.org/YAGathering](http://lca.org/YAGathering)

Please talk to Pastor Emmy ASAP if you are interested in learning more.

YOU CROWN  
THE YEAR  
WITH YOUR  
BOUNTY...

PSALM 65:11



# CORN & COFFEE

## FOR CHRIST CHALLENGE



### PLEDGE OR DONATE IN SUPPORT OF OUR 2023-2024 MINISTRY

**Do you grow corn or rent out acres?**

Would you consider donating one row of corn, \$120?

**Do you drink coffee?**

Would you consider donating what you'd spend on 1, 12 or 52 cups of coffee, \$4, \$48, or \$208?

Make a donation through your church earmarked for "Fusion Fundraiser."

or

Fill out a pledge card, at your church, so that Fusion Board can plan for the year ahead.

Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our youth. This ministry reaches out to the over 150 youth in the partner congregations and beyond. Your financial and prayer support for this ministry allows us to keep moving forward. Thank you!

**WWW.FUSION-MINISTRY.COM**

**ENGAGE - CONNECT - TEACH - SEND**



**A multi-congregation ministry reaching out to 6th-12th Grade Youth in the Morris area.**



**A Ministry Supported by**  
First Lutheran Church, Morris  
Faith Lutheran Church, Morris  
The Federated Church, Morris  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Cyrus  
St. John's & Kongsvinger Churches, Donelly



## CORN & COFFEE

### FOR CHRIST CHALLENGE

#### **Do you grow corn?**

Would you consider donating one row of corn in support of our youth?

**\$120**

#### **Do you drink coffee?**

Would you consider donating what you'd spend on 1, 12 or 52 cups of coffee?

**\$4, \$48,  
or \$208**

**Make a donation through your church earmarked for "Fusion Fundraiser."**

**or**

**Fill out a pledge card, at your church,  
so that Fusion Board can plan for the year ahead.**

**Engage** - The five churches involved have a little over 150 kids to pull from. Our goal is to engage youth both inside and outside the church walls!

**Connect** - Having a sense of connection to others is so important at all ages, but especially during the 6th-12th ages. Our goal is to help youth connect to other youth, positive adults, and Jesus.

**Teach** - Our goal is to teach youth to answer the question, "What do you believe about God and what does your life look like because of it?"

**Send** - Our goal is to make lifelong Christians who can love fiercely and respect others. We challenge them to live out their faith in all aspects of their life: at school, home, church, work and with friends and family.

**Learn about our ministry!** [www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com)

## Faith Lutheran Church Council Highlights

September 10, 2023

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

**Congregational 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*

**Members Present:** Pastor Emmy, Mike Nordquist, Liz Spohr, Zach Arnold, Chris Hopkins, Brent Gausman, Jenny Maras, Lynnae Lina, Tom Loew, Connie Tschetter, Vicky Dosedall

**Members Absent:** Eric Meichsner, Nancy Olson, Molly Fluegel

**Guest(s):** None

**Call to Order:** Lynnae Lina

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Emmy

### REPORTS

**Pastor's Report:** The theme weeks have been enjoyable to drive sermons. In the season of "back to..." the extra activity around the church has been exciting. They recently hosted friends from Palestine who are olive wood artists.

**Connie's Report:** Written Report Shared - Busy with the fall events

**Fusion Youth Update:** Parent meeting next week and Heather has been working with adult mentors. More information coming for a parent bible study option during Wednesday night Element. There was a recent celebration of Fusion Youth Ministry, including reflections from students from their summer trip. Today, Fusion is hosting a pork chop meal at East Side Park.

### Ministry Reports:

*Congregation Life* (Jenny & Lynnae) - September meeting is today, with planning for a Luncheon & Bingo and special mail for our freshman college students.

*Outreach* (Chris) - September meeting with planning underway for a fall welcome event geared toward the handicapped community.

*Worship & Music* (Mike & Liz) - No Recent Meeting but planning is underway for Christmas. Online continues to be consistent

*Memorial/Endowment* (Eric) - No Recent Meeting

*Property & Safety* (Zach & Brent) - The city removed the tree. A suggestion was made to remove weeds around the playground before more fresh wood chips are added.

*Education* (Vicky & Molly) - Upcoming Sunday School teacher event with supper and a meeting. Sunday School kicks off next week with Rally Sunday.

*Celebrate & Share* (Tom & Connie) - Planned the Church Without Walls event.

*Women of Faith* (Nancy) - No Report

**Secretary Report - MMSP/Treasurer's Report - MMSP**

### OLD BUSINESS

**Facility Improvement Committee** The next step in the process would be to fix the hallway. No water issues have been reported. Quotes/Estimates and timeline will continue to be explored. The Facility Improvement Committee will collaborate with the Property & Safety Committee.

**Organics, Recycling, Trash System** The program is going well and people are learning the process.

**Values** These are continued to be developed, with the request to pray about these.

- Wide Open Welcome - Open door policy & spirit of welcome and inclusion

- Caring & Sharing - Community engagement and care for one another - both internal & external

- Creating a Joyful Noise - Youth

- Point to Jesus

### NEW BUSINESS

**Tree & Landscaping** The tree has been removed from the summer storm.

**Chartering Organization for Scouts** Plans are moving forward. Storage will need to be established.

**Sons of Norway** Request to have meetings at Faith Lutheran - meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month. No summer meetings. Small area for storage will be needed. Mike motioned to accept with Chris seconding.

**Other** Snow removal for the sidewalks was discussed. Riley's takes care of the parking lot. Looking into forming a committee for a rotational schedule. Talk to Ryan about his availability. Look into at least two quotes for specifically Sunday mornings.

**Next Council Meeting:** Sunday, October 8, 2023

### Adjournment & Lord's Prayer

*Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Maras - Council Secretary*



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108 West Eighth Street  
Morris, MN 56267

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MORRIS, MN 56267

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Faith Lutheran Church 108 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Morris MN (320)589-2970 [www.faithlutheranmorris.org](http://www.faithlutheranmorris.org)



### **Our Vision**

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

### **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