

# Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

## 2023 Annual Report

### *“Let’s Go!”*

#### **PASTOR’S REPORT**

##### **Living Last Supper**

Last March, our church hosted a Living Last Supper. If you came to see it, I want you to reflect upon your experience. We have such a gift in God’s Word and the many ways we can access it. Often, being able to see God’s Word enacted gives another layer or reality to these historical events as well as allowing us to see the life of Jesus in as close a way as we can. If you missed the event, please head to our YouTube page and search for it. It is well worth watching again, especially as we begin the season of Lent later this month (more on Lent in the following section). I want to thank Karen Lindbloom for organizing and directing the Supper. She did phenomenal work and it was obvious to everyone the high caliber she sets for herself and the people with whom she works.

##### **Church Directory**

Every few years, we get another glimpse of our congregation. Friends have moved to new chapters in their life, including potentially a heavenly chapter. New friends have moved into our community and become part of our family here at Faith. I know many of you have picked up a copy. If for any reason you do not have one yet, please come and take one. They are a great resource for phone numbers and addresses (up to date as of the day of printing) as well as helping you remember that person’s name that you saw or were talking to. Also, make sure you thank Carolyn Ryckman. She was instrumental in the layout, the pictures of our many different groups, and working to keep the project moving forward.

##### **Community Ministry**

God has placed our church and all of us within the community of Ft. Pierre and Pierre. Even as we invite our friends and neighbors to join us in worship, we also plan for ways to be involved in our community. I am involved in our community in several ways. As President of the Ministerium, I

coordinate our monthly meetings of the pastors in town. We have someone come and share with us about a group: last month was Sotera, a group of people helping foster parents and children in foster care, the previous month was Habitat for Humanity. Part of our responsibilities in the ministerium is coordinating worship services at our nursing homes. I am on the schedule at each one: Maryhouse and Avantara, Edgewood (both the memory center and the general people), Peaceful Pines (once they are fully operational), and Lincoln Apartments. It is a great joy to worship with these Christians and remind them of the faithful promises of God. I also have the opportunity to lead prayer at two governmental meetings: during the Legislative Session, I get to open either the House or the Senate with prayer. I also offer prayer before our Pierre City Commission Meetings. I thank God that our state and our city respects the blessings of God and desires his guidance during the course of their meetings.

If you listen to KCCR radio, you have probably heard me a few times. I prepare the ministerium devotions that are played each weekday. These short devotions give me an opportunity to remind all the listeners of our community about the goodness and faithfulness of God. I am also live each Wednesday morning just after 7:05AM. During this time, I highlight events coming up in the life of our church. I hope that you tune in and stay up to date with our congregation.

##### **Lent Worship and Devotional Growth**

Starting with Ash Wednesday (which is on Valentine’s Day this year), we enter the church season of Lent. I want to encourage and challenge you to increase a spiritual discipline for Lent (and hopefully continue it beyond Lent). This may include additional times of prayer, more frequency of reading God’s Word, and a focus on acts of mercy and service for others. We have two exciting sermon series planned for Lent that will allow you

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to dig into God’s Word, pray for others, and serve them in Jesus’ name.

On Sundays in Lent and during Holy Week, we are going to hear about Moses as the prototype of Jesus. The experiences and teachings of Moses point to our Savior. The book of Exodus leads us to the Gospels. You can come hear about specific examples each Sunday in Lent (beginning February 18). Each week, we will have extra readings both in Exodus and in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible, all written by Moses) to give you additional insight both into Moses and into God’s plan of salvation. Dr. Reed Lessing, the author of our sermon series, has written a book titled “Deliver Us: God’s rescue Story in Exodus.” These books will be available to purchase from us at the church or at Concordia Publishing House. The book brings the connections between Moses and Jesus to light in our own lives. You can also join me several times each week for recorded devotions posted on our church YouTube page. These devotions will follow the narrative of Exodus and explain the connections in greater detail.

On Wednesdays in Lent, we will be “Guided to the Cross.” As a reminder of our journey, you will receive a cross coin in a special ceremony on Sunday, February 18. The coins will be available afterwards as well. The coins are meant to keep you focused on Jesus and his death and resurrection. They are also for you to give away to someone in your life who also needs to be guided to the cross. We will focus on how the cross guides us to forgiveness and hope among other destinations. We will have a daily devotional book written by the same author as our Wednesday sermon series. I encourage you to join us and to grow in some spiritual discipline during Lent.

