



MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N. Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

COMPASSION

Once again, on May 7, 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.

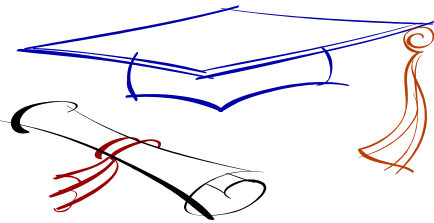
Please prayerfully consider if this is an opportunity to which you can commit.

Thanks for your consideration.

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

Psalm 82:3 NIV

2023 Graduates



Katelynn Axtell

Caleb Davis

Rylan Derry

Ayvrie Kaiser

Taylor Kuper

Ellie Noyes

Collin Pope

Emma Reitzel

Eric Spitzer

Alyssa Stahl

Jazmine Yaeger

Jesalyn Zimmerman



Voters Meeting

Voter's Assembly

May 7, 2023

9:45 in CFLC



Ascension
OF THE LORD

Join us for a special Ascension Eve worship service Wednesday, **May 18** at **7:00** pm.

Sent Forth By God's Blessing



“The Lasts...”

The end of the school year brings some natural lasts. Last day of school is an obvious one. But there are also plenty of other “lasts:” last concert, last lunch, last time I see this friend. The end of a school year introduces young people to a pattern, one that will continue throughout the remainder of their lives: lasts bring firsts. The last day of school is followed by the first day of summer. The last time I see a certain friend might be followed by the first time I meet a new friend.

We often have a hard time seeing the “firsts.” It may be difficult because firsts and lasts do not always line up neatly. The last day of an old job and the first day of a new job follow in a logical order. But our relationships with other people rarely fit into such perfect categories. When one person leaves our lives, we may have already met someone new. That new person might have been in our lives for a while, but their presence might not mean as much until the moment of change and transition.

I want to encourage you if you are experiencing a time of transition. While we often cannot see the twists and turns of our journey, God is a much more adept navigator. You can have confidence in his skills, even when the journey takes an unexpected departure. It was only unexpected for one of you. Your faithful God will continue to guide you through every season of life.

Trusting in him, keep your eyes open for those “firsts.” This might be the first chance to try something that you never thought you would do. It could be the first time attending something that now fits your current stage of life. Maybe you will join with other people for the first time and understand what they have been saying or doing.

I have one more first that I want you to remember. It is a little bit like the first day of summer or the first time trying a new hobby: the first day in paradise. Because of Jesus, all of us are heading for this wonderful first. Some people have already been privileged to receive it. All of us will inherit paradise with Jesus as our individual journeys progress. When we arrive at that first, we will give up “lasts.” We will not have a last day in paradise. We will not have to say goodbye to someone for the last time. In fact, “lasts” will, at last, be gone.

Pastor Sam





GIVING THANKS

*"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."
Philippians 1:3*

The evening of Palm Sunday found a full sanctuary of God's people witnessing a live depiction known as "The Living Last Supper." Leonardo da Vinci's painting, "The Last Supper," is one of the most well-known works of art of all time. It portrays the night before Jesus was crucified. Jesus is seated at the center of the table, surrounded by the 12 disciples, where he is partaking of the Pass-over meal. For people of faith who have heard this account all their lives, the presentation brought it to life in a fresh impactful way. Every attempt was made to be as solemn and devotional as possible.



It literally took a village to bring this dramatization together for a third time, and there are many people to thank. To begin with, the program couldn't take place without a cast. Jesus and his disciples were portrayed by: Pastor Sam Handschke, Paul Poppe, John Barber, Bill Blauert, Dustin Ortbahn, Brent Adney, Bob Green, Matt King, Tony Neyhart, Mike Vasilie, Terry Leibel, Dennis Ryckman and Matt Reitzel. This time around we added the small role of a servant girl, and Kaylee Blauert filled this part beautifully.

Pastor Urbach graciously agreed to welcome all the people attending, and also served as the narrator. We couldn't have a live dramatization without music, so first and foremost, I am grateful and indebted to all of our musicians. Jeanne Schweigert shared gathering music and accompanied the choir. The following people comprised our choir: Rodd Bauck, Pamela Cronin, Marlis Doud, Gail Ferris, Scott Fuerst, Jeff Hallem, Cathy Handschke, Randy Hartmann, Peter Iverson, Helen Kiepke, Jan Larson, Tim Larson, Laura Mehlhaff, Carolyn Ryckman, Cassandra Ryckman, Katherine Schmidt, Neil Schochenmaier, Ken Shelbourn, Laura Streich, Andrew Wulf, Jerry Wulf, Noah Wulf, Shannon Zeeb, David Zuercher and LuAnn Zuercher. They put in many hours of rehearsal without any complaints. Rodd Bauck, Helen Kiepke and Laura Streich were soloists. **Continued on page 4**

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Giving Thanks continued

We also featured instrumentalists: Megan Bauck, Larry Johnson, Mary Jo Johnson, Katherine Schmidt, and Andrew Wulf.

