



MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N. Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

COMPASSION

Once again, on May 2, the Compassion packets will be on the Living Room table for anyone wishing to sponsor a child living in poverty. Sponsors make such a difference in the spiritual and physical lives of these children.

This is a great opportunity to live out God's call to care for the poor. As a sponsor, not only will you help support a child's growth and development, but you also will build a relationship with him or her. Through letters, you can remind a child that you love them, that God loves them and that there is hope.

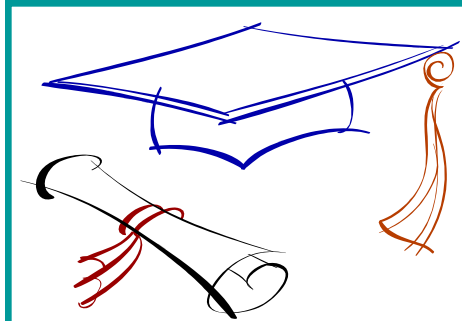
Please prayerfully consider if this is an opportunity to which you can commit.

Thanks for your consideration.

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

Psalm 82:3 NIV

2021 Graduates



Nathan J. Haberling

Lane E. Hedglin

Ajaye G. Hicks

Jacob M. Larson

Elliot Leif

Dayna J. Martinmaas

Molly E. Neyhart

Jayden N. Nickerson

Kaylie M. Rathbun

Shelby D. Roman

Hannah L. Schochenmaier

Christopher L. Schultz

Michael D. VanDeWiele



Voters Meeting

Voter's Assembly

May 2, 2021

9:45 in CFLC



Join us for a special Ascension Day worship service **May 13 at 7:00 pm.** There will be **NO** Wednesday worship service on May 12.

Sent Forth By God's Blessing



The Senior Pastor's Page

Where's Your Treasure?

Some of you may know that John D. Rockefeller was one of the richest men in the world. Rockefeller was once asked, "How much money is enough?" His reply was, "Just a little bit more." How many times have we told ourselves that if we had "just a little bit more" we would be happy? If only we had a higher paying job, a bigger home, an earlier retirement, better health, or successful children; then we'd be happy.

But what happens when these things happen? Are people truly happy? Conversely, what happens when these wants aren't met? What happens when you find yourself unemployed? What happens when your savings are depleted? When plans for better housing or earlier retirement have to be put on hold. What happens when your health takes a turn for the worse or your children struggle in school? Where do you go for help? Who will listen? God will always listen. As the psalmist writes,

I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me! (Ps 66:17-20)

We might not have everything we want in life, but God, through Jesus Christ, has truly given us everything we need. He's given us His Word. He's given us His promises. He assures us that our sins are forgiven and eternal life in heaven is ours through His death and resurrection.

He promises to provide for all our physical and spiritual needs richly and abundantly here on earth until he takes us to the glorious home that He has prepared for us in heaven. This means that, in Jesus Christ, you and I will experience the fulfillment of His promise, "You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." (Ps 16:11)

Not long after his death, someone came up to the accountant of John D. Rockefeller and said, "We know Rockefeller was a very wealthy man. How much did he leave?" Without a moment's hesitation, the accountant answered, "Everything!" A man who seemed to have it all was, in the end, forced to leave it all. Think about it, the only things that will go with us from this life to the next are the spiritual treasures that are given to us through faith in Jesus. This point is emphasized by our Lord in Matthew 6:19-21,

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

So, what do we want out of life? Thanks be to God, what we *need* the most is fully and freely given through Jesus.



Matthew 6:21

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Sent Forth By God's Blessing



“A Blessed Flood”



Is water a helpful or a harmful force? As residents of a river town, I think that both answers have their place. Water in the right place is helpful, as it powers our TV’s and computers as well as gives us something to drink. But water in the wrong place can be devastating, as I hear about the flood of 2011.

Our window for this month shows the baptism of Jesus. Was water helpful or harmful for him? Again, both answers have their place. Jesus’ baptism was helpful and necessary, as Jesus says “it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” [Matthew 3:15]. The phrase is beyond my ability to explain in a short article, so let Jesus’ words stand for now. His baptism was a necessary part of his life, helpful even. But it was also a harmful event. The baptism is immediately followed by being tempted by the devil. On a longer timeframe, Jesus’ baptism places him on a path that leads to his suffering, death, and resurrection. Was water helpful or harmful for Jesus? Like before, both answers are true.