#### **A (Slightly) Emptier House**

This coming fall will mark a big transition moment for my family. Evie will be starting preschool here at Faith. While it is only for two mornings each

week, this is the first time that Cathy will be completely alone at home for the first time in ten years. She is considering what this next year and the following ones mean for her and what she might want to do with herself. It is both an exciting and a sad moment moving all of our kids into school. Julia will start Kindergarten this fall, which means the first time she will be at school for full days each week. Paul will start 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, meaning his time in elementary school is half over. Anna will be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, her last year at Jefferson before she transitions to the middle school. For those of you who see time fly like I do, both Julia and Evie were born here. They are growing up quickly.

We planted our garden this last year and have been slowly enjoying the reward of our work. Every year is different, both in what we plant and in what grows well (and not so well). Cathy finds new varieties of things that she wants to try and we cook new recipes to use these things. Last fall brought a couple of firsts for our fruits. When we moved in, we planted two peach trees and some grape vines. The peach trees and the grapes had their first harvest. Both were wonderful. Cathy made peach cobbler and plenty of grape jelly (some with raspberry and other fruits too). We stomped part of the grapes the old-fashioned way to make wine. It is still in process but it smells like something you could drink. Later this year we will bottle it and hope that our hard work paid off (otherwise we will have some extra vinegar or nail polish remover if things go poorly).

We love living in Pierre and being able to share our lives with each one of you. We will see what God has in store for us in 2024 and beyond.

*Pastor Sam*

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### LOOKING BACK.....

*“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”*  
*Philippians 1:3-5*

Not too long ago I received a letter from Pastor Dieter Haupt. He was, in his own words, a “rookie pastor” when he was called from the seminary to my home church, Immanuel Lutheran. Pastor Haupt served from 1975 – 1978, and my folks had kept in touch with him until this past year. Pastor Haupt sent a Christmas card and letter to my dad in care of me, and I ended up writing back with the news that Dad had passed away in September, along with other bits of information I thought he might be interested in. Hence, the letter from Pastor Haupt, in which he remarked, “Your letter made me take a trip down memory lane.” He recalled several events and instances concerning my folks, including the following: “Your dad played dart ball for Immanuel, and I remember those evenings of fellowship, fun and food. The men singing the meal prayer in harmony! Wow! It still brings chills!” I knew exactly what he was referring to. In the old church basement, there was a serving window from the kitchen, and tacked above that were the words to “Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy” (LSB774). Everyone in church knew that hymn – the Sunday

Schoolers, Ladies Aid, Men’s Club, the Walther League and more – we all sang it before we ate, whether it was snacks, lunch or a full meal. The last time I checked, the words to that hymn are still there; not only that, they are also posted in our new fellowship hall. I thought it interesting that singing the meal prayer created a memory for him – and it brought back memories for me as well.

I’ve been thinking about our music ministry here at Faith over the last year. Times are different, the culture has changed, and we are attempting to adapt to over-committed schedules, different kinds of priorities, and every excuse one could think of. We have made a great effort to continue bringing quality music and anthems to our worship services. I think of it as “feeding” the Word to our people through music. If one listens closely to the text, our anthems have a message. It is next to impossible to have weekly rehearsals from September through May, so we are forced to think outside the box and offer short-term commitments so we can seat a full choir and bell choir. That has worked well for us, and we have also branched out with separate women’s and men’s ensembles. Add to that, vocal and instrumental soloists, as well as some small instrumental ensembles, and we can provide a meaningful music ministry. On occasion, we have invited guests to join us, and some have begun singing with us on a regular basis, as they don’t have that opportunity in their own church – they just love to sing.

Perhaps our largest undertaking this past year was the presentation of “The Living Last Supper” on the evening of Palm Sunday. All of our musicians were on board, and many hands helped make this dramatization come alive. Our sanctuary was full, and at least half of the attendees, if not more, were from outside our parish. It was the perfect opportunity to “feed” the story of Jesus gathering with his disciples to share a final meal of bread and wine, to demonstrate humble servitude, and to prepare them for the coming crucifixion.

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Feed Thy children, God most holy;  
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.  
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven,  
bless the food Thou here has given!  
As these gifts the body nourish,  
may our souls in graces flourish  
Till with saints in heav’nly splendor  
at Thy feast due thanks we render.

Karen Lindbloom



## FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

We are having a great school year this far!

Preschool in 2023 has three sessions of 14, 6, and 16 students each for a total of 36 students.

Our Kindergarten Readiness sessions meets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:00-11:00 and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 12:00-3:00. Our 3-year-old session meet Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:00 – 10:30. Susan Urbach serves as my teacher assistant.

