

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

714 N GRAND AVENUE

PIERRE, SD 57501

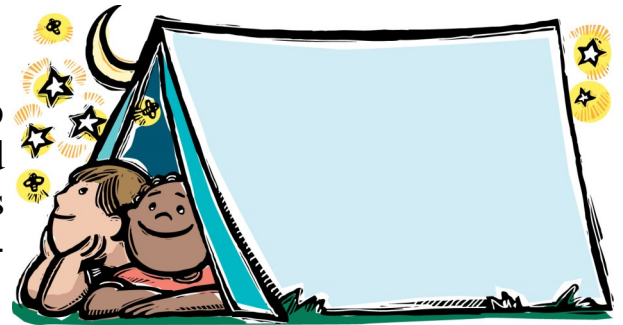
Camp Minneboji

June 20-26, 2021

The theme is “**Washed.**” Camp Minneboji is for kids who have finished 4th-8th grade. Honors Camp Minneboji is for those who finished 9th grade—and this year only for those who finished 10th grade because we did not have Camp Minneboji last year.

You can pick up registration forms at the church office or on-line at www.Minneboji.com. You may also make payments on-line using your credit/debit card.

Participants are NOT to come to Camp Minneboji if they are sick. If you are sick and are likely to spread sickness, stay home. If this is the case, you may request and receive a refund of your deposit and payments made.



Be Thinking Ahead

Circuit Bible Camp

July 12-14, 2021

Circuit Bible Camp’s theme this year is “**Walking in the Valley.**” We will be going to the Spearfish area. One day we take the kids to Devil’s Tower. The camp is for kids in 4th through 8th grades. The circuit pastors will be leading Bible studies during the three days. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Handschke.



The Senior Pastor's Page

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:13)

I once heard a pastor tell a story about a conversation between a father and his little son. The two were trudging through some deep snow when the father called out, "How's it coming, son?" Without hesitation, the son answered, "It's easy, Dad. I'm just stepping in your tracks."

This month, our country will celebrate Father's Day. Like we do for that special woman on Mother's Day, many pause to say our "thank you" to that special man in our lives who have made us into who we've become. But there is more to Father's Day than this. This day is also a time for all fathers to realize the awesome responsibility God has given them: to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)

It is especially difficult to be a Christian father in today's world. There are countless temptations that prevent fathers from spending both quality and quantity time with their children. In



fact, I believe that many of the societal ills we see around us today are a direct result of the breakdown of the family unit in general and the absence of a fatherly figure in the home in particular. So, what's a father to do? To whom can fathers turn to help them fulfill their responsibilities? The short answer is God and His Word. The Bible says, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who

fear Him." (Ps 103:13) Our love, especially a father's love, should flow directly from God who is Himself love. (1 Jn 4:8)

Through His Word, our God not only tells us the life that pleases Him, but He also empowers us to accomplish it. Let's face it; all fathers have fallen short of what God expects of them. However, because we have a loving heavenly Father who sent His Son to rescue us from our sins, all earthly fathers not only can receive forgiveness of sins but also the strength and ability to be the kind of father God desires. Empowered by faith in Jesus Christ, all people, especially our fathers, have the ability to imitate the life of Christ to their children, wives, and all with whom they come into contact.

God's blessings to all parents especially to the fathers as we, grounded in God's Word, reflect God's love to all.

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Pastor Coy T. Rji

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

“New Life”

Green is a Christmas color. Green is also one of the dominant colors in the window for this month. It struck me as strange until I thought about it. Green is the color of our Christmas trees, whether those are real or plastic. Green is also the color that we see during spring when new life emerges. Green is the perfect color to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The new life of Christ at Christmas is significant in a few ways. First of all, let me be clear. Christ has existed forever. I'm not claiming that he first came around at Christmas. He is eternal, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. When I write about new life at Christmas, I'm referring primarily to fleshy, earthy, creaturely life. John's gospel gives us the right language. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" [John 1:1-2, 14].

This Word of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, became flesh. Like you, like me. God became a creature. In the process, he did not lose being God. Jesus Christ is a mind-blowing God-man. It sounds incredibly simple, but the implications of this union are profound. The birth of our tiny Savior, which we traditionally remember with candles and "Silent Nights," is one of the most complicated and wondrous events in the universe.

Which brings us back to green. Christ was born into the same earthly existence that we all share. His life is new in the same sense that our lives are new. We breathe, we eat, we laugh. The green not only looks back to that joyous day, it also directs us forward. Jesus Christ is like us in another way: he died. You have not died yet, but that is only a matter of time.

The green is your promise of life. Not the yucky, messy, dirty life you experience now. The green is not giving you a life filled with sickness and heartache and failure. The green points you towards what is truly life, eternal life in the presence of the God-man. Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and you will rise from death too. The eyes which read this article will open to behold your Savior's face.

