

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

2020 Annual Report

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Senior Pastor’s Annual Report for the Year 2020

A Good Year?

Okay, I’ll be one of the first to say it, “2020 was a good year!” What? How can you say that? Even amidst the virus fears, the civil unrest, the violence, the economic uncertainty, and the lost celebrations? Of course, one can only say this if he or she can view this year through the eyes of faith. Consider, for a moment, the Old Testament and Joseph. After being sold into slavery by his older brothers and later spending years in prison on a false charge, he could still forgive his brothers because he saw that “As for you [his brothers], you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” (Genesis 50:20) Notice how Joseph glorifies God not for the good that came to him personally, though surely Joseph was thankful for that, but for the good that came to others through his suffering.

So, can we see 2020 through the same lens? I think we can, but only with the help of the Holy Spirit. In another example, from Philippians 2, St. Paul encourages us to have the same “mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be rasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant....” (v 5-7) Paul’s point is this, the suffering of our Savior achieved the greatest good of all, the redemption of the world from sin for an eternity of joy. Likewise, in Romans, St. Paul encourages the church with these words: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28) Again, notice that he writes of the good God is working in “all things,” (even the bad), may be to someone else’s good, not necessarily ours. Our

longsuffering, or dare I say even cheerful endurance of painful trials, may give us an opportunity to give a reason for the hope that we have in Christ Jesus. In other words, God can use our witness to bring good to others by leading them to faith in Jesus.

So, what did all this mean for our church in 2020? Rather than a disaster, let’s look at the year past as an opportunity. God already knows all our tomorrows and He knows exactly what good He is doing through all of this. So, let’s redouble our efforts to reach God’s lost sheep with our prayers, our volunteer time, and our financial gifts.

The Past

The year started out like many others until March when things seemed to take an unknown path. The Coronavirus pandemic forced a suspending of services and forced all of us to go digital. Words like “social distancing,” “livestreaming,” and “Zoom-meeting” have become a regular part of our vocabulary. While these mediums are not ideal (and can actually do harm to a major component of Christian faith, think fellowship), going digital can actually be a good thing. I’ve heard from people all over the country (granted many of them have ties to our church) who have tuned in to watch and hear our worship services. Furthermore, this past fall, Pastor Sam and I confirmed several new Lutherans who were initially brought in through our digital media. So, yes, God can use even these means to bring people to faith!

The Present

The reality of the pandemic has forced us to do a great deal of adjustments. For example, every other pew is taped off to allow proper distancing. The scent of hand sanitizer has become an ever-present part of our worship space. Face masks, while not mandatory, are worn by an increasing number of

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worship attendees. Speaking of worship, our Christmas Eve services (which has a history of attracting a good number of people), was expanded from our normal two services to a more “distance-friendly” four services. Instead of candles, which are always reused at the services, glow sticks were purchased (by the way, I heard the kids loved the change!). In all, except for about two months this year, we have been holding in-person services and bringing God’s forgiveness offered through the Sacraments to God’s people. (By the way, thank you to all who put in the extra time and energy during these times to make these challenging times more worshipful). And, once again, we see how God continues to work through the most challenging of times to bring His gifts to His people.

The Future

As for the future, only God knows what that will look like. There is a great deal of promise in the vaccine that is currently being rolled out all over the country. As of this time, some of our member have already received it and, I assume, many more will receive it in the coming days. Yet, as promising as this is, we must never forget the ultimate Promise God gives in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the one promise we can count on.

I began this report with a bold statement, “2020 was a good year!” No, it was not good that the Caronavirus was unleashed upon the world’s population. It was not good that our loved ones became sick and some of them even died. But it is good that we, as a people, became aware of our faith in God. It is good, that we were again reminded that, even a worldwide pandemic cannot stop our Lord’s love for us; neither can it stop our Lord from giving us His gifts. Furthermore, it is good that the Lord has given us yet another opportunity to share His goodness with a world facing its own mortality. Don’t become focused on what the Caronavirus can do or has done to us

personally, rather take this as an opportunity to give glory to God, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

The Lord be with you today, tomorrow, and forever! Amen.

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,



Pastor Cory J. Rajek

Soli Deo Gloria

ASSOCIATE PASTOR REPORT

Incremental Change

How can I reflect upon 2020 without mentioning the obvious? By instead writing the beneficial changes that have come from this past year. I do not write to downplay anything that has happened last year. Instead, I take encouragement from God’s own actions. He is a God who brings victory out of seeming defeat. He is a God who, at the very last minute, provides exactly what we need.

I have been encouraged from conversations with many of you. You have also seen beneficial changes to your lifestyle. With extra activities stripped away, you have been able to focus time and attention upon your family. With outside trips now counted and calculated, you have overcome the physical distance by hearing God’s Word on your TV or tablet. That is part of the Christian life, not succumbing to despair but focusing on the blessings and benefits that God gives in the midst of tragedy.

Renewed Focus on Families

Wednesday is family night at Faith. This time is designed as an opportunity for families to learn, worship, and grow in faith. We are not yet able to safely provide the full host of options. As our community begins to increase interaction, we

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are poised to grow once families are able to safely and confidently gather together.

Family night will include a meal. Parents do not need to worry about drive-thru’s or throwing together a quick meal. Instead, they can come to God’s house where the whole family will be fed on daily bread and on God’s Word. Parents can converse as students play. Then each group separates for focused education: the students to Midweek confirmation and the parents to studying God’s Word. They are reunited for worship, where God’s whole family joins together to receive his gifts. Those students in transition, middle school and high school-age, will gather for their own time of fellowship, activity, and devotion. God’s people grow as individuals and as community.

Daily Interaction

Many of you have made hearing God’s Word a priority. However and whenever you worship with us, you are joining together to hear about the peace and comfort that only God can give. Even as I have lost some ability to connect with you, I have gained another way. I invite you to visit our YouTube page (where the livestream is) for devotions. I update three times a week focusing on a reading from God’s Word. I also post a once weekly reflection where I look at some current event or topic in light of God’s gifts to us and how we can best respond to these issues.

A Sweet Baby Girl

My family is a little bit bigger. Evie Joy was born on October 27. Everything was boring and uneventful (in the best possible way). Evie continues to be healthy. Her brother and sisters are adjusting to their new role in the family, although I am sure this adjustment will continue well into the future. Julia is trying her hardest to be like Paul and Anna. She “reads” books with Anna and she plays trucks and trains with Paul. Paul is my steadfast helper on household projects. He measures and marks with me. He loves the leftover wood to build

towers or just hammer it. Anna is doing well in school and receives recognition for her kindness and helpfulness. Cathy and I are proud of all of them.