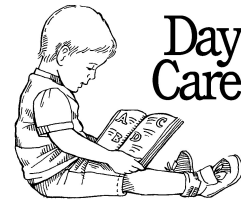
Each month we study a specific shape, number, color and letters; as well as rotate the toys, puzzles, books and games. Each week we follow a theme that relates to a Bible story and letter we are working on. We share God’s love not only in the printed material, but also through our actions. It is our 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, bible lessons, free play, rhymes, tricycle time, music, snacks, and group games.

This year the Christmas program was held with the daycare kids and they all did a wonderful job singing many songs for the joy of the season. This is on the Faith Lutheran YouTube page if you would like to go back and watch all the wonderful kids.

Many thanks go out to all who have in some way supported our preschool program. 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 “Amazon wish list”, 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,  
Kelsey Kampfe  
Preschool Director



## FAITH LUTHERAN DAY CARE

### Article Not Submitted

Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen  
[daycare@faithluth.com](mailto:daycare@faithluth.com)

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### **\*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 once each month
- Serving Confirmation and graduation receptions each year
- 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
- Holding a Silent Auction annually with the proceeds going to a nonprofit of our choosing

Starting in January, we held our annual planning meeting. Two additional new stools were purchased for use in the kitchen and storage space was set aside for use by Fed by Faith as well as space for their upright freezer. Our guest speaker in April was Vona Johnson who spoke on her book "A Different View". The proceeds from the Silent auction went to purchase bias tape for the Little Dresses project. We completed over 300 little hand puppets for the Utecht Puppet ministry at the SD State Fair for our Servant Event in August. Our August Fun Night was held at the Branding Iron Bistro with Pastor Brad Urbach speaking on past Country Fairs.

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We were also able to hold our Country Fair as in the past with a few changes to the menu and the number of booths. We were blessed to raise a net total of approximately \$7,830 to be split between:

**National organizations:** Orphan Grain Train/Lutheran Charities K-9 Dogs for Comfort ministry

**District organizations:** LWML Mites/ Main Street Living

**Local organizations:** Hospice - Memory Care Center/Pierre Governor's Grocery Middle School Program

**The in-house projects were:** Chairs for the Young Conference room, Priscilla circle funds for Cradle roll materials, Faith circle goodie boxes project, Motor coach ongoing expenses, FLC preschool, FLC Daycare, Mexico Mission trip.

We held our annual Christmas party on in the afternoon of December 11th. It was a great time for fellowship and the program, games and lunch were great! We also held our installation of officers for the upcoming year. Elected officers for 2023 are: Anita Marso & Jan Larson - Co Presidents; Cindy Fiechtner - Vice President; Renee Knapp - Secretary; Kristy Deal - Treasurer. A cash donation was collected for Birthright of Pierre.

We are excited to be in the process of finishing off a large closet in the St. Paul room to hold all of our LWML items and to be able to start meeting in this room after a fresh coat of paint and some other repairs are made to it. We also hope to be able to purchase several lecture style tables which will fit the space better.

**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) [larsen920@hotmail.com](mailto:larsen920@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 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.

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Altar Guild meets three to four times a year and additional times as necessary. Christmas 2023 we decorated the church altar with 3 Christmas trees, placing the larger nativity in front with hay bales and the stable silhouette. We placed candles on the sanctuary walls along with the large wreath and candle on the right side of the altar. Stars were added to the front wall around the cross for Christmas Eve. Easter 2023 we draped the glory cross on the side with burlap and purple. At the base of the cross we placed nails and cross of thorns. We had a red nail thorn crown attached to the center cross and uplighted with red for Good Friday. For Easter we placed a single candle in front of the glory cross which was draped in white, palms were on stands beside the glory cross. We also added lilies to the palm arrangements from Palm Sunday and placed other spring flowers by the glory cross. A cross of flowers were placed on the cross behind the altar. Altar Guild chaired the making of Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday this year making around 300. We have money from Harlan Fransen memorial and are in the process of creating new Christmas paraments.

We welcomed two new members Angie Bren and Amy Welch, if anyone who would like to join us in serving the Lord by preparing his altar, please contact an Altar Guild member. It may sound like we do a lot, we do, but with our many hands the task go fast!

Our membership includes Officers for 2023, Chair, Renee Knapp, Secretary, Doreen Kayser and Treasurer, Janice Deal. Other members include Sandy Bales, Verna Fransen, Amber Bell, Stephanie

Harmon, Lisa Harmon, Cindy Canode, Kelly VanDeWiele, Pat Huisman.

Honorary members, Shirley Keller, Marcia Johnson, JoAnn Sander, Karen Humphrey, Lila Houck and Gloria Welk.

