

# MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

FAITH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 3rd Annual Mexico Mission Trip in May

We are planning our third mission trip to Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, TX. The focus of the trip will be to build a home for a family in Juarez and share the Gospel. The week-long trip will include various mission activities, including handing out Bibles and blessing the people with the Good News of Jesus in a region filled with poverty.

We have about 20 individuals going this year. We ask that you keep this trip in your prayers regarding those who are on the team as well as those whom God appoints to place in our paths. Also be watching for fund raising opportunities for you to help with financially. If you want to know more, please contact **Dennis Ryckman** (222-7713) or the Church office (224-2216). The trip will be one week long starting May 29th through June 5th.

## Mexico Mission Trip Rent-A-Worker

Our team is ready to help with your projects. In the past they have painted decks, cleaned drain spouts, built garbage can holders, raked leaves, tilled gardens, power raked yards, removed snow, and moved landscaping blocks. Let them know what you have in mind and they will get you on the schedule. They



## Lenten Schedule

### Return to the Lord

**March 3, 2021**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"Return from Betrayal"

**March 10, 2021**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"Return from False Witness"

**March 17, 2021**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"Return from Denial"

**March 24, 2021**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"Return to the Kingdom of God"

**April 1, 2021**

**Maundy Thursday**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"Return to the Table"

**April 2, 2021**

**Good Friday**

2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

"Return to Truth"

**April 4, 2021**

**Easter**

6:30, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am



# EASTER

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

## The Senior Pastor's Page

**"Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?" (Joel 2:13-14)**

"Return to the Lord" is the theme for this year's Lenten series. The description Joel paints is a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. When you read them in context, this imagery is bold and terrifying, even for today's reader. It is then that we hear the call from God: "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster" (Joel 2:13). God's call to return is a call for all of us to repent and believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. And it is in this relationship with Jesus that we have God's promise of blessing (Joel 2:14).

The following is a summary of the themes from our series for the remaining midweek Lenten services. As you read through the summaries, notice how each one builds upon the next and reaches a climax with Easter as we "Return and See" Christ is, indeed, risen!

**March 3: "Return from Betrayal"**. Judas appears in the in the Garden of Gethsemane and betrays Jesus into the "hands of lawless men" (Acts 2:23). This sermon explores the theme of betrayal, specifically the ways that we betray one another and Jesus through our denials and rejection of the faith.

**March 10: "Return from False Witness"**. Judas' betrayal brings Jesus before Caiphias and the Council. In this sermon we examine what God actually means in the Eighth Commandment when He said that you should "not bear false witness against your neighbor?" (Exodus 20:16) and what to do when our failure here leads us away from God. Thankfully, God calls us to turn from our sin, to look to Him, and to find our rest and identity in Him.

**March 17: "Return from Denial"**. Peter stands in the courtyard, watching his Lord and master being wrongfully accused, having promised that he was ready to follow Jesus both to prison and to death. But when asked directly, Peter denies Jesus. But Jesus will have the last word. He calls us to return to Him ... to return from denial.

**March 24: "Return to the Kingdom of God"**. Pontius Pilate reigns at his Headquarters and is forced to wrestle with the question, "What is truth?" (John 18:38), but the real question is "*Who* is truth?" In this sermon, a King calls us to return to His rule and reign so that He can pour out blessings on us.

**April 1—Holy (Maundy) Thursday: "Return to the Table"**. Jesus' invitation is such that He draws us into a place where we have fellowship with all believers. And yet, our fellowship is stained by sin. Our Lord's invitation to return is accompanied by His promise to make all things new, when once again we will share the fruit of the vine with Christ Himself.

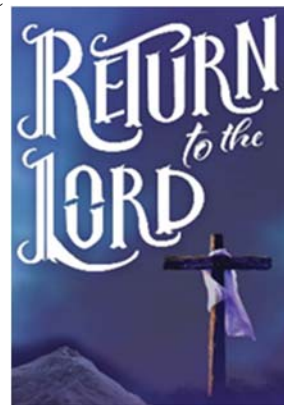
**April 2—Good Friday: "Return to Truth"**. In this sermon, we remember the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for each of us. Our focus is on the One who is the way, and the truth, and the light, even as He hangs on the cross, wracked with pain and writhing in agony.

**April 4—Easter Sunday: "Return and See"**. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! In this sermon we rejoice that our Lord's call to return was issued so that we might have life in abundance through the one who lived, died, and rose again to secure our salvation.

I hope to see you (in-person or online) this Lenten season! The Lord be with you!

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

*Pastor Coy T. Pji*



## “The King Comes”



We continue our travel through the stained glass windows of our beautiful sanctuary. This month’s window is a depiction of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, celebrated on Palm Sunday. I might be a little bit early for that day, but the attitude of Jesus aligns with our expectation during the season of Lent.

The window leaves no doubt about what is front and center in Jesus’ mind: he is on a journey to the cross. Even amidst the joyous celebration of palms and hosannas, Jesus rides on in lowly pomp to die. The cross is squarely in his sights, just as it sits prominently in this window. Flanked by palm leaves and adorned with royal blue window panes, the King is coming to die.