There were also people working behind the scenes. Doreen Kayser headed up the reception. Sweet treats were provided by the Altar Guild, Alberta Olson and the Tuesday Morning Bible Class. Sandy Bales and Cheryl Brull plated cookies (and what a wonderful assortment there was), mixed punch, helped serve, and cleaned up afterwards. The Passover Table on the chancel was built by Peter Iverson, and Noah and Jerry Wulf. Kathleen Monfore and Dawn Koch spent the afternoon decorating the chancel area to re-create the upper room, as well as making sure the serving tables were elegant. The following provided “Last Supper” artwork to enhance the reception area: Neil Schochenmaier, Cheryl Brull, Jerry Wulf, Andrew Wulf, Jeanne Schweigert and Dawn Koch. Carmen Barber tended to the lighting during the presentation; ushering were Darin Charlson and Doug Duncan; the live-stream was filmed by Paul Lepisto. Todd Thompson Photography captured the events of the evening. His beautiful photos can be viewed on his Facebook page.

As with the two previous performances in 2013 and 2017, Donna Leslie was valuable help this time around. She took care of publicity; provided; packed and unpacked pottery and many other props. She hauled furniture, observed rehearsals, kept notes, and her keen eye caught so many details that added to the production. Doreen Miller ably outfitted the cast. She laundered, pressed, and mended costumes, hunted up accessories, and attended every rehearsal. Helen Kiepke and Doug Duncan did a lot of heavy lifting and afforded help and encouragement when it was needed most. Finally, I am grateful to everyone who attended. At least half, if not more, were from outside our congregation. I am hoping people were moved and touched by what they saw and heard. It was a perfect example of outreach.

One song that sums up my thoughts, and is sometimes sung during communion distribution is LSB806.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say “I am strong,”
Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us!
Give thanks, give thanks.

Karen Lindbloom





Faith Lutheran donates over a ton of items to the Food Pantry!



Faith Lutheran’s congregation once again demonstrated their love for God’s flock by collecting more than a ton of food and household products for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry in March!

The congregation donated **2,206 items** that filled over 160 boxes and weighed a total of **2,105.8 pounds**. In addition, members of the congregation gave **financial contributions totaling \$1,750**. The donations were sorted, counted, boxed and labeled before being delivered to the Food Pantry on April 6th. The delivery came on the heels of a blizzard, and our crew helped shovel a path to the door before unloading the items!

Among items collected this year:

- 344** cans and packages of soup, stew, chili and ramen noodles
- 217** packages/containers of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, personal care products
- 191** cans of fruits and vegetables

- 185** boxes of macaroni and cheese
- 155** cans of tuna, chicken and other canned meat
- 110** boxes and bags of dry pasta
- 96** boxes and bags of cereal
- 75** boxes of “helper” meals for hamburger, tuna and chicken
- 53** bottles and packages of household products: cleaners, dish soap, trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper
- 49** bags of flour and sugar
- 46** bottles of peanut butter and jelly
- 44** cans of spaghetti sauce
- 41** bags/boxes of rice mixes
- 40** boxes of cake/brownie mixes
- 33** boxes of pancake mix
- 30** boxes of potato mixes
- 20** bottles of syrup

Thank You!

Faith Lutheran hosts one of the largest food drives for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry each year, and 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.





Mercy In Juarez



The team from Faith, Pierre, and their friends joyfully pose for a photo in front of the modest 12' x 24' they helped build in Juárez, Mexico, in 2021.

On May 27, 2023, a team of nine from Faith Lutheran Church, will travel to El Paso, Texas, to work on servant projects and share the Gospel just across the border in Juárez, Mexico. The trip is coordinated with Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (ylm.org), an LCMS Recognized Service Organization that provides relief and human care services while planting and nurturing missions in the El Paso/Juárez region of the U.S./Mexico border. Founded in 1982, YLM benefits the lives of thousands of people every year.

The members of Faith Lutheran Church were first introduced to YLM when its Mariachi San Pablo band was in South Dakota in 2017 to help celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The members learned of the significant needs on the southern border — physical and spiritual.



Gracie and Kinslee helping young girls pick out dresses

Dennis and Carolyn Ryckman were immediately compelled to put together a mission team. The hope was to include teenagers in every trip to help energize the youth for mission work and gain experience sharing the Gospel with others. In its sixth year of traveling to El Paso for missions, the team has ranged from nine to 35 individuals. This year, the team of nine will include five adults and four high school and college students. It is exciting to watch a group of individuals start out timid in handing out Bibles and praying with others, but then at the end of the trip be secure and intentional to follow the Great Commis-



Cheryl handing out Spanish Bibles to a group in Juárez

Sent Forth By God's Blessing



Mercy in Juarez continued



Kelsey sharing a Bible story with the children in Juarez during Vacation Bible School.

The Faith mission team spends much time handing out Bibles and Gospel tracts at busy shopping centers in El Paso and Juárez. Many pillowcase dresses are made by loving hands from Faith and taken along to give out to young girls. In addition, the group helps YLM with food distribution on a Saturday morning before returning to South Dakota. This trip is an incredible blessing to the families in Juarez. The team prays the Holy Spirit works in those who received God’s Word.

sion as recorded in Matt. 28:19-20 and to see people through God’s eyes.

