



MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N. Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

2020 Confirmands



Anna Ablott

Connor Bales

Korin Fawcett

Luke Hodges

Stefan Hopkins

Trey Hutchinson

Alex Ingram

Cade Kaiser

Kate Kramme

Emalee Larson

Caitlin Ott

Jackson Ottenbacher

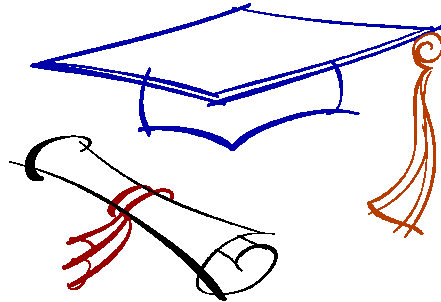
Alexis Rajek

Spencer Skjonsberg

Alexander Zachmeier

Broch Zeeb

2020 Graduates



at a later date to be determined

Andrew Axdahl

Paige Brandt

Kamden Carter

Kaycee Carter

Wyatt Deal

Zachary Deal

Natalie Fawcett

Ladd Kramme

Lane Kramme

Brant Malfero

Cassidy Miller

Maria Noyes

Nathan Shoup

Deni Zeeb



Voter's Assembly

Postponed until
the COVID-19
restrictions are
lifted.

Official Acts

Confirmation ceremony will be held

Sent Forth By God's Blessing



If you do the right thing, honesty will be your guide. But if you are crooked, you will be trapped by your own dishonesty. (Proverbs 11:3 CEV)

We all probably remember our parents teaching us as kids, “Honesty is the best policy.” But is it true? You certainly wouldn’t think so looking at our world. Indeed, honesty is a valuable virtue but in today’s society it is also incredibly difficult to find. Businesspeople, elected representatives, even people claiming to be servants of Christ are steadily deceiving others into contributing to their cause or buying their product. Company employees often misuse company property and steal undeserved wages by “looking busy” but not putting their full effort into a job. Inferior products are sold to line the pockets of the manufacturers, but little concern is given to the satisfaction of the consumer.

With all this lack of honesty, times when people are honest really stand out. I am reminded of such a case in the Bible where a father seeks help for his son. In this account, a son who was possessed by a demon had tried unsuccessfully to commit suicide on several occasions. Attempting to help his son, the father pleads for Jesus to intervene. **“If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”** Jesus responds to this father’s request by stating, **“Everything is possible for him who believes.”** (Mk 9:22-23 NIV) What follows is an almost unbelievable amount of honesty on the father’s part. The father says, **“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”** (Mk 9:24)

I think this statement could have been said by every Christian. You see, at times, we too must confess to having both belief and unbelief. We talk about our faith being stronger at some points, and perhaps, a bit weaker at other points. Referencing these times, Martin Luther said that, in this world the Christian is both saint and sinner. And to own up to our faults, mistakes, misgivings, and our poor ability to believe requires incredible honesty. When we are honest and own up to those times when our faith is lacking, God can and does deal with us. St. John said in his first epistle: **“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** (1 John 1:8-9) You see, God can and does forgive our sins of dishonesty. God can and does forgive our sins of doubt and disbelief. Just look at Thomas. When he doubted Jesus came to him and strengthened his faith. And God does the same for us. By Word and Sacrament, God comes to us in order that our faith is strengthened. And through these means, we are given the forgiveness Jesus won on the cross.



From the Old Testament to the New Testament the Bible speaks about honesty. The world may not be honest, but we as believers in Jesus Christ, are called to be different. And in this way, children of God serve as an example to the world.

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Pastor Coy T. Rji





The Light of the World

We have been looking at the different parts of the sanctuary. Last month, we discussed the altar, and how we would normally remove all its adornments on Maundy Thursday. They were gone for Good Friday, but we had to improvise. Even in the midst of quarantine, the Church goes on. This month, we are going to talk about another part of the sanctuary: the candles and the eternity candle.

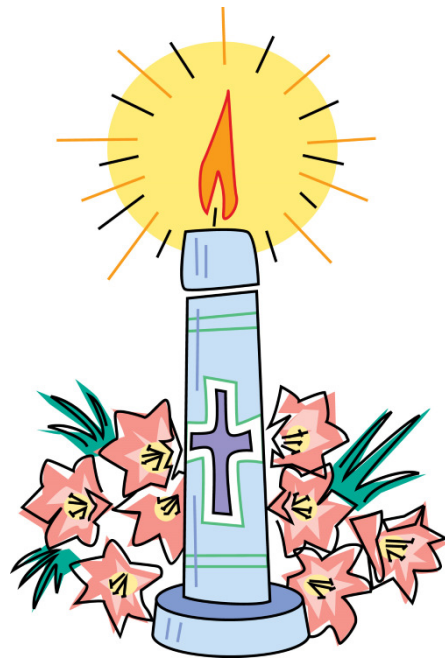
Jesus Christ calls himself the “Light of the World” (John 8:12). A candle is no replacement for the Savior of all. But a candle can help us to remember who our Savior is and what he does for us. We have a few different types of candles. The one that we light most frequently is the candelabra (the seven diagonal candles on both sides of the altar). Now, a trick question: are the candles ascending or descending? Both, just like Jesus descended to earth when he was born, and then he ascended into heaven at the end of his earthly ministry.