We are adventuring towards growing our own food. The last several years we planted a garden, and we continue to add new fruits and vegetables each year. This summer we should be able to harvest a nice crop of strawberries. Cathy is especially excited for them to start growing and maturing. We are happy and content to live among you and rejoice in the time that God places us in Pierre. Incremental advancement is our desire both at home and in our work declaring God’s wonderful deeds.

God bless you.

-Sam



AN ANSWER TO VIOLENCE

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” John 14:27

Not exactly what one thinks of as part of an annual report. However, pick up the paper or any magazine. What do you find printed on the pages on any given day?

Road rage!
Child abuse!
Sex trafficking!

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Drive-by shootings!
Divorces by the dozen!
Gang violence!
Murders!
Unwanted children!
Rumors of war!
Hate crimes!
School shootings!
World hunger!

Frightened wives and children cowering in corners!

Now throw in Covid, the pandemic that has spread across the world, infected over 88 million people, taken the lives of nearly two million souls (data as of 1-9-2021); isolated many more millions from their families and human contact; shut down the economy; closed schools, houses of worship, places of business and changed life as we once knew it. This is the world we Christians live in today. This is the place where we are called to be salt and light. This is the place where we are called to preach and sing the good news.

Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great compassion;
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, Thy people, from consuming passion,
Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Faith Lutheran was not immune to Covid. In-person worship was suspended in favor of live-streaming; daycare closed its doors temporarily; preschool, Midweek classes and Sunday School were suspended; Bible Studies were interrupted; monthly meetings took on a different format; no more choir or bell rehearsals; preparations for a third (and final) Living Last Supper came to a halt.

Hope of the world, God’s gift from highest heaven,
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
Still let Thy Spirit unto us be given
To heal earth’s wounds and end our bitter strife.

From a musical standpoint, it was time to get creative. During the time of suspended in-person

worship, Helen Kiepkke literally sang every live-streamed worship service, including midweek Lenten services – the whole service: hymns (yes, all the verses), liturgy and anthems. Andrew Wulf helped us out with instrumental offerings more often than not – flute, sax, oboe, clarinet. Rodd Bauck assisted by singing the anthem from time to time, and Randy Hartmann also stepped up to the plate. I found that preparing music for worship, and being present physically in the sanctuary – even if the place was nearly empty – was a safe haven from what was happening in the outside world.

Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us
From death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,
We render back the love Thy mercy gave us;
Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.

While things are not completely back to normal – and they may never be, we are making some progress. Faith opened its doors; some of our organists are back; the congregation is singing again. Helen and Andrew are still carrying some of the load, but I’ve been able to put together a couple of vocal ensembles; and we were able to form a bell choir on one occasion. Remember that in the midst of all this chaos, in the midst of all this bloodshed and violence; in the midst of all of this pain and suffering, hunger and hardship, we have the gift of Christ’s peace in our lives. Christ’s peace is the only remedy that will calm us when the world seems too much to bear, and is one that is always available in a violent and troubled world.

Hope of the world, O Christ, o’er death victorious,
Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful to Thy Gospel glorious.
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!

Karen Lindbloom

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FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

What a wonderful school year so far!

Preschool in 2020-2021 has three sessions of 21, 14, and 10 students each for a total of 45 students.

Our Pre-Kindergarten sessions meets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30-11:30 and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 12:30-3:30. Our 3-year-old session meets Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:30 – 11:00. Dusti Palecek and Jill Splitt serve as teacher assistants. They all do an amazing job and I could not do it without them.

Each month we study a specific shape, number, color and letters; as well as rotate the toys, puzzles, books and games. Each week we follow a theme that relates to a Bible story. We share God’s love not only in the printed material, but also through our actions. It is our goal that the children will not only hear that God loves them, but see that love through our words and actions. We have a full day of activities at preschool, which include stories, art projects, free play, rhymes, tricycle time, music, snacks, and group games.

Last fall, we borrowed a lesson from the Cultural Heritage Museum on Cowboys, the students loved this.

This year has been quite different due to Covid-19, we have missed out on many things including our Preschool Christmas Program and our visit to the Capital to see the Christmas trees. Our Preschool decorated a tree in the Living Room with cross ornaments. Although our Christmas season was a lot different this year, the children were still taught the true meaning of Christmas and how much Jesus loves each of us.

Many thanks go out to all who have in some way supported our preschool program. Our Rada Fundraiser was a huge success. Our Preschool profit was a few cents under \$1,400.00. Many thanks to everyone who supported that fundraiser. The Board of Early Childhood Education is a blessing with their encouragement. Parents are more than happy to help bring snacks each day for our students and donate to our classroom “Giving Tree”, this is great support for our program. Thank you to everyone at Faith Lutheran Church for all your help and support of our program. It has certainly been a blessing for me to serve as Preschool director at Faith Lutheran.

God Bless,

Hope LaForest, Preschool director
preschool@faithluth.com



FAITH LUTHERAN DAY CARE

2020 was a blur. I feel like it was just last week that I was writing the 2019 Annual Report, but here we are – another year behind us. This year was challenging and overwhelming– I would even say irritating at times; however, more than that, it was another year full of blessings and things we never could have guessed and are so incredibly grateful for.

At the beginning of last year, we had 83 total children enrolled. This number dropped drastically when the infamous pandemic hit mid-March. This was a strain on the daycare, but we were blessed to receive 2 large grants through the state and some much-appreciated assistance from the church to keep on all of the daycare employees who wanted to

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stay and continue to operate as normal (barring the COVID policies that we needed to put in place to ensure health and safety). I am glad to say that we are back up to 60 children enrolled – 8 infants, 10 waddlers, 5 toddlers, 30 preschoolers, and 7 schoolers. We expect this number to continue to increase as we look at opening more rooms!

Our hard-working and caring staff consists of: Dora Stone (Head Cook), Lawana Williams (Assistant Cook), Clareen James (Lead Infant teacher), Marcia Chamberlain and Debbie Bontje (Assistant Infant teachers), Karrie James (Lead Waddler teacher), Katie Stenson (Waddler teacher), Emma Allen (Waddler / Preschool teacher), Brooke Willoughby (Lead Toddler teacher), Leah Lappe (Lead Preschool 1 teacher), Carolyn Kropuenske (Preschool teacher), Deanna McNeal (Lead Preschool 2 teacher), Kira Seeking Land (Lead Preschool 3 teacher), Kelsy Prellwitz (Float / Schooler teacher), and Moriah Kiepke (Director). 15 employees is far from the 29 that we had at the beginning of 2020, but I am personally grateful for all of them and their dedication to the well-being of the children in our care. I cannot commend them enough!