Returning to our window, the primary color is blue. This fits with a water theme. You might notice the water coming from the shell. But also see the flood of blue panels coming from top to bottom of the window. In addition to the physical water, baptism is God’s power to destroy sin in our lives. Our baptism service even calls it “a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.” This is God’s action undertaken through the water. The small bowl of water in the font conceals the monumental deluge from above.

Blue, watery panes are not the only image in our window. The Holy Spirit, descending like a dove, shines rays of golden light into your life. Baptism not only scrubs away sin from your insides, it also grants you the Holy Spirit. Equipped with his power, you are able to see and understand God’s Word. Images of light accompany the water. Where once you were in darkness, your baptism is the beginning of a life of light.

Is the water of baptism helpful or harmful? Again, both answers have their place. It removes the sin that would otherwise remain embedded within you. Yet baptism causes us to see our sin. Others may be able to overlook their wickedness, but as Christians, we cannot do so. We acknowledge our sin and praise God for his gift of baptismal water which removes our sin. That’s enough for this month’s window. We will return next time with the final window in the life of Jesus: his birth.

Pastor Sam



Sent Forth By God’s Blessing



NOW WHAT?

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” II Corinthians 5:17

Holy Week and Easter weekend were weighing on me. There were ten church services that required music planning, preparation and practice; lots of practice. I had everything under control and we were ready to go. Then.....

The morning of Good Friday I received a phone call from the assisted living center in Minnesota where my 95 year-old parents reside. My mother had fallen twice during the night, hadn't eaten or taken any fluids for two days, and was dehydrated and weak. She was being transferred to the hospital. My father, who lately has been living in the past, was worried and confused. The staff was in the process of moving both of them to long-term care, further confusing Dad. Now what?

In an effort to downsize, my house has been on the market for a while, and over the Easter weekend there were a number of offers on the table – and I had my eye on a new property. Decisions. I finally accepted one of the offers for my home, turned around and put an offer on a small townhouse, which was also accepted. Now what?

And then, following the long, heavy pause after Good Friday, and reflecting on the cross and its significance, Easter happened. Easter was a revolution, a complete cycle of events, a complete change. Nothing would ever be the same again. It was about relentless love, the only reason we have hope, the entire crux of our faith. However, there are those who, following the Lenten season, Holy Week and the glorious worship services of Easter Sunday, may feel deflated. Their spirits might be somewhat dampened. I've often heard the Sunday after Easter referred to as “Low Sunday.” Even the disciples huddled together; they feared the Jews. Now what?

*O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love, set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Fortunately, the staff where my folks reside are loving and caring people. The lines of communication are always open. My brother in the Twin Cities was able to make the drive to spend a few hours with Dad on Good Friday. The doctors at the hospital communicated with me. The staff at the care center accommodated my schedule so my brother and I could round up help and get the assisted living apartment cleaned out the week after Easter. While Mom is frail and vulnerable, and Dad is still confused, but content, they are being well cared-for. They look forward to seeing Jesus soon.

Continued on page 7

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Sent Forth By God's Blessing



2021 Food Drive: Over a Ton of Donations!



The congregation of Faith Lutheran Church put their faith into action once again this year, and donated a near-record level of food and household products for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry in March!

The congregation donated a whopping **2,182** items. The only time we saw a higher number was following the Missouri River flood of 2011! The donations filled **192** boxes and weighed in at **2,332.2** pounds. In addition, members of the congregation gave **financial contributions totaling \$1,775.**

Among the items collected this year:

- 236** cans of tuna, chicken, and other canned meat
- 235** cans of fruits and vegetables
- 210** boxes of macaroni and cheese
- 158** cans and packages of soup, stew, chili and ramen noodles
- 129** boxes and bags of dry pasta

- 123** packages/containers of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, personal care products
- 112** boxes of “helper” meals for hamburger, tuna and chicken
- 97** boxes and bags of cereal and oatmeal
- 89** bottles of peanut butter and jelly
- 89** bottles and packages of household products: cleaners, dish soap, trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper
- 88** cans of pasta meals
- 63** cans and jars of spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, tomatoes
- 47** boxes of pancake mix
- 26** bottles of syrup
- 19** containers of laundry detergent and fabric softener

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 servant project - from donating items to providing financial contributions to helping sort items to helping haul and unload at the Pantry!