We have covered some major moments in the life of our Savior. But our look through the stained glass windows is only halfway done. Starting with our next article, the windows will shift towards describing our Christian life. To be sure, this life is informed, directed, and sustained by our God's gracious actions, and he will not be absent. Until then.

Pastor Sam



Sent Forth By God's Blessing



DREAMS AND DREAMERS

“Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.”

Genesis 28:10-12

Are you a dreamer? Or even a daydreamer? Scientists have proven that we all dream, yet we don't all remember our dreams. When we do remember them, sometimes the content seems so foolish or impossible that we tend to just forget about it – or laugh it off. Some dreams can be frightening and feel very real. But dreams can be revelations. Some cultures take dreams very seriously. What we dream can tell us things about ourselves; things we may not be aware of; things that we harbor far beneath the surface of our daily lives. Daydreams are a kind of dreaming that we do when we're awake. At one time or another, we've probably all had dreams for ourselves or for our families.

We are climbing Jacob's ladder.....

Any number of times, while in high school, I had a recurring dream that I would arrive at class and be completely unprepared to take a test – usually in advanced biology. When I was an undergrad at Moorhead State, I dreamed about piano juries – that I'd forgotten what I was supposed to play. (Piano juries were required to be memorized.) I also dreamed I missed my orals when I was in grad school. Shortly after I moved to Pierre, one dream involved me driving my car off the Missouri River Bridge. Of course, I woke up before I crashed!

Ev'ry rung goes higher, higher.....

Dreams can provide a way for God to reach us when our conscious defenses are down. Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven. He was only one of many in the Bible to whom God appeared in a dream. These dreams ultimately became crucial to their future. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery after he described his dreams to them; but later, when Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, his family and a nation were saved from famine. God spoke to Joseph, the father of Jesus, in a dream – once, when he told Joseph to take Mary as his wife. And again, to escape to Egypt following the birth of Jesus.

Children, do you love my Jesus.....

We are all familiar with the spiritual, “We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder.” The stairway that appeared in Jacob's dream reached to heaven. It is symbolic of the connection between heaven and earth, a bridge, if you will. The ladder represents progress, and Black slaves believed that the ascending ladder would ultimately lead them to freedom. As Christians, we believe there is only one way to Heaven, and God has provided that way. God promised Jacob that he would always be with him. When Jacob awoke from that dream, he said, “Surely the Lord was in this place!”

A dream can mean many things. It could be urging you to move in some particular direction, or it could be reminding you of something you have repressed. It could also mean that God may be trying to get your attention. When I was in school, I used to worry about upcoming exams and performances and that I hadn't studied enough, or practiced enough. That feeling stayed with me for a long time, until I finally relaxed enough to realize that preparation is key, and being on time is part of that. I still practice and rehearse a lot, but prayer and letting my training take over makes a big difference. As far as dreaming of driving off the Missouri River Bridge.... I still haven't figured that one out!

If you love Him, why not serve Him?

Soldiers of the cross.

Karen Lindbloom

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Faith Lutheran Daycare

Instead of the usual run-down, I want to go deeper and share something that was placed on my heart a couple of weeks ago.

As the last few weeks have thrown a whole lot of unnecessary stress and strife on me as director--and most likely our employees as a result-- I started questioning my purpose here and had to take a step back. I know that I, along with so many others, want desperately for this daycare to be successful. I have lived and breathed this daycare for nearly 9 months now, spending the majority of my weekends here, not taking breaks, doing work after hours, etc., but it has seemed that the harder I try -- the more I put into this place (the more I try to control)-- the more obstacles I run into and the farther we get from how truly life-giving this place could be. So, in a moment of complete overwhelmed-ness, despair, and doubt, I had to step away for a few days. During this time, in only what could be a God-given moment of clarity, I found some solace in two things.

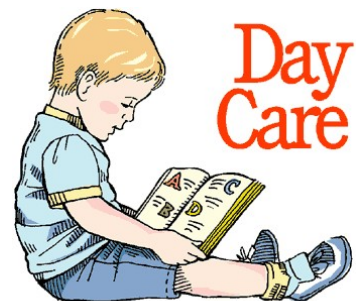
First, I finally understood the importance of our daycare motto: “We give more than time.” It is all about the quality of care we are giving, what we are teaching, how we are caring for our kids and their families. None of this matters if we are not doing the very best that we can in our mission to provide a safe, welcoming, loving, enriching, Christian-rich environment. All of this I knew when I first took this position, but I lost sight of it when things started to overwhelm me; as a result, I wasn’t able to be a good example to the other teachers, nor was I the best I could be for the kids. Being able to refocus—making a daily mental note that the ultimate goal is to love God’s children (both the actual children in our care as well as our coworkers) and make Jesus known to them—has relieved so much of the anxiety of making this daycare “successful.”