With all of that being said, 2021 holds many new, awesome, and unbelievably blessed things and we are all excited to be here for it!

God Bless,

Moriah Kiepke, Director
daycare@faithluth.com



LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Lutheran Women in Mission is another name for the organization in our church referred to as LWML. Our motto is "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

Faith Lutheran LWML is one group of many in our Synod across the country. We are part of the Pierre Zone, made up of LWML members from groups in Blunt, Gettysburg, Onida, and Pierre. The Pierre Zone is a part of the South Dakota District LWML. As a district, we host retreats, conventions and workshops for women to gather from across South Dakota. The district selects mission grants every biennium to support with our donations called mites. The South Dakota District LWML is part of the national LWML which also supports other mission grants. These mission grants are all supported with our "Mighty Mites". These mites are collected at our local group meeting or at the First Sunday coffees each month in our Fellowship Hall. You can pick up a mite box at this coffee as well as at the group meeting each month.

Faith Lutheran's LWML is made up of the members of the 6 circles and members at large. The Circles are named Altar Guild, Berea Circle, Faith Circle, Mary/Martha Circle, Priscilla Circle, and Rebekah Circle. Please read their reports to find out about their special projects.

Local projects done by the circles on a rotating basis are:

- Serving funeral luncheon or other events as we are asked
- First Sunday coffee and snacks each month
- Kitchen cleaning
- Serving snacks at Maryhouse on Sunday afternoons
- Serving Confirmation and graduation receptions each year

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- Sending holiday cards to each confirmand as well as a yearend gift
- Hosting women's Christmas gathering in December

Other events or projects we support are:

- Providing Large Print Portals of Prayer
- Providing "The Quarterly" to our members
- Sending cards to those grieving or recovering from illness
- Keeping the kitchen supplied with paper products and needed equipment
- Hosting a Prayer Partner exchange with our members

This past year has been a challenge with COVID limiting or cancelling many activities that we had planned. In January we held our annual planning meeting, but many of our plans were not to be.

In February, we met to reorganize the funeral luncheon situation. At that time we printed a survey form to collect a new funeral helper list. This survey was not sent out until November. We purchased new confirmation gowns to replace our old ones.

We met in person on March 9 and then did not meet again in person until July 13. When we did reconvene, we social distanced and wore masks as we felt necessary. No coffee or snacks were served; we met in the Fellowship Hall - 3 people to a table. Only about 7-8 members attended. All events planned during March through July were cancelled.

We voted not to hold our annual Country Fair, but instead did an Unfair where members of the congregation and community donated money that they would have spent on the Country Fair. We were thrilled to collect \$5,113.00 to be divided among three organizations: Orphan Grain Train,

PARS, and Mites. Our in-house groups were Faith Circle, LYF, Daycare and Preschool.

Faith LWML was able to update and revise their By Laws and Policy book this past year.

We did not host our Christmas party, but rather asked the members of the congregation to donate blankets for Pastor Utecht's ministry at Rosebud. Over 70 blankets were donated. The health kits from last spring were also delivered to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE.

An open invitation is extended to all of the women of Faith to visit/join any of the circles or the LWML. Dates and times for the various circles are listed on the monthly church calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Marso (224-2769) or Jan Larson (224-6574) larson920@hotmail.com

ALTAR GUILD



Altar Guild’s purpose is one of service to our Pastors, Board of Elders, and the congregation of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our service is for the glory of God and the building up of His people.

The Altar Guild is a spiritual commitment. We are humble and reverent in our work as we prepare for each worship service, funeral, weddings, etc. We care for the altar, lectern and pulpit paraments. We change the paraments according to the church year and special occasion such as weddings. We prepare for the Elders the communion vessels and linens. We launder the communion linens and wash communion vessels. We maintain the acolyte

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robes during the year. We fill the candelabra candles and special candles for lighting during worship services. We care for all the flowers that adorn the Altar.

We would like to say “Thank You” to all who have donated flowers for the Altar, whether from a wedding or funeral or just gifts of love. If any member of the congregation would desire to donate special flowers we would love to care for the arrangements. You can simply call the church office or a member of Altar Guild to have the arrangements placed on the Altar and we can then make note in the bulletin. Special thanks to those of you who have furnished a poinsettia or Easter Lily flowers for the joyous celebrations of Christmas and Easter. Also, thanks to Pat Huisman for poinsettias in the Narthex at Christmas in honor of her husband’s birthday.

Altar Guild meets three to four times a year and additional times as necessary. Christmas 2020 we decorated the church altar with 3 Christmas trees, placing emphases on the Nativity. The Nativity on the altar this year was purchased by Board of Missions for outside several years ago, they generously gave the nativity to Altar Guild to display and this is our third year to use the nativity.

Altar Guild is thankful for Ron Kayser talents as he made the stable for the new nativity with the aid of his sons. Easter 2020 we decorated the altar with Easter lilies and draped the altar cross in gold and white. Altar Guild did not chair the making of Palm Cross necklaces for Palm Sunday this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us in serving the Lord by preparing his altar. Please contact an Altar Guild member if you are interested. It may sound like we do a lot, we do, but with our many hands the task go fast!

Our membership includes: Officers for 2020, Chair – Renee Knapp, Secretary- Doreen Kayser and Treasurer – Janice Deal. Other members include: Sandy Bales, Lila Houck, Verna Fransen, Jan Johnson, Doreen Kayser, Brenda Hemmelman, Amber Bell, Jan C Johnson, Cindy Canode, Kelly VanDeWiele, and Pat Huisman. Honorary members include: Shirley Keller, Sandy Petersen, Marcia Johnson, JoAnn Sanders and Karen Humphrey.

BEREA CIRCLE



Berea Circle provides a Christian Resource Center stocked with reading and reference materials.

Greeting cards, napkins, Bibles and other small gifts are available for purchase. Members are available on Sunday mornings to assist you with purchases you may wish to make. The self-service envelopes are available for your use when circle members are not available.

This past year, we have provided get-well cards to the LWML, which are sent to members of the congregation. We also provide birthday cards that are sent to members of the Confirmation class by the LWML. The circle provided devotional books, which the LWML presents to the Confirmands and graduates in the spring.

Our circle assisted the LWML in serving treats at Mary House, first Sunday coffee, and kitchen cleaning. We gave a monetary donation to PARS for the SHARE holiday meal project. We participated in the Country Fair.

Circle meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (except for January, February,

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March and December when we do not meet) in the church Living Room. Guests are always welcome.