To prepare for the trip, the team meets weekly and also engages in a study on the Great Commission. To raise funds, the group holds soup meals before Lenten worship, and does lawn work in the spring and other various projects through their “Rent-A-Worker” service. This is a wonderful way for the team to work together, serve congregation members and others, and pray for and witness to those who asked for services.

The team builds a house for a family selected by YLM. In the past, a house has been built for a family living in a van, for a young man confined to a wheelchair, and for an elderly woman who could not afford a home. The families often help with the building project and the team becomes very attached to the family. The team visits the families when they return each year, as time permits. Although the homes are humble compared to American standards, each family cherishes their new home and is so thankful.

The team’s presence at the mission encourages Rev. Dr. Karl Heimer, YLM CEO, his son, Rev. Stephen Heimer, and all the caring and dedicated staff at the mission. But the week has a lifelong impact on the Faith team. The members are emotionally overwhelmed during the ceremony to present the new home to the family. The team finds great joy when distributing Bibles as the Mexican people received them with open arms. The group returns with new energy to be bold for the Lord after discovering that witnessing is a blessed way to partner with our great God and plant seeds for Him. Please pray that you and your family join in on the trip in future years. For more information, contact Dennis at dennis@factor360.com.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

WOW! What a blessing this school year has been, I can't believe it's almost summer break, we have had such a wonderful school year. Mrs. Serena and I have had the privilege of working with such wonderful students this year. God is Great!!

In May we will be having our preschool picnic/graduations to celebrate the kids' accomplishments this school year. They are very excited to sing the songs we have been working hard on



to their parents.

We still have a few openings in our Monday - Wednesday 12:00-3:00 Class, if you know anyone needing preschool, please send them our way. We have lots of fun things planned for next year already.

I want to thank everyone who donated to our preschool this year, we couldn't do it without the love and support from each and every one of you.

We hope you have a wonderful summer.

Gods Blessings,

Kelsey Kampfe
Preschool Director/
Teacher



Happy Mother's Day!





Daycare News

April flew right on by! We were blessed to welcome two employees – Sydnie Taylor will be with the Stars class (ages 9mths-18months) and Terin Waters has rejoined our team and will take the Angel classroom. Both girls fit right in with all of us. We are still looking for a Toddler teacher, so please continue to help spread the word.

We are getting excited as the end of the school year and the start of our summer shenanigans approaches! We will be losing our School-Aged children, (ages 5-12), but the children going to school in the fall will have a fun filled summer. Activities includes Parks, Ft. Pierre Pool, Discovery Center, Bowling, Walks and much, much more! We plan on having the vans in full force mode.

May Curriculum Themes:

1,2,3 Chicks N Puddles May 1st – May 5th

Daniel and the Lion's Den –
Concept: Sometimes people will try to trick us because we love God. We should be faithful in prayer. God is always able to protect us.

Mother's Day May 8th – May 12th

Armor of God – Concept: We should put on the Armor of God. We can be strong in the Lord. We should pray always.

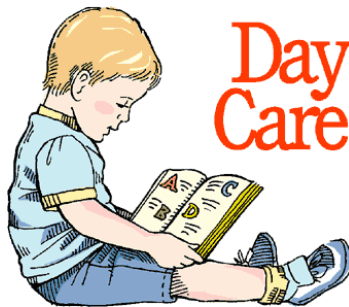
Dinosaurs May 15th – May 26th

The Unforgiving Servant – Concept: We should forgive oth-

ers. God forgives people's sins. We should forgive without counting.

As always, thank you for all the ways you support our daycare!

Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen
daycare@faithluth.com



Men's Club



Our Men's Club will meet Monday, May 2 at 7:00 pm. Bring a snack to share. Beverage will be provided. We will throw darts, bean bags or maybe play cards. Up to you. It will be a time of great fellowship.

Official Acts

Baptisms

Eliot Richard Tople
3/12/23

Sutton John Gordon
4/16/23

Funeral

Harlan Fransen
3/12/23



Articles for the June newsletter are due no later than May 19.





Faith Lutheran Youth News

Camp Minneboji

Minneboji Christian Summer Camp
June 18th-24th

Minneboji, the 7-day/6-night Christian summer camp program for 4th-8th graders will be **June 18th-24th** at Camp Okoboji in Milford, IA. You can register at <https://www.minneboji.com/> . **Registration closes May 1st** or when camp is full!

What's Included:

- Lodging for 6 nights Minneboji T-shirt
- Leadership by pastors/lay volunteers
- Meals for the week Admission to Arnold's Park
- Minneboji program activities
- Use of Camp Okoboji facilities
- Special off-camp recreation (Honors)
- First aid by trained nurses

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.



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 online. See Pastor Sam with questions or if you are interested. The church will give scholarships of \$100 to each student who goes to Camp Minneboji.

CIRCUIT BIBLE CAMP

Keep checking the bulletins for more details as they become available.