### \*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 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 first Sunday coffee, and kitchen cleaning. We participated in the Country Fair.

Circle meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (except for January, February, March and December when we do not meet) in the church Living Room. Guests are always welcome.



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**2024 Officers are:** Chair – Donna Gohl; Secretary – Tina Haug; Treasurer/Ordering Chair – Ruth Hansen; Christian Growth – Carol Fosheim;  
**Members are:** Judy Gerig, Arlene Even and Bernadine Hinckley.

### \*FAITH CIRCLE\*



Faith Circle members minister to the current high school graduates and students attending college with prayer and tokens of faithful encouragement. We also maintain the tract rack to ensure it includes up-to-date pertinent information. This is now located in the Living Room. In addition to those tasks, we participate in the rotation of service opportunities assigned to us by the LWML such as serving funerals, serving 1st Sunday coffee to the congregation, cleaning the kitchen and contacting the residents of Mary House.

Faith Circle meets the second Thursday in months September through May at 6:45 with devotions and a business meeting.

We welcome any who would enjoy supporting these service opportunities to join our group. You are welcome to visit any time.

**President:**

Cindy Fiechtner [cindysuefiechtner@gmail.com](mailto:cindysuefiechtner@gmail.com)  
605 280 3513

**Secretary:**

Susan Stoneback [susie@pie.midco.net](mailto:susie@pie.midco.net)  
605 280 7748

**Treasurer:**

Beth Schiltz [beschiltz@live.com](mailto:beschiltz@live.com) 605 280 1502

**Christian Growth Chair:**

Rotated throughout our membership

**College Remembrance Chair:**

Jeanne Schweigert  
[marvandjeanne@outlook.com](mailto:marvandjeanne@outlook.com) 605 224 5133

**Tract Rack Chair:**

Cindy Deadrick [crdeadrick@venturecomm.net](mailto:crdeadrick@venturecomm.net)  
605 680 1342

**Membership:**

Jolynn Haberling [jolynn.haberling@k12.sd.us](mailto:jolynn.haberling@k12.sd.us)  
605 295 3062

Gloria Welk 605 295 7960

**Honorary Member:**

Clara Shelbourn 605 224 2724

### MARY/MARTHA CIRCLE



*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.*  
LUKE 10: 38-39

Mary Martha Circle missions to the elderly and shut-ins of our congregation with cards and visits on Valentine's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The circle also participates in the rotation of servicing opportunities assigned by the LWML such as serving funeral luncheons, serving first Sunday coffee to the congregation, cleaning the kitchen, and providing treats for the residents of Mary House. In addition, in 2023 the Mary Martha Circle continued to correspond with Ronald Bagola, a handicapped gentleman who lives in a group home in Mitchell, deliver Portals of Prayer, provided and served a meal for our vacation bible school, and decorated for our LWML Christmas party.



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Mary and Martha Circle meets at 6:30 on the fourth Tuesday of the month for devotions and a business meeting.

We are grateful for our auxiliary members who helped by providing food and/or helping us to serve in 2023.

2023 Officers: Chair: Char Arneson; Vice Chairs: Dawn Koch and Kathleen Monfore; Treasurer: Grace Schmitgen; Cards: Kathleen Monfore; Members: Mary Buxcel, Loretta Jochim, Rena Ortbahn, Laurie Schultz, and Laura Streich; Honorary Members: Freda Peters and Dorothy Rausch.

*O God, heavenly Father, your Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love you, open our hearts to hear you, and strengthen our hands to serve you in others for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

### PRISCILLA CIRCLE



Our purpose in LWML is to serve the children from their baptism to the start of Sunday school. The special Cradle Roll board lists all the children enrolled and is

located in the Narthex. Each child is named on a little lamb with their birthday and baptism date. We send letters of Christian guidance to the parents of each child every year for the first three years. We remember the children on their birthdays, anniversary of their baptism, and a small gift at Christmas. This year the Christmas gift was a Nativity magnet.

Each year the cost of postage and our packets continue to increase. We thank the LWML for the help when requested. All other expenses are

covered by the Circle. We received a \$250.00 Grant for Cradle Roll packets from the County fair.

We assist LWML with serving 1st Sunday coffee, Mary House, Kitchen cleaning, mailing “encouragement cards” to those that are confirmed, and any other functions assigned to us. We especially thank our auxiliary members for all their assistance with this. We send graduation and confirmation cards to members of families on our auxiliary list as well.

During the year, we remember our members, their families, and some of the auxiliary members with gifts or cards in times of illness, hospitalization, bereavement, weddings, births, etc.