2020 Officers are: Chair – Donna Gohl; Secretary – Judy Gerig; Treasurer/Ordering Chair – Ruth Hansen; Christian Growth – Tina Haug; Members are: Denise Overweg, Carol Fosheim and Arlene Even.

Honorary Members are: Ruth Leidholt, and Bernadine Hinckley.

FAITH CIRCLE



Faith Circle meets in February and October when we meet to assemble goodie envelopes in conjunction with those holidays. These are then sent to the college students.

Our fellowship meetings include business and Bible study. We do not meet through the summer months June-August.

Projects in which we participate include:
-Goodie envelopes packed for Valentine’s Day and Halloween which include the current church bulletin and a religious reading or tract.

-We also visit the patrons of Betty’s Place during the Christmas and Lenten Seasons. We sing songs, provide seasonal treats and leave a religious keepsake gift.

-Our Circle is responsible for supplying tracts for the benefit of the congregation. These are located in the tract shelving in the narthex.

-We also participate in projects such as serving Maryhouse, kitchen cleaning, and serving first

Sunday coffee. These projects are in rotation with the other circles of the congregation.

Officers include: Chairman: Cindy Fiechtner; **Secretary:** Gloria Welk; **Treasurer:** Beth Schiltz; **Tracts:** Gloria Welk. **Remaining members** include: Cindy Deadrick, Marlys Doud, Jeanne Schweigert, Clara Shelbourn, and Susan Stoneback.



MARY/MARTHA CIRCLE

Jesus answered, “Martha thou are careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needed and Mary has chosen that good part that will never be taken away. “Luke 10 41–42.

2020 has certainly reminded us what is truly right and good. Mary/Martha served a desert funeral reception in March just as COVID-19 became a concern; some of our duties were limited for a while. We continued our kitchen duties in March and August and also hosted a kick off to Wednesday 7 PM services. Our circle hosted First Sunday coffee in November and a Pastoral meal in December. We joined for Bible study and meetings starting again in June, August, September, October and November.

Mary/Martha’s Purpose is to help comfort the needy and shut ends within the church and community. Throughout the year we remembered our Faith family that are elderly and shut in with cards for Valentine’s Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In December we also started the duty of packaging for mailing or hand delivering the large print Prayer Portals to our elderly or shut-in Faith family. We correspond monthly with our friend Ronald Bagola who lives in a group home in Mitchell SD.

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We meet at 6:30 pm, every fourth Tuesday of the month at the church. We have two new members, Angela Schwartz and Jennifer Wulf. Our 2021 Officers are as follows:
 Chair: Kathleen Monfore
 Treasure: Grace Schmitgen
 Secretary: Dawn Koch
 Christian growth chair: Rena Ortbahn

In Christ, respectfully submitted,
 Kathleen Monfore

PRISCILLA CIRCLE



Our purpose in LWML is to serve the children from their baptism to the start of Sunday School.

We send letters of Christian guidance to the parents of

each child and remember the child with cards for birthdays and Baptism anniversaries. They also receive some Bible story books. We send a little favor to them for Christmas. This year it was a Nativity scene that could be a decoration for their tree.

The special Cradle Roll board lists all the children enrolled. It is located in the Narthex. There each child is named on a little lamb with their birth and baptism date. They are on the Roll through their third birthday when they are invited to join Sunday School.

We assist the LWML with serving 1st Sunday coffee, Mary House, kitchen cleaning and sending cards to confirmands. We take our turn serving other events and funerals as we are assigned by the LWML.

This year has been a challenge for our circle. Because of the pandemic we have not held regular meetings since March. Preparing all the mailings

would be hard to do as a group. Several Circle members have been covering that for us at home or with a couple people getting together. We owe a grateful thanks to Luann Zuercher and Peggy Urquhart for doing a large portion of the work on this. We try to stay in touch through emails and phone calls to conduct our business.

Our prayer is that soon we may be all set to meet in person. When we do it will be the last Monday of every other month beginning with January. We decided to keep the same officers for this upcoming year though we will be filling some vacant spots. We have an unofficial card lady, Peggy Urquhart, who sends many cards during the year in our name.

Officers:

- Chairman.....Anita Marso
- Vice Chairman.....open
- Sec.open
- Treasure....Peggy Urquhart
- Cradle Roll.....Luann Zuercher
- Mission Inspiration...Kirstin Grohs
- 1st Sunday coffee.....Charlotte Hiller
- Mary House.....Joanne Hight

Members:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Robin Peterson | Shirleen Wixon |
| Jackie Hoefener | Lorri Rathbun |
| Carlene Barber | Pauline Paul |
| Bethany Vasilie | |

Honorary Members:

- Arlene Buhl
- Myrna Hartman



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REBEKAH CIRCLE

Rebekah circle supports the Faith Lutheran Preschool and Daycare.

Some of the activities done in 2020 were monthly cleaning of preschool books and making palm fronds for the Daycare at Easter time.

Rebekah circle participates in the monthly rotations of cleaning the kitchen, treats for Mary House on Sunday afternoons, and First Sunday coffees. Rebekah circle also provides funeral luncheons when called upon.

Rebekah circle meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. Guests are welcome to attend.

Chair: Janice Dockter; Vice Chair: Kristy Deal; Treasurer: Pat Huisman; Members include: Lila Briggs, Lennis Pearson, Melissa Brock, Cheryl Brull, Ruby Douglas, Melanie Fuerst, Daleen Gore, Darlene Hallem, Clareen James, Jan Johnson, Eleanor Kreitman, Lavonn Peters, and Donna Park.

FAITH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARDS



The primary focus for the Board of Elders for 2020 was keeping worship services and communion available for the congregation. Thank you to all the folks and Pastor Rajek and Pastor Handschke for keeping services running smoothly.

Keeping the video and audio equipment functioning to bring church services to the congregation and for online streaming remains a challenge. The sound board was upgraded and this year the cameras will be replaced with the possibility of another camera being added. The additional camera will enhance the look of our services and the videos of baptisms and weddings. The Board thanks Dennis Ryckman and Lucas Hodges for their technical expertise and dedication on our weekly video productions. Anyone that has an interest in helping with the video productions, please contact an Elder, Dennis or one of the Pastors.

Last August, a Wednesday evening service was added as an alternative time to Sunday morning. This service is also a good alternative for those wishing to avoid the larger crowds attending Sunday morning. For now, communion on Wednesday evenings follows the communion schedule of the 8:30 Sunday services.

Many of us are struggling with the pandemic and its’ fallout. We have become sick, lost loved ones or have been isolated from seeing our friends and family, including our church family. I encourage all of us to reach out to people we haven’t seen in a while and let them know you are thinking of them, our church is thinking of them and that we await the time we can all come together to hear Jesus’s Word and receive God’s Blessings.