Second, I realized (more like God finally took me by the shoulders and shook all of the pride out of me) I need to give up everything I’m trying to control—I am obviously just not very good at it. In all seriousness, I am not doing this work justice if I am not listening and being a disciple of the Lord. I was never truly in control here, and as I practice giving up control and start truly following His lead, He is going to show up here in ways that I can’t imagine and definitely can’t wait to see. He’s already working on sending us the right people to hire; He’s working on sending us people who could use some of His love and light; God is working in and through me-- teaching me to let go, to embrace the chaos, and to trust His process; ultimately, helping me become a better, stronger, more loving (less stressed) leader. He is working through all of you, the members of our church, and our pastors as you all continue to support and pray for us as we work to teach those who are our future (thank you).

God is good, He is at work; He is making a way; He, alone, is in control. In this crazy life, I think we can all find some reassurance and rest in that.

Until next month--

Moriah Kiepke, Daycare Director



50th Anniversary of Ordination

Pastor Urbach was ordained into the office of the Public Ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod on June 6, 1971, at his home congregation, Bethany Lutheran in Omaha, Nebraska.

His educational journey toward that day included attending Concordia Jr. College (now Concordia

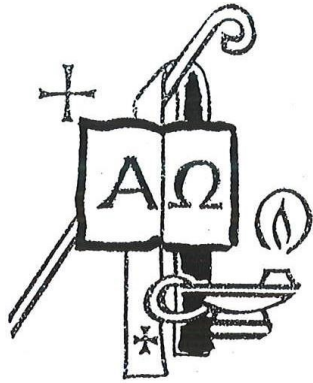
University), in St. Paul, MN where he received an Associates of Arts Degree, Concordia Sr. College in Ft. Wayne, IN where he received a Bachelor of Arts, and finally graduation from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in May of 1971, with a Master of Divinity.

Pastor Urbach has served all of his minis-

try in South Dakota. His first call was to Bethesda Lutheran in Marion and Zion Lutheran Church in Hurley. He served there from July of 1971 until August of 1974. On September 15, 1974 he

was installed as Pastor of Faith Lutheran in Pierre where he served 41 years and 4 months.

Pastor Urbach and his family express their thankfulness to the Lord of the church for a long and joyful ministry.



Father's Day



The deadline for articles going into the July/August newsletter need to be submitted to Helen by June 18 before noon.

Stewardship Corner

The Apostle Paul wrote, "So faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). Through the Word, the Holy Spirit is present and opens hearts. Through God's Word and the faith that God gives us, we receive life eternal. Because the words in the Bible are inspired by the Holy Spirit, they have the supernatural ability to change and transform us into the people God wants us to be. God's Word has the ability to fill our minds, souls, and spirits like nothing else. Just as our physical bodies need physical food to survive, we need spiritual nourishment for our minds, souls, and spirits. The spiritual truths of God's Word fill us and help us grow spiritually. The Word of God is living, powerful, and real spiritual food for the soul, mind, and spirit.

Men's Softball

Faith Lutheran has teamed up with Factor 360 to play in this year's men's softball league during the summer months. We have a great group of guys led by Dennis Ryckman.

We thank Dennis Ryckman for paying the registration fees.

If you are able, we would like to invite you to please come out and watch our Faith Lutheran/Factor 360 men's team play. Our games are:

Friday, June 4

7:00 pm Field D
8:00 pm Field D

Friday, June 11

7:00 pm Field B
8:00 pm Field B
9:00 pm Field B

Friday, June 25

7:00 pm Field D
8:00 pm Field C

Friday, July 2

7:00 pm Field B
8:00 pm Field B

Friday, July 9

7:00 pm Field A
8:00 pm Field A

Friday, July 16

7:00 pm Field C
8:00 pm Field C

Friday, July 23

7:00 pm Field D
8:00 pm Field B
9:00 pm Field B

Friday, July 30

7:00 pm Field B
8:00 pm Field B

Friday, August 6

8:00 pm Field A
9:00 pm Field A

at the softball complex. It promises to be a fun season and we hope you feel welcome to come and watch some of the games as you are able.



Tenth Annual Diaper Derby ends Father's Day, June 20, 2021

Donations for the Tenth Annual Diaper Derby will continue through Father's day, June 20! Please bring your donations of new diapers (any size) and baby wipes and place them in *either crib in the Narthex / Living Room*. Three area agencies and families will benefit from your donations: Birthright, PARS and Missouri Shores Shelter.



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.**

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