We also have two bigger candles on the altar. These are only lit when the

Sacrament is celebrated. When we have communion, Christ is coming to you in the forms of bread and wine. Those candles help you to see that Jesus is on the altar. When communion is not celebrated, they are left unlit. Christ is not on the altar that day.

I know we have two candles alongside our processional cross, but I am going to skip those. The last candle is the red one off to the left of the chancel. This candle is always lit, day and night, whether we have service or not. This candle signifies the enduring presence of Christ. He is not with us only when we are having service. He is not with us only during communion. Christ is present with us forever (Matthew 28:20). This candle is always lit to help us remember that Jesus is always with us.

The candles are a visual way to remember Jesus. Many items in the sanctuary serve this purpose of delivering Jesus to you or causing you to remember Jesus. Next month, we will discuss the paraments, those cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lectern. Their color marks the





SING AS ONE

“...but you brought us to a place of abundance.” Psalm 66:126

The following is from a beautiful choral composition performed by the TF Riggs Concert Choir at their Festival Concert on March 10 of this year. The composer of the piece, Jonny Priano, was the guest conductor that evening. It took place less than a week before the Pierre School District closed its doors due to COVID19.

“Lift your voices near and far; Sing as one.
O raise a song with one accord; Let it echo across the earth.
He has prepared our lives and kept our feet from slipping.
For you, O God, tested us; You refined us like silver.
We have not lost our faith when you’ve laid burdens on our back.
Sing as one! Let the sound of his praise be heard!
You let men ride over our heads, over our heads.
We went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place,
Embraced us in this place.
You brought us to a place of abundance.
Lift your voices near and far, sing as one.
Raise a song with one accord; Lift your voice and sing as one.!”

I can’t help but think back to all the preparation the students put into that piece of music; not only correct notes and rhythm, but embracing the heart of the text and singing with passion. They loved it! Since that time, and considering what has taken place in our country, I have to wonder, if they were to sing it again, would it sound the same?

The text, based on Psalm 66:8-12, is sung by a grateful multitude of worshippers, thankful for God’s deliverance in times of distress and suffering. It acknowledges that God tests his people; his purposes are beyond our understanding. Yet, God’s rule is all-pervasive. Despite a situation of malicious attacks, misery, peril and pain, God’s people are brought to a place of overflowing well-being.

Music has brought me great comfort during this time of closed doors and social distancing. I find myself at the piano one or two hours every day as well as listening to CDs hours on end. Life has changed, but it has not been entirely taken away. If you’ve been watching television or following posts on Instagram and Facebook, you will notice that music has been bringing people together. A video of Italians in Siena, Tuscany, leaning out of their windows and singing to and with each other, went viral. The Toronto Symphony combined for a virtual performance Copeland’s “Appalachian Spring.” There are Zoom “choirs” on YouTube. Families have gotten amazingly creative and shared videos of singing.

Music is the universal language of harmony, humanity and hope. It brings people together. Sacred music is a refuge. Breaking out in song (even by way of technology) and lifting each other’s spirits is a beautiful act of humanity. Singing can calm us down in national emergencies; a security blanket, if you will. It provides a core of safety when we’re feeling helpless. You may recall music from the Civil War, all the songs sung from both World War I and II, and even music from the Vi-





2020 Food Drive: Over a Ton of Donations!

FOOD DRIVE



The congregation of Faith Lutheran Church didn't let the corona-

virus pandemic get in the way of putting their faith into action.

In spite of services being cancelled during the second half of the month, contributions for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry continued to come in throughout the month of March.

The congregation donated **2006.3 pounds** of nonperishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies and personal care products. In addition, members of the congregation gave **cash and checks totaling \$6,735.**

Among the items collected this year:

223 cans and packages of soup, stew, chili and ramen noodles
215 packages/containers of soap,

shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, personal care products
153 cans of fruits and vegetables
134 cans of tuna, chicken, and other canned meat
115 cans, bags and boxes of pasta meals and dry pasta
80 boxes of macaroni and cheese
56 cans and jars of spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, and diced tomatoes
51 boxes and bags of cereal and oatmeal
34 bottles and boxes of laundry detergent and fabric softener
31 bottles of household cleaner

Thank You!

Faith Lutheran has one of the largest food drives for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry each year, so the congregation's generosity is greatly appreciated by the Food Pantry and the families it serves.

Thank you to everyone who lent a hand in any way with this





PRESCHOOL NEWS

Faith Lutheran Preschool's school year was cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the month of April, our preschoolers worked at home on work packets and were able to view different read-alouds. Our end of the year picnic has been postponed until later in the summer. We are looking forward to summertime and are already preparing for next school year. Preschool is in need of supplies. If you are able to donate supplies to our classroom, it would be greatly appreciated. Everyone stay healthy and have a great summer!

God Bless,



Hope LaForest
Preschool director

School Supplies needed:

- Elmer's school glue
- Crayola crayons
- Crayola markers
- #2 pencils
- scotch tape
- packaging tape
- yellow construction paper
- light blue construction paper



have openings.

preschool registration



- orange construction paper
- band aids
- AA batteries

Preschool registration forms for the 2020-2021 school year are available at the church office or call 224-2216 to have one mailed to you. At this time all classes