Neil Schochenmaier
Chairman

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REPORT NOT SUBMITTED



Duties and Membership

The Board of Education: The basic objectives of this Board are to plan and administer the complete parish education program of the congregation, to determine policies, to select personnel for the various agencies, to provide the necessary means and facilities for the agencies and to direct and supervise the entire education program of the congregation. – *Faith Lutheran Church Bylaws*

The Board of Education consists of six volunteers. Chair: Angela Roman, Past Chair: April Hodges, Vice Chair: Kerry Lachnit, Secretary/Treasurer: Kadie Nickerson, Members: Virginia Ripley and Melanie Fuerst.

Key Activities of 2020

- COVID-19 Pandemic Management
 - Developed and dispersed a COVID management plan instructing teachers to take temperatures at the beginning of class, and actions to follow if a student was ill.
- Sunday School and Midweek education
 - Recruited teachers
 - Registration process
 - COVID supplies and classroom supplies

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- Vacation Bible School (Modified for 2020-did scavenger hunt)
 - Advertised scavenger hunt type VBS. Families arrived in cars to receive clues and goody bag to collect items at each location around town and at local businesses. Each site had a short Bible lesson. Served drive thru root beer floats. Approx. 150 participants. Coordinated many volunteers. Purchased prizes for each location.
- Participated in Activities from other Boards (Rally Day, Harvest Festival)
 - Rally Day, we set up carnival themed set of games and provided prizes and our board staffed the games.
- Support Christmas and Advent program activities. (Pastors Rajek and Handschke take the lead on these activities. The Board of Education assists with the implementation of the events.)
 - Assisted teachers and Pastor with set up, video recording, and communications with teachers.
- Designed and ordered T-shirts for all students and teachers, allowed congregation to also order.
 - Obtained all updated class lists from every teacher and got sizes for all students and teachers.
 - Created Order Form for members of congregation to order themselves clothing.
 - Picked up order and organized the class lists and delivered to each classroom for teachers to hand out labeled t-shirts for the students. Packaged congregation orders for pick up. Inventoried remaining shirt supply for future.

Key Activities of 2021

In the upcoming year, January – December 2021, the Board looks forward to the aforementioned activities from 2020 as well as the following additional activities:

- Continuing with providing all Sunday School and Midweek Students with t-shirts
- Mardi Gras

Implementation of Duties & Activities

In order to carry-out the Board’s duties, the Board of Education meets monthly to ensure education needs of the church are being met. The following is a general schedule of activities that occur monthly. (Subject to change.)

| | |
|----------|--|
| January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin planning VBS and upcoming Board nominations • Select a VBS Coordinator • Mardi Gras Planning |
| February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBS planning • Board member nomination planning • Mardi Gras Celebration |
| March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBS planning • Board member nomination selection |
| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBS planning • Board member nomination planning |

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| | |
|-----------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post dates of end of year and VBS in newsletter, bulletin, text notification, Facebook • Order VBS supplies |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBS planning • Board member nomination planning • Post dates of end of year & VBS in newsletter, bulletin, text notification, Facebook |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacation Bible School • New Board Members begin • Election of Officers, send out new contact info |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Midweek & Sunday School calendar and activities • Set up registration process for Midweek and Sunday School • Teacher recruiting |
| August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings for Teachers and Parents • Teacher Appreciation Meal • Finalize Volunteers • Letter to Parents regarding start date of MW & SS • Send online registration info out through mail, in bulletin, on Facebook • Order MW & SS materials, sort by class, distribute to teachers |
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rally Day, kickoff for MW & SS • Begin planning Christmas activities • Letters to families re. MW & SS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Calendar, text notifications, volunteer opportunities |
| October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check on Christmas activities (assist Pastor with Christmas program, plan for a gift such as a small book for each child after the program) • If SS & MW curriculum was only ordered for the fall, plan to order the spring curriculum • Budget |
| November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas/Advent activities planning |
| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Activities • Post dates of Christmas break in newsletter, bulletin, text notification, Facebook |
| Ongoing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Check Status of Budget • Monthly Church Council Meeting • Participate in Activities by request from other church boards |

It is important to note that the Board of Education receives support and assistance from other boards and members throughout the year. A few examples include other boards providing meals to volunteers during VBS. ***The Board of Education is appreciative to the many volunteers and staff who donate their time and efforts to ensure activities and events are fulfilled throughout the year!***

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The Board of Missions and Evangelism provides the message of God within our congregation, our community, and communities near and far.

Over the past year, the Board of Missions and Evangelism has promoted the following:

- Provided invitation cards to the congregation to encourage the invitation of friends to Friendship Sunday. Provided a small token gift on Friendship Sunday to our congregation and visitors.
- Continued the Welcome Wagon program sending a series of mailings to about 500 people in the community who have changed addresses in the previous year. The mailing included small token gifts and encouragement to seek the Word of God by attending church.
- Organized and participated in the Fort Pierre July Fourth Parade with a theme of Noah’s Ark, and sharing the Gospel message with our community.
- Movie nights were limited this year due to Covid.
- Organized and successfully ran Fall Festival in conjunction with Trunk-N-Treat. We had about 800 attendees from the community.
- Provided suppers during Lent and Advent as fundraisers for mission work.
- Held two Christmas caroling events in December with great success. We visited

nearly 50 homes to lift their spirits with Christmas carols and goodies.

- Organized a clothing drive in conjunction with LWML’s blanket drive. The goods were delivered and distributed to Pastor Utecht’s congregation at Parmelee. Thank you to the congregation for your support.
- Displayed our new Nativity set on the Euclid side of the church for public view.
- Distributed tracts and Bibles for witnessing opportunities.

Respectfully,

Dennis Ryckman, Member



Faith’s Board of Parish Fellowship exists to foster fellowship among the congregation through meals and gatherings throughout the year. Members for 2020-2021 are Nicki Bartel, Lavonn Peters, Carrie Tschetter, Daniell Ablot, Jeremy Paul, Kelly Perlenfein, Andrew Wulf and Paul Denke.

Annual events usually include:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| January | Open Skate or Pool Party |
| February | Friendship Sunday Meal / Souper Bowl Sunday |
| Feb/March | Mardi Gras |
| June | Meal for VBS Volunteers |
| September | Rally Day Noon Meal |
| October | Assist with Harvest Festival |
| November | Mission Festival Meal |
| Summer Months: | Assist Missions Board with Movies in the Park |

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Disaster Response Be part of our Faith
Family Disaster Assistance team with food
& drink

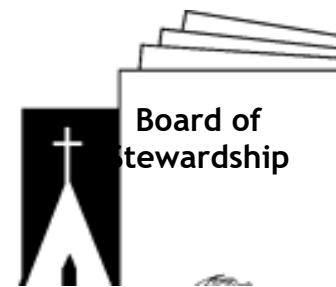
Two people will be leaving the board at the end of their terms. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out. We would love to have you on our board.