Our mission project this year was a donation to Orphan Grain Train. Thrivent teamed up with Orphan Grain Train to provide funds for relief for the victims of the Maui Fires. Thrivent matched \$0.50 per \$1.00 donation. We donated \$50 (so they would receive \$75 total with Thrivent’s match). We were in charge of the program for the LWML Christmas Party.

Priscilla Circle welcomes guests at any meeting. Our regular meetings are the last Monday of every other month beginning in January at 7:00 PM.

#### **2023 Officers and standing appointments are:**

Chairman-----	Anita Marso
Vice Chairman-----	Melody Shoup
Secretary-----	Joanne Hight
Treasurer-----	Peggy
Urquhart	
Cradle Roll-----	Luann
Zuercher	
Mission Inspiration-----	Kristen Grohs
First Sunday Coffee-----	Vacant
Mary House Caller-----	Joanne Hight

#### **Members:**

Jackie Hoefener, Carlene Barber, Bethany Vasilie  
Lorri Rathbun and Pauline Paul

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### Honorary Members:

Arlene Buhl, Myrna Hartmann, and Shirleen Wixon



### REBEKAH CIRCLE

Rebekah circle continues to support the Daycare and Preschool with book cleaning and other activities. We have helped with kitchen cleaning, Mary House treats, First Sunday coffee, and funeral luncheons along with other events throughout the year.

Rebekah circle meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 9:30 am.

Current members are:

Kristy Deal - Chairman

Pat Huisman – Treasurer

Lila Briggs

Melanie Fuerst

Darlene Hallem

Clareen James

Karrie James

Lavonn Peters

Submitted by,

Kristy Deal, Chairman

### FAITH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARDS



The FLC Board of Elder exists to supervise and assist in the spiritual care of the congregation and assist our under shepherd, Pastor Sam, in caring for the spiritual needs of our parishoners and partner with other boards to coordinate the spiritual care of the flock here at Faith.

In the church council meeting this past week, it was suggested that we should provide a great experience of working on the board. I gave it some thought and I wanted to share something my dad used to point out. As a man born and raised in Alaska prior to it becoming a state, he’s a huge fan of taking vacations in warmer climate in the middle of winter. His reasoning? You don’t really appreciate the warmth without experience the cold of an Alaskan winter.

Being an elder sometimes means listening to people complain, say unsavory things about fellow members of the body of Christ, fail to put the best construction on everything, and other things the devil, the world, and our sinful nature would have us do to build a spirit of DISunity in Christ’s church.

But all the negatives are absolutely worth it when you meet as a board to consider how to best care for God’s flock, study his Word together, assist our pastor in helping deliver the word and sacraments,

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and discuss the spiritual health of the congregation of members of the church.

In the last calendar year the Elders have continued to assist Pastor Sam and Pastor Brad in caring for the spiritual life of the parish, put on the Seder meal on Monday of Holy Week, assisted in serving the meal in coordination with the missions board during the Potter Family Concert this past August, The board of elders sincerely thanks those people who pitched in and helped make that meal a reality. Additionally, the board is continuing to coordinate and supervise the worship life of the church, including working with Pastor and the church staff to set the Christmas Eve/Day schedules with you.

We’re pleased that we have returned to having acolytes be a part of the worship service. Pastor Sam has put together a schedule for students who have expressed interest to this point. We encourage those families that have school-aged children to admonish them toward service in the Lord’s house and this a fantastic way to connect our youth to the most important facet of our church family, our worship. Students who have expressed interest in acolyting have been given the aforementioned schedule. Students who would like to be a part of the acolyting rotation can ask an elder or Pastor Sam when they can be worked into the schedule.

I’d also like to remind everyone that the elders oversee the Love Fund, which is a small reserve fund to provide cash for those people who are in dire straits as a work of mercy. If you or someone you know might need help this holiday season to make ends meet or are in an untenable financial situation, please bring this to the elders’ attention.

Should you ever have questions or concerns about the spiritual care of congregation we encourage you to speak to our pastor(s) about these matters but also to speak to one of the elders about it. A list of the elders and our contact information is available in the church office. We will gladly discuss your

concerns amongst our board so that we can best care for you and for our church.

Mike Vasilie, Chair – Board of Elders



The Board of Early Education continued in its roll to support both the daycare and preschool at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Board’s vision is that every child who comes into the daycare and preschool experiences the love of God and the love of the Faith Lutheran Church Community.

The Board of Early Childhood Education currently has 4 volunteer members: Chair: Rebecca Poelstra, Vice Chair: Claren James, Secretary: Ashley Brakke, and Rachel Arbach.

