

JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

714 N GRAND AVENUE

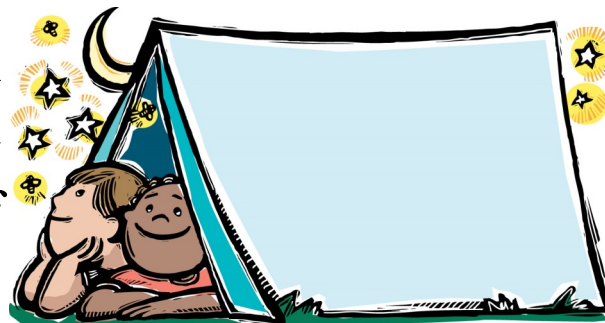
PIERRE, SD 57501

Camp Minneboji

June 18-24, 2023

Camp Minneboji is for kids who **have finished** 4th-8th grade. Honors Camp Minneboji is for those who **finished** 9th grade.

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

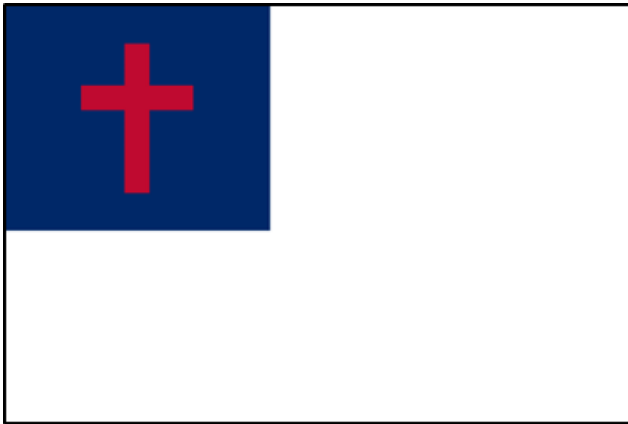
Circuit Bible Camp

July 24-26, 2023

Circuit Bible Camp Students who have finished grades 4-8 are invited to attend Circuit Bible Camp. Camp runs **July 24-26** and we will be tubing the Niobrara. Our theme is **“Shine Like Stars”**. We will swim, play, and eat delicious camp food. Cost: \$60, Faith will scholarship \$30 for each of our member students who wish to attend.



“I Pledge Allegiance”



This month we celebrate Flag Day. I want to take the opportunity to commemorate both flags on display in our sanctuary. We will discuss the Christian flag this month and the American flag next month (since we also have the 4th of July). By comparison, the Christian flag has fewer features. But like our American flag, this one is full of symbolism.

The flag has a red cross on a blue canton with a white field. The entire flag is reminiscent of Jesus.

The red cross gives us the most direct connection, helping us to remember that Jesus shed his blood for us on the cross of Calvary. His death (and resurrection) become ours in baptism. The cross is set into the blue canton in much the same way that we receive the benefits of the cross when we are baptized. The remainder of the flag is a white field, representing the perfection, purity, and sinlessness of Jesus. That sinless life becomes ours as well. Jesus gives us his perfection while taking our sin, putting it to death on the cross.

Flags and pledges go alongside one another. The Christian pledge has several different variations. The one I used growing up went like this: “I pledge allegiance to the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the Faith, for which it stands. One Savior, Eternal, with mercy and grace for all.” Just like we pledge allegiance to our country (we will talk more about that next month), we also pledge our allegiance to our Lord. The two objects of our allegiance do not necessarily conflict with