We enjoy hosting events for the congregation and helping with our outreach events.

Respectfully submitted,
Lavonn Peters
Chairman, Board of Parish Fellowship



REPORT NOT SUBMITTED



Greetings in Christ

Board of Stewardship

2 Corinthians 9: 6-8 NASB

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

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Current Members: Bill Blauert, Daniel Haberling (Chair), Sallie Doty (Secretary), Steve Stoneback (Treasurer) and Terry Leibel (Vice-Chair)

Stewardship is about the use for our time, talents, and treasures for the furthering of God’s kingdom here on earth. When many think of Stewardship, money (treasure) comes to mind. While the church does need funds to operate all the functions and missions, the other resources the Lord provides for you are needed also (time and talents).

As a board, we have spent the last couple of years trying to balance the focus of the board between these three parts of stewardship. You may have seen a member of this board address the congregation from time to time. We try to use our voices during critical times of the year when there is a need or an opportunity to put the gifts God has given to you in action. We want to thank anyone who has served on a board, taught a Sunday School or Midweek class, served as part of a circle or any of the other areas that are not be listed. We also appeal for you to pray and let the Holy Spirit lead you to where each may use your time and talents to expand God’s Kingdom.

We also appreciate those who have provided for the needs of the Church with their treasures. The Lord seems to provide so richly for our needs through your gifts. At times, our faith is tested. Month to month, we sometimes find funds are tight. We appeal for you to be faithful in your giving so that we can maintain our facilities and pay the employees that work every day in our church for God’s purpose.



ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment fund was established years ago and in the past few the board has change it to allow our congregation members to direct their giving to areas in which they were lead. A donation to the Endowment Fund is invested and kept in the fund for as long as the fund exists. The earnings from those investments are distributed annually.

We have four accounts in the Endowment fund:

- Blessing in Faith is the account that represents what we all thought of the endowment, annually 15% of earnings go to missions, 15% to a seminary student and the remainder to special projects within the church.
- The earnings from the Generations of Faith account go for the general operating expenses of the church.
- Foundations in Faith is the account where the earnings go to the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.
- Finally, Future in Faith earnings are provided for use in Christian education.

Some believe in donating to the church in other ways where the funds given are fully available for use and that is fine. The Endowment fund allows the giver to leave a legacy.

God Bless

Respectfully Submitted by
Daniel Haberling, Chair - Boards of Stewardship
and Endowment

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FAITH LUTHERAN

Digital Media and Communications

At Faith Lutheran, we have several methods of communication including our website, video, social media, and TV.



WEB SITE

The web site for Faith Lutheran includes information about our church, LCMS beliefs, and

several resources for your daily walk with God. It also includes our weekly calendar of events, bulletins, news, worship video archive, ministries that we support, news, and information about our staff and leadership

The cost of the web site hosting and monthly maintenance fees are being donated by Dennis & Carolyn Ryckman of Factor 360. Carolyn also works at keeping our site current as information is provided. The website address is: <http://www.faithluth.com>.

E-MAIL LIST

Email blasts are often used to communicate news and announcements with the membership list if you are signed up.

The e-mail list contains many addresses to whom regular messages are sent. As well as names of our regular members of the church body, the list includes our extended families, friends, past members, vicars and others. Please keep us updated with your current email address by contacting the office. We currently only have 414 email addresses and we know some of those are outdated.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

If you are unable to attend the weekly church service for whatever reason, you can still watch the weekly sermon, which is now live streamed and archived. The video archive can be accessed via our church website at, www.faithluth.com.



OAHE CABLE TV BROADCAST

Our television broadcast can be seen on Wednesday night on OaheHD channel 608 & cable 08 at 7:00 p.m. We pay \$500.00 per year plus a weekly fee of \$35.00. Our

Cable Broadcast may be sponsored for \$35.00. This covers the weekly fee. You may sponsor both the Cable Broadcast and Sunrise for \$60.00.

OaheTV also provides an archive online at www.oahetv.com of the previous services allowing unlimited downloads and copies of services to be made by those wishing to do so.

We are grateful to our video crew for their time and skills, including the Elders and Dennis Ryckman. We are looking for youth in our congregation to join our video crew. The weekly broadcast is submitted to Oahe Cable and is on our website.

SONRISE RADIO BROADCAST



It's live on "Today's KCCR" 1240 on your radio dial at 6:40 a.m. each Sunday. Sunrise had its beginning in the mid 1980's. Pastor Rick Hans, our Assistant Pastor, who had some experience with a simulcast on vicarage and Dave Mossner, who was

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Pierre's KELO reporter, gave this a shot. It has now sustained itself for 30+ years.

Each Sunday morning at 6:40 you will hear one of our Pastors for an enjoyable 20 minutes of radio.

Sonrise gives us an opportunity to provide a weekly invitation to Faith Lutheran Church, tell people of special events, share God's Word in song and scripture, and to note some special memories and moments in the life of our families.

While our actual expenses for Sonrise are \$50.00, you may sponsor Sonrise for \$30.00. We make up the difference with our multiple sponsors.

FACEBOOK

On Facebook, we have a few page options.

Last year, we claimed our business page for **Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS Pierre SD** which currently only has general business listing and address information about our church. To like and follow, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranChurchPierre>

Our day to day activities are posted to our group page, **Faith Lutheran Church-Pierre**, which currently has 226 members following the page. For current events, please join and follow this group page at,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FaithLutheranChurchPierre>

Daycare also has a page at,

<https://www.facebook.com/faithlutherandaycare/>

PRAYER CIRCLES

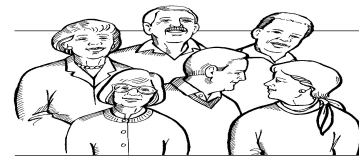
We have six Prayer Circles in the congregation. A prayer circle may be used for a time of joy or a time of struggle. Our prayers circles support and lift up our members in times of need through personal prayer.



You may call any prayer circle to share a prayer concern. Our Prayer Circle Captains are:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Myrna Hartmann | 224-7039 |
| Nancy Shoup | 280-2091 |
| Lila Houck | 223-2550 |
| Freda Peters | 224-7654 |
| Janice Dockter | 222-9055 |
| Beth King | 222-0356 (Text Only Please) |

If you would like to serve on a Prayer Circle, please call our church office.