This year we finalized our work with help from the Board of Property Management and other volunteers on removal of the old playground equipment and installation of the new playground equipment and surfacing materials. Fencing around the playground area was updated including separating the area into 2 safe spaces for the children to enjoy outside play and other outdoor activities.

Mandy Vogel and Kim Jensen continue to serve as our co-directors for the daycare. They are doing a wonderful job of sharing and demonstrating the love of Jesus with staff, children and their families. All staff have earned their Child Development Associate (CDA) Certificates. The CDA Certifications ensure our daycare is providing a safe and healthy learning environment, supporting

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children in all areas of development (physical, intellectual, and social-emotional), and requiring staff to stay current on latest evidenced based practices in childcare. Which results in staff utilizing curriculum in their daily plans to ensure the children are being provided opportunities to learn and grow in faith and be better prepared for preschool and school in addition to getting their basic needs met while being entrusted to our care.

Our daycare is currently serving 33 children and employs 10 staff, including our co-directors. The daycare has been operating in the black and is working hard to continue doing so.

Kelsey Kampfe continues as our Preschool Director. Susan Urbach joined her this fall as our Preschool Aide. The held a fundraiser in the fall and are currently working on ordering some more hands-on learning activities for the children in the preschool. We will be meeting soon to discuss rates and schedules for the 2024-2025 school year of the preschool. We’re looking at needing to raise rates for the coming year to be able to remain in the black and pay our wonderful staff for the amazing work they do. There are 36 children being served by our Preschool.

For the third year, the board hosted a fall bake sale before Thanksgiving at the church. We had a wonderful turnout thank you to everyone that donated baked items and donated to take them home. The funds raised are used to show our appreciation to the staff in our Daycare and Preschool during the Christmas season.

The preschool and daycare held their joint Christmas program on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary where the children sang and spread their love for Jesus with all in attendance. Board members had prepared and then handed out brown bags with goodies for the children who performed in the program.

We have been and will be continuing to work with the Board of Education and any other boards or concerned members on ensuring all spaces are being utilized in the best ways to support all the learning and meeting needs unique to Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

We are looking at once again doing a joint Daycare and Preschool Butterbraid fundraiser this spring.

God Bless!

Respectfully  
Rebecca Poelstra, Chair – Board of Early Childhood Education



Article Not Submitted



The Board of Missions and Evangelism provides the message of God with our congregation, our community, and communities near and far. The Board is supportive of our missionaries working around the world. We specifically support and

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encourage the Utechts’ in Rosebud, SD. We send personal notes to our visitors who have worshipped with us and encourage them to join us again and in the future. We use Facebook, a Message Board, high school sports advertisements, and various media to encourage the evangelism of our savior. Over the past year the Board of Missions and Evangelism has promoted the following:

- Friendship Sunday where parishioners invite any outside the congregation to engage in fellowship
- Promoted and showed the movie “Risen” during Holy Week in the Christian Life Center.
- Created a 4<sup>th</sup> of July float and entered it in the Ft Pierre parade to spread the word and hand out biblical verses
- Organized and ran the fall festival where 300+ attended. Food, games, bouncy houses, Christian themed prizes, and religious children’s books were handed out
- Participated in “Trunk or Treat” where religious tracts and bracelets were handed out to children and parents.
- Helped with a gift drive for Pastor Utecht on the Rosebud Reservation
- Provided funds supporting the Mexico Mission Trip
- Conducted the “Fall festival” with promoting fellowship and the word of Christ to our youth utilizing bouncy houses, scavenger hunt around the church, children’s games, pumpkin painting, along with food and treats.
- Set up an outdoor Nativity Scene

- Budgeted and donated funds to those entities spreading the Word like the Lutheran hour and Main Street Living
- Organized a Christian concert in the park with pork sandwiches served. 150+ attended.
- Sponsoring “Compassion International” with \$500/year

Our members are; Cheryl Brull, Jolynn Haberling, Elizabeth Okroi, Shawn Schulz, Anita Spitzer, Greg Buntrock, Shannon Zeeb, Brian Zeeb, Kelly VanDeWiele and Dean VanDeWiele



Article Not Submitted



2023 was another busy year for the Board of Property Management. In addition to routine cleaning and general maintenance responsibilities, the board completed several projects throughout the year.