PRESCHOOL NEWS

What a blessing this past year at preschool has been! We were privileged to care for and instruct over 45 children from our community and in return received a bounty of blessings ourselves. God is so good! This year each class will have their own end of the year picnic and all parents are encouraged to attend. Picnics will take place on May 12th and 13th. Our picnics are such a fun way to end our year and we are so blessed to be able to have them this year.

We currently have openings in the Monday, Tues-



day, Wednesday afternoon class and the Thursday/Friday morning class for next fall.

As this year comes to an end, I regretfully need to let you all know that I will be resigning from my position as Faith Lutheran Preschool director/teacher at the end of May. I will be moving with my family to Oklahoma this summer due to my husband's job. I will miss all of the wonderful children, parents, and staff but look forward to what this new adventure will have in store. Everyone at Faith Lutheran has touched my heart greatly and I'm so sad to have to leave Faith Lutheran Preschool. How blessed I am to have been given 3 wonderful years here! Please pray for my family as we open this next chapter in our lives.

God Bless your summer!

God's blessings,

Hope LaForest



Happy Mother's Day!





Now What? *continued*

I have never sold or bought a home – by myself. It is new territory for me; one I haven't navigated alone, and somewhat overwhelming. Fortunately, I have the help and guidance of a confident and seasoned realtor to walk me through the language of inspections, disclosures, contracts, etc. I have an idea of what to expect.

As Christians, Easter is a beginning. The resurrection changes us and gives us a new identity. The resurrection transformed the disciples from being fearful and anxious into witnesses that wouldn't be silenced, wouldn't be ashamed, wouldn't stop sharing what Jesus had done – even at the cost of their own lives. When Jesus came back to life, they came alive.

As an Easter people, we are re-defined over and over by what it means to be human and how to live in this world with hearts and minds attuned to the world to come – not to think as the world does, but as God does – to become witnesses of hope and mercy to the world. Eve-

rything about the way we show up should be different, because we have experienced the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We should walk as though no one doubts that Jesus is walking with us; we should break bread together; we should feed His sheep; we should believe in the power of Jesus to change lives and follow Him. We are to be the church!

Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing: "Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father and our Lord, To Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Karen Lindbloom

Daycare News

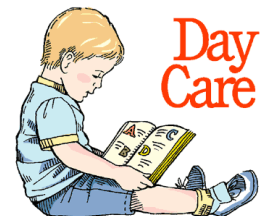
Hello!

Faith Lutheran Daycare now has 78 enrolled children. Our goal is to get to 85, but I believe we will surpass this by August if not sooner. We are so incredibly blessed to be able to care for and know these kiddos and their families! We've also welcomed quite a few new employees onto our daycare team, but we still have the Lead Toddler Teacher position to fill. If you know anyone who loves kids, lives for Jesus, and is kind, compassionate, reliable, and organized— please, refer them to us!

Starting May 4th, we will be hosting a Gourmet Popcorn Fundraiser. If you'd like to support us through this fundraiser, feel free to stop by the daycare at anytime to order. This fundraiser will end Tuesday, May 18th. We appreciate any and all support we receive!

God Bless,

Moriah Kiepke



Official Acts

Wedding

Brandon Olson & Kira Culver

May 1, 2021

Funeral

Shirley English

May 17, 2021



Sent Forth By God's Blessing



Faith Lutheran Youth News

Camp Minneboji

Camp is scheduled for **June 20-26, 2021.**

Minneboji is a Lutheran summer camp program led by our South Dakota and Minnesota South districts of the LCMS and hosted at Camp Okoboji in Milford, Iowa. This year's theme is "Washed," exploring who we are as baptized children of God.

Through Bible study, talks with missionaries, music, crafts, and sports, your student will develop their sense of who



God has made them and called them to be. **Registration**

forms are available in the church office. See Pastor Sam with questions or if you are interested.

CIRCUIT BIBLE CAMP

Will be held this year from July 12-14. Keep checking the bulletins and newsletters for more details as they become available.