Seniors' Gathering

FOREVER YOUNG

Forever Young is a group of men and women in our congregation who are 55 years of age, or somewhat older, who gather once a month for a noon meal and fellowship. Forever Young generally meets on the third Thursday of the month, except during Lent when they meet on Wednesdays.

With COVID this past year our group did not meet so there are no activities to report.



**POTLUCK DINNER
FOR SENIORS**

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“Faith Pandemic Arts for All Ages” Annual Report for 2020

“Faith Pandemic Arts for All Ages”

Introduction

2020 was an extremely challenging year with the COVID19 pandemic. But the “Faith Pandemic Arts for All Ages” class or project or program has been a ginormous success.

Ginormous is a word that started with Transformers and means gigantic and enormous. God has very richly blessed us and our ministries throughout time. We give God thanks and praise for this gift of grace to us.

Two Reasons for Success Conclusion

I have two general reasons for drawing this conclusion that it was a very significant success. One is that I have witnessed the great fun joy filled response to this ministry. Two is that I tightly hold to God’s promise of success with His word.

Wonderful Responses

I have seen and heard so many wonderful responses. I do not have enough space to share even just some of these. I will share a few examples so you get an idea of the success of our ministry in this area. I have seen so many smiling faces of children and their families. I have heard many thank you words. I have heard the joyous loud shouts “LeRoy is here!” as they express their feelings about Faith Pandemic Arts. I have seen them run to see me. I have seen awesome “happy dances”! I have overheard multiple children share with their parents “I love this!” I have heard from adults that say our church is like a home. Families have shared beyond their immediate family. People have shared with grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and even a family reunion.

The sharing has occurred with VBS, Sunday School, midweek, Day Care, and at church in general like the narthex.

God’s Promise of Success for His Word

I tightly hold to God’s promise of success with His Word. I will just briefly share two Bible passages on this blessed promise. One is from the Old Testament and one is from the new Testament. Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV) 10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. The second is from the New Testament. 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV) 8 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. We certainly enjoy seeing success but we must remember many positive things happen beyond our sight and knowledge.

“We” – It is Our Ministry

I want to emphasize “We” because we do not work alone. It is our ministry. We walk with God and with one another. Thank you to everyone for prayers and actions. Thank you to all who have provided toilet and towel cardboard tubes. I will try to share more specifics on those projects later. Thank you to all of our wonderful teachers in Sunday School, midweek, and Day Care. Parishioners should know we are richly blessed with teachers who dearly love God and children. Thank you to everyone who has stopped to visit and share. Thank you to our pastors for their spiritual leadership. Thank you to Pastor Rajek and

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Pastor Handschke for being supportive and open to new creative ministry ideas. Finally, thank you to others who are involved that I have not specifically mentioned.

Pandemic Focus

With the pandemic it is especially important on focusing on new ways to teach. Flexibility is of the greatest importance. Packing the needed materials into a kit or “Grab and Go” bag is very convenient, efficient, and promotes doing it in an independent activity. It can be used inside the classroom or at home.

Shema

The Shema is a serious core teaching of the Old Testament. This passage is so important that it has its own name! I am sharing here because there are several sections that follow that use this passage as support. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV) 4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

“All Ages” Emphasis

The “All Ages” emphasis is of great importance. Families get to bond in love with these “Faith Pandemic Arts” kits. The most common family is parents and children. But I have seen and heard other family examples like

grandparents, nieces and nephews, and family reunions. Some have even shared with friends who have children or grandchildren. In verse 7 of the Shema listed above it says to parents. “You shall teach them diligently to your children.” I have heard a number of parents say to their children. We will go home and do this tonight or this weekend or the Thanksgiving holiday.

Christian Art is Important

Christian Art is important. I will just quickly refer to two Bible passages to emphasize this point. The Shema listed above dramatically points this out in verses 8 and 9 for sharing a visual reminder or art of what God teachers. A modern translation beyond doorposts and gates might be refrigerator doors and walls. Besides the visual results and reminders of God’s Word we experience it personally as we give thanks and praise to God in creating it with our hands to His glory. People who are kinesthetic or motion learners are especially impacted by art. The importance of art was boldly given to me as a Bible Bowl coach and I prepared materials for Exodus. The art leaders are mentioned by name and what they did is detailed for our learning! Art is a glorious praise to God and visually reminds us of His presence in our lives.

Not Just Christian Education – Witnessing, Missions, and Fellowship

Faith Pandemic Arts is not just Christian education related to both parish and early childhood education. It is about witnessing and sharing with our brothers and sisters in faith. It is about missions. We shared this faith pandemic art concept with leaders from other churches. It is significant when others are inspired to follow your example. One church

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literally suggested the members should participate in our scavenger hunt VBS. We have done mission sharing with Rosebud, Pine Ridge, and beyond. It is still about Christian fellowship even if it is more limited during pandemic times.

Rosebud, Pine Ridge, and Beyond

Our church shared a huge number of blankets and items of clothing for Rosebud but also seven boxes with several hundred pounds of items including thousands of Faith Pandemic Arts kits. These included such things as art supplies, art instructions, devotions, Bible Hero Cards, Bible treats, and other special Christian gifts such as plush animal toys. One example is 120 plush Christian animal toys were shared. These included the “Jesus loves you” huggable heart bears and the “Wild about Jesus” safari animals. It is important for you to know that our ministry extends beyond Rosebud. I called and talked to missionary Pastor Andrew Utecht. I asked about the number of kits. He said there was not a limit. First, they are shared at Rosebud and then they will be sharing with the Al Sutton Pine Ridge ministry. And after that they have other outreach programs planned.

Heart Warming Story of Eternal Impact

One especially heart-warming story happened at Walmart. I was packing up a case of 36 dozen containers of candy canes in my shopping cart. A middle to older aged Native American lady come up to me and nicely asked what I was doing. I said I was taking them to church and sharing them. She said her family was poor when she was young. It meant a great deal to her that at church she received a little gift and a candy cane. She came to more closely know

her Savior Jesus. We are talking about eternal impact. She gently touched my shoulder and very sweetly and warmly said “Thank you and God bless you. You are having a great effect on many people.” This is 20 or 30 or so years later and to just a stranger at a store! It was just on the basis of a case of candy canes. She had no idea that we have shared thousands of kits and hundreds of pounds of kits and gifts here in Pierre and beyond in the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Indian Reservations.