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Projects within the church building included:

- Installation of new storage cabinets in some of the Sunday School rooms
- Addition of shelving for the Alter Guild
- Cupboard repair in the LWML Room
- Assisting with the purchase of a new refrigerator for the Day Care Kitchen
- Replacement of the water heater in the gym
- Repair of the boiler in the old building
- Painting of the Preschool room
- Installation of new fire extinguishers
- Stripping and waxing of the gym floor

Major Projects around the church campus included:

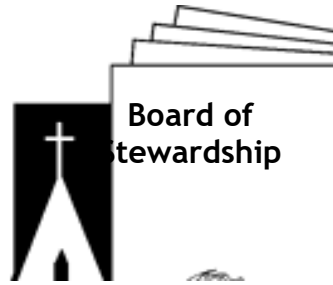
- Spring campus clean-up
- HVAC units for the Sanctuary
- Purchase of a new riding mower
- Purchase of a new snow blower
- Landscaping update
- Installation of new playground equipment in the daycare playground

Other activities of the board included assisting with Lenten and Advent meals, updating memorial stones, and painting benches in the memorial garden.

The board would like to thank Ron Nelson, Facility Manager for all his diligent work maintaining and cleaning the church campus. In addition, the board would like to thank all of the church members who helped with various projects throughout the year.

Respectfully,

Steve Johnson, Chair



Article Not Submitted

## Pierre Area Bible Bowl 2023 Bible Scholars





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*“Let’s Go!”*



Back: Carissa Ring, Marlys Otten, & Sumara Paul  
Coach LeRoy Kropuenske & Pastor Handschke  
Front: Chris Paul & Bella Paul

Congratulations to all the Bible scholars on our Pierre Area Bible Bowl team. Carissa Ring is from St. John Lutheran of Gregory. Marlys Otten is from Immanuel Lutheran of Gettysburg. The Paul family of Sumara, Chris, and Bella are here from Faith Lutheran in Pierre. There are 18 churches in the Pierre Circuit. We earned an ‘A’ league berth and placed 6th overall with eleven teams competing this year. Given that we got a late start with team formation and all our scholars are young first year rookies we did extremely well. You qualify for the afternoon ‘A’ league competition by winning and placing in the top two positions of four team pools in the morning competition. We won all our morning games except with the Cresbard Comets who went on to win the state ‘A’ championship in the afternoon. We placed one of our Bible scholars in the top ten for the individual competition. Carissa Ring was one of the top individual Bible scholars in the state of 43 Bible Scholars.

They did very well in the competition but even more important are who they are as role model Christians. They give me great joy! They represented our church and the churches of our circuit with great honor. They are kind, thoughtful, loving, funny, and involved Christians. They are bright shining lights in our world. They make the world a better place. Thanks to them for who they are and their hard work.

Thanks to the Paul, Ring, and Otten families that support them. Thanks to Pastor Handschke and Pastor Urbach who provide spiritual leadership. Thanks to Pastor Ring who assisted with our Friday night in person practice and Pastor Otten who was available to encourage our team as I was one of the official state Bible Bowl judges. Pastors Ring and Otten have Bible scholars Carissa and Marlys on our team. Thanks to Pastor Ring who is our LCMS SD state Bible Bowl director. Our Bible study was from Genesis 37 to Exodus 20. Our Luther’s Small Catechism study was on the Ten Commandments.

I am happy to report that they are all excited about coming back for next year. I am hoping to recruit more Bible scholars so we can field more teams in 2024.

*LeRoy Kropuenske*

LeRoy Kropuenske

Pierre Area Bible Bowl 2023 coach



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### ENDOWMENT FUND

Article Not Submitted



### BOARD OF DEACONESSES

Members: Carlene Barber, Cindy Fiechtner, Donna Gohl, and Betty Leidholt

The basic objectives of the Board of Deaconesses are:

1. Be an example of Christian behavior and commitment.
2. Assist pastor(s) and the Board of Elders in providing ministry of concern to the congregation.
3. Cooperate with other boards in serving shut-ins and the hospitalized.
4. Cooperate with Board of Missions and Evangelism in visiting prospective members and new members of the congregation.
5. Offer assistance to bereaved families.
6. Submit an annual budget request to the Board of Stewardship in the form and at the time requested by the board.

The Board meets every third Monday of the month following the monthly Prayer Care meeting with Pastor Handschke.

We send cards, make phone calls or personally visit (if no restrictions apply) to shut-ins, hospitalized members, or bereaved families. Other options are Prayer Walks on Thursday mornings and Prayer Circles when they are requested. Congregational members are encouraged to complete the Blue Pew Cards so we are aware of prayer requests for the ill, hospitalized, shut-ins or any other concern. Addresses and phone numbers are helpful to us for follow up and also to keep the Prayer List current.