Even as this window bridges Palm Sunday and Good Friday, it also touches upon the event of Maundy Thursday. The object at the base of the cross looks like unleavened bread, which we use in communion. The benefits of the cross are rooted in that bread. What I mean is that as you eat and drink, you are ingesting the forgiveness that Jesus won by his sacrificial death, and you are digesting the promise of your own resurrection in light of his rising from the dead on Easter morning. All of these events are closely intertwined, and our window helps to cement all these seemingly-disparate stories into a cohesive whole.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem, not perched upon a swift white stallion or accompanied by the blasts of war horns. Instead, our lowly King rides on a colt, the foal of a donkey. His celebration is the bold refrain of children, which grows so obnoxious to Jesus’ opponents that they ask, “Can’t someone do something about those children” (see Matthew 21:15-16). But Jesus revels in the praises of his youngest. Our King is right at home in the ordinariness of life. He enjoys the shouts that we rightly give him.

We will soon remember and celebrate the events of this window. Later this month, our King will ride into Jerusalem. He will institute a meal by which we remember his sacrifice and feast upon his beneficial body and blood. We will mourn the cross, as our King is executed like a common criminal. But then we will rejoice, and our songs of praise will continue until the glorious day when we awaken to his everlasting presence.

*Pastor Sam*



## LENT IS MY NEW FAVORITE SEASON

*“And we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” II Corinthians 3:18*

Do you have a special favorite time of year? Mine is autumn; always has been. Growing up in Minnesota, I loved the changing of the colors; the golden oaks and the blazing red of the maples. I liked the crushing of the leaves under my feet; grain dust in the air during the golden hour; the smell of burning leaves in the neighborhood (we could do that then); jumping into piles of leaves! Fall was small town football and an undefeated season my senior year (no Friday night lights back then). Fall meant Homecoming and Halloween; a new school year and sweater weather; pep fests and marching band.

During the seasons of the church year, I have always favored Advent. As a kid, I knew Christmas was coming, especially when preparations for the Sunday School Christmas Eve program started up. As an adult, Advent took on a slightly different meaning. It was still about preparations for Christmas, but also about preparing our hearts to receive the Christ Child. I love the music of the season and the church services. But over the years, life got so busy during the month of December. Between the shopping, concerts, rehearsals, writing Christmas cards, decorating and baking, it was difficult to find time to soak up the full meaning of Advent. When Christmas finally arrived, I was exhausted.

That’s when I decided to look ahead to Lent and be really intentional. **It is a season of reflection, repentance, pilgrimage and penitence.** Ash Wednesday begins as Christians are marked with a cross of ashes, a sign of faith and humility. Lent is a good time to take a break from the secular world for a bit and lead a simpler life. Enter the wilderness, let the dust settle, meditate on God’s word and details of his life, reflect on the cross, knowing there is an endpoint. Just as spring emerges from the darkness of the winter months, Christ appears victorious from death and the darkness of the grave.

Lent is finding one’s self in a pit; a pit that you’ve dug for yourself through your own sin and stupidity, with no way to get out. But – look up and see that God, who didn’t have to, nevertheless, had mercy – came and died so that you, there in your pit, could be rescued, set upright, and be freed to live on in eternity. Lent is for sinners and the perfect gift just for us, designed to draw us closer towards a perfect High Priest, who ripped open the curtain and veil that separates us from the Glory and Holiness of God.

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope’s foundation, and my glory and salvation.



## Attention Thrivent Members

Please direct your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Faith Lutheran Church or Faith Lutheran Preschool before they expire on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

It is simple and doesn't cost you anything but your time.

There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) and click on Generosity or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "choice dollars" at automation.

**YOU MUST RENEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. YOUR CHOICE OF A PRIOR YEAR DOES NOT CARRY OVER.**

## Lenten Meals

Our Board of Missions will be hosting Lenten meals each Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 pm before the Lenten services. These will be Free-will offering meals and the proceeds will go to help fund our Mexico Mission Trip this year.

Each week



will feature different ethnic foods.

## State Dart-ball Tournament

Dimock is scheduled to host the state dart-ball tournament on March 6 in Parkston at the American Legion. Plan to have a captains meeting at 10:30 and start throwing at



11. Practice every Monday night at 5:15 p.m. until the tournament.

## Official Acts

### Deaths

Jerry Lee Douglas 12/28/20

Lila Schaefer 1/3/21

Leo kamp

Ruby Thoen

Al Meier

Lehr- 1/4/21

Lutzka 1/8/21



1/19/21

Lorrain Waack 1/20/21

Larry Peterson 1/26/21



Our Men's Fellowship is Monday, March 2 at 7:00 PM.

Come enjoy a fun evening of darts and bring a snack to share. Beverage will be provided.

## Daylight Savings





## March is Faith Lutheran's month to collect items for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry

Faith Lutheran is one of the largest supporters of the Food Pantry, so this annual food drive is very important to our community.