Christian Fellowship

The pandemic has certainly limited our Christian fellowship. But there are still elements of Christian fellowship. We still have Sunday School and midweek even if it is limited in numbers. As I have shared at the VBS scavenger hunt, in the Day Care hallway at the end of a work day, or at the tables in the narthex it might be a few seconds or a minute or two at most but the quick chats, smiles, greetings, blessings, and connections of Christian fellowship are still there. Acts 2:42 mentions Christian fellowship as one of the four pillars of the church along with sacraments, praying, and teaching.

Special Thanks to Sunday School Student Teachers

I teach fifth and sixth graders in Sunday School, but the pandemic has dropped attendance from almost 40 to nearly nothing. I have given my students three options. They can go down and join the third and fourth grade class or go up and join the seventh grade to senior class. They can also join me in making art kits and helping teach the combined class of younger and older nursery class along with kindergarten. We help my wife Carolyn, Karrie James, and Pat

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Huisman. This group teaching is a great joy. They have also assisted in making art kit bags for first and second grades too. Kaylee Blauert is in sixth grade in middle school. Kaylee had this faith pandemic sharing idea and has been a role model and led two fifth grade students in teaching the younger children. With their art and crafting ability they teach me some new things! Kaylee Blauert, Brianna Roman, and Chevelle Brakke do a wonderful job and obviously love God and children. And the young children love them!

Special Thanks to Second Grade Midweek Students

My wife Carolyn and I teach the very youngest midweek class of second grade students. We have been blessed with very high attendance in midweek. A big thank you goes to them for testing the various art projects. The other areas are kits or “Grab and Go” bags but in midweek we get to experience and learn directly by doing. We also thank Rebecca and Brian Poelstra for helping us teach second grade midweek.

Prayer

I give thanks and praise to God. I pray that we learn from our “faith pandemic arts for all ages” experiences and boldly move forward into the future using the lessons that we have learned to obey God in doing His great commission of making disciples.

LeRoy Kropuenske
“Faith Pandemic Arts for All Ages” Teacher



Bible Bowl Annual Report for 2020

We did not field a Bible Bowl team in 2020. The pandemic has changed many things but we are looking ahead to new possibilities in 2021!

Our book of the Bible for 2021 is Matthew. The Luther’s Small Catechism topic is the Lord’s Prayer. Students from sixth grade to seniors are eligible to participate. The statewide competition date has not been set yet. It is usually in March or April.

For more information you can see me at church or contact me by a text or phone call at 605-280-6974 or Email me at leroy.kropuenske@pie.midco.net or write me a note on Facebook to “LeRoy Kropuenske”.

LeRoy Kropuenske
Faith Pierre Bible Bowl coach

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Stewardship Report

These numbers reflect the number of persons/families giving in which range for each year.

| Range | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| \$0.01 - \$52.00 | 34 | 39 | 29 |
| \$52.01 - \$156.00 | 51 | 35 | 41 |
| \$156.01 - \$260.00 | 29 | 30 | 18 |
| \$260.01 - \$520.00 | 38 | 32 | 32 |
| \$520.01 – \$780.00 | 21 | 18 | 19 |
| \$780.01 - \$1,040.00 | 18 | 23 | 12 |
| \$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00 | 20 | 11 | 16 |
| \$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00 | 9 | 13 | 8 |
| \$1,560.01 - \$1,820.00 | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| \$1,820.01 - \$2,080.00 | 12 | 6 | 4 |
| \$2,080.01 - \$2,340.00 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| \$2,340.01 - \$2,600.00 | 12 | 5 | 3 |
| \$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00 | 11 | 15 | 15 |
| \$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00 | 9 | 12 | 12 |
| \$3,640.01 - \$4,160.00 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| \$4,160.01 - \$4,680.00 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| \$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| \$5,200.01 - \$10,400.00 | 17 | 21 | 22 |
| \$10,400.01 - \$15,600.00 | 9 | 10 | 6 |
| \$15,600.01 - \$20,800.00 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| \$20,800.01 - \$26,000.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over \$26,000.00 | 3 | 2 | 3 |

Are You a Giver or a Taker?

Even though we know that God wants us to give generously and, when we do, we derive great joy from our giving, oddly enough, we still often hold back in our giving. Perhaps some of our reluctance to give stems from a fear that something will happen, and we will need that money we’ve given away. This is simply lack of faith, isn’t it? God promises to provide for our needs, but we’re just not sure He means it.

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A second reason for not giving is that, through most of our lives, we’ve gotten into the habit of taking rather than giving. We have become more comfortable in acquiring things not giving things away. We are taught how to get friends, how to influence people, how to make money, how to invest so that we make more money, and how to hold on to things. Yes, it is natural that many of us are more skilled in getting and keeping than in giving.

By God’s grace, we don’t have to remain selfish hoarders of God’s gifts to us. As we read and study God’s Word, we must be struck by His giving nature, starting with His very Son! *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). Through His perfect life, death, resurrection, and ascension, He has given us all we need. *“He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”* (Romans 8:32). Through His Word, we are given confidence that He will provide for all our needs (Matthew 6:25-34); we’re promised that He will always be with us (Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20). He has promised to give us joy in our giving (@ Corinthians 8:1-5).

God frees us from the selfishness and fear that keep our hands clenching our wallets and opens our hearts to give as we’ve received: *“Freely you have received, freely give”* (Matthew 10:8 NIV). Prompted by the Holy Spirit to give generously and cheerfully, we begin to understand why Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than receive”* (Acts 20:35).

“God loves a cheerful giver”. Indeed!



OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms: Carissa Victoria Zeigler, Berkley Ray Mattheis, Julianna Maire Staples, Lilith Anne Rageth, Layney Jo Arbach, Evie Joy Handschke.

Confirmations: Connor Roy Bales, Luke Neil Hodges, Stephan Alan Benjamin Hopkins, Trey John Hutchinson, Alex James Ingram, Cade Braxton Kaiser, Kate Marillyn Kramme, Emalee Marie Larson, Caitlin Marie Ott, Jackson Hunter Ottenbacher, Ethan Joseph Martinmaas, Alexis Elizabeth Rajek, Spencer Thomas Skjonsberg, Alexander Bane Zachmeier, Broch Adam Zeeb.

Weddings: Kelsey Dykstra & Daniel Reiman, Blake Arthur Widvey & Logan McKenzie Gesinger, Cody Mattheis & Bridgett Mann, Bobbi Jo Hanson & Richard Earl Kayser.

Deaths: John Sundahl, Bobby (Bob) Lee Shoup, Eugene Kreitman, Victor Fosheim, Fred Johnson, Sharon Peterson, Terry Walter, Judy Ann Farnsworth, Shirley English, Jerry Lee Douglas.