### 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 website for Faith Lutheran Church includes information about our church, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod beliefs, our leadership, pastors and staff, and Lutheran Hour Ministry resources. Also available are our worship service schedules and bulletins, our live stream icon to watch the worship service live on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am, information on Bible studies, our Day Care and Preschool, youth education and ministry programs, the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League), Main Street Living ministry, missions /missionaries that we support, YouTube, Facebook and other ways to connect with us, weekly calendars and schedules of events, newsletters, e-news blasts for weekly news, our

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annual report, and ways to support our church financially.

#### **E-MAIL LIST**

Email blasts are also used to communicate news and announcements with the members of Faith Lutheran Church when an e-mail address has been provided. The e-mail list contains many addresses to which regular messages are sent. In addition to 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 e-mail address by contacting the office so we may keep you informed.

#### **YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

The Faith Lutheran YouTube channel can be accessed via our website, <https://faithluth.com/getconnected/youtube/>. Here you will find our weekly livestreams, regular devotions, and other special services. We currently have 263 subscribers, 1571 videos, and over 49,000 views.



#### **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 Sonrise for \$60.00.

OaheTV also provides an archive online at [www.oahetv.com](http://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. Sonrise 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 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**

Day to day activities are posted to our group page, Faith Lutheran Church-Pierre, which currently has 565 members following the page.

For current events please join and follow this group page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FaithLutheranChurchPierre> .

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### ELECTRONIC BILLBOARD

Our Daktronics digital sign on Euclid is aging and needed some maintenance in 2023 but is still displaying daily messages to travelers. It is a pillar of encouragement, wisdom for Godly living, and announcements that catch many glances and comments from our members and the community.

### 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	605-224-7039
Nancy Shoup	605-280-2091
Freda Peters	605-224-7654
Janice Dockter	605-222-9055
Beth King	605-222-0356 (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, retired or semi-retired, who gather once a month for a noon potluck meal and fellowship. Forever Young generally meets on the third Thursday of the month, except during Lent when they meet on Wednesdays.

We encourage all to join us for great food and wonderful fellowship!

### OFFICIAL ACTS

**Baptisms:** Lynette Myrna Jo Rageth, Javion Lee Thompson, Eliot Richard Tople, Sutton John Gordon, Allan Anders Ogren, Clove Lucille Hanson, Kolt Jacob Salter, Ridger Joel Reiman, Brecken Jay Hughes, Leland Lonnie Standing Bear, Kimimila Joe Standing Bear, Charlotte Gustafson, and Johanna Rae Poppe.

**Confirmations:** Kaylee Marie Blauert, Samuel Aaron Larson, Noal Riley Neyhart, Jaden Walter Otenbacher, Shaylee Morgan Speck, Bryant Blaire Zeeb, and Jonas Ryan Olson.

**Weddings:** Justin Daniel Meier & Jessika Lyn McCarty, Kenean Lee Hiller & Shelley Kaitlin Gerber, and Savannah Loesch & Dalton Martian.

**Deaths:** Sandra Peterson, Beverly Parrott, Ellen Rose Carter, Harlan James Fransen, Gloria Lawrence, Steven Halls, Cecil McGruder, Janice Dockter, Marge Schlichenmayer, Darwin Ripley, Neil Schochenmaier, Aaron Leroy Zimmerman, and Forrest Wixon.

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### Stewardship Report

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

Range	2021	2022	2023
\$0.01 - \$52.00	19	21	39
\$52.01 - \$156.00	18	20	29
\$156.01 - \$260.00	11	13	25
\$260.01 - \$520.00	32	34	32
\$520.01 - \$780.00	13	21	28
\$780.01 - \$1,040.00	17	14	17
\$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00	16	11	11
\$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00	14	17	8
\$1,560.01 - \$1,820.00	9	10	16
\$1,820.01 - \$2,080.00	7	7	9
\$2,080.01 - \$2,340.00	5	4	7
\$2,340.01 - \$2,600.00	6	6	5
\$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00	9	15	8
\$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00	8	6	7
\$3,640.01 - \$4,160.00	6	7	7
\$4,160.01 - \$4,680.00	7	3	0
\$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00	8	6	3
\$5,200.01 - \$10,400.00	24	27	10
\$10,400.01 - \$15,600.00	5	6	2
\$15,600.01 - \$20,800.00	3	1	0
\$20,800.01 - \$26,000.00	1	0	0
Over \$26,000.00	2	2	0
\$0.00 - No Contributions			323

### Are You a Giver or a Taker?

Even though we know 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, be 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 (2 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 to receive”* (Acts 20:35).