Nonperishable food items, paper products, hygiene items, and cash donations are welcome

### Food Items Needed (No glass jars and no homemade food items, please):

- Beef stew
- Cans of fruit
- Cereal
- Chunky soups
- Cooking oil
- Elbow macaroni
- Flour
- Juice (in plastic bottles)
- Pancake mix
- Spaghetti sauce (canned)
- Sugar
- Syrup
- Paper towels
- Pasta meals

Tuna and canned chicken

### Other Items Needed:

- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry detergent & fabric softener
- Lotion
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Soap

In conjunction with the Ardis Townsend Challenge to Fight Hunger, for every pound of food and every dollar donated to the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Food Pantry in March and April, local banks and credit unions will provide a percentage matching amount.

Checks may be made payable to PARS. Write Food Pantry on the memo line.



## FLC Preschool News

What a great year we are having! In February, we learned about Jesus' love for us, made and exchanged Valentines, and emphasized colors with our Color Days.

During March we will be learning about how Jesus takes care of us, shapes, the color green, the number 8 and the letters J, X, U and V. Our Lending Library starts in March and goes through April.

Registration for next year is now open and I am including a pre-registration form in the

newsletter for next year. Please return this form with the registration fee (\$30) if you are interested in enrolling your child for the fall of 2020.

Our picnic this year will be May 8 and hopefully we will be able to have it at the park, otherwise, it is great to know that the Christian Life Center is available too.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our program. It is greatly appreciated. Also, thank you for the generous donations to Faith Lutheran

Preschool from our Giving Tree.

Blessings to you as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's resurrection!

In Christ,

Hope LaForest, Director  
Faith Lutheran Preschool

pre-



**2021-2022 Pre-Registration Form Faith Lutheran Preschool**

**Registration Fee: \$30 non-refundable fee for each child.**

\*The number of participants is limited, so enrollment is based on a first-come, first served basis. Children will only be pre-registered when this form and fee are received at the church office or to Hope LaForest. **Registration for 2nd year preschool children, Faith Lutheran Church members and Faith Lutheran Daycare, begins January 15, 2021. Open registration begins January 29, 2021.**

Please check section preferred:

- Mon/Tues/Wed AM (8:30-11:30) \*Child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2021.
- Mon/Tues/Wed PM (12:30-3:30) \*\*Child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2021.
- Thurs/Fri (8:30-11:30) \*\*\*Child must be 3 years old by June 1, 2021.

\*All children must be potty trained to attend preschool.

Child's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F (Circle) Previously enrolled: Yes No (Circle)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mom's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Dad's Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child currently attend Faith Lutheran Preschool? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child currently attend Faith Lutheran Daycare? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a registered member of Faith Lutheran Church? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in our 2021-2022 Program, please fill out this form and return it, along with \$30 registration fee, to the church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Hope LaForest at 605-224-2216.

# FAITH LUTHERAN YOUTH PAGE

**Night of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Questioning**—All are invited to attend the evening of questioning for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students. The rite of questioning is a major moment for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Midweek students and they would be so appreciative of your support. Join us **Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

**Confirmation Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021.**

**Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF)** Our LYF is a time for high school students (and brave 8<sup>th</sup> graders) to come together for games, fellowship, and God's word. The game is always a surprise, from egg drops to capture the flag or Pictionary. We meet each Wednesday from 8:00-9:15PM. Please come and invite a friend. Talk with Pastor



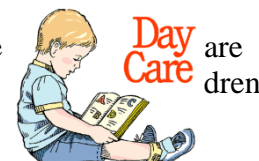
## Faith Lutheran Daycare

Greetings!

February was a hectic month to say the least. We hosted two fundraisers and a Parent / Staff Night. We feel so blessed by all of the hard work and support that we receive from the families - whom never fail to show up for us in the literal sense as well as in how generous and patient they are, the church—which does its very best to help us succeed, and to the community – all of the wonderful people who look for ways to wholeheartedly help and support our fundraisers and the daycare so that we can reach our goals and meet our children's needs.

This last month we also opened our new Toddler room so that we could transition kids and invite into our facility families who have been stuck on our waiting list. We have been so excited to be able to welcome in and minister to more families! After all, this is the mission of our daycare. And it is such a beautiful mission! – to be able to talk about Jesus, love like Jesus, and help the children find their innate worth in Christ Jesus all in a safe, controlled environment. It truly doesn't get any better than this.

On another note, we're praying that March will bring more greatness. We're looking to hire for 3 positions—a Lead Toddler Teacher, a Break person, and a Schooler Teacher. We're also hoping to open up a new preschool-age room to invite 10 more families in; we'll need a lead teacher for this room as well. On top of that, we are working on putting together new curriculum. Our youngest age groups (1-3) will be following the ABC Jesus Loves Me curriculum; preschool will be following the Mother Goose curriculum with reference to ABC Jesus Loves Me; Schoolers will be following the Sanford Harmony curriculum with reference to both of the above. We are ecstatic to be improving what and how we are teaching and influencing the children in our care!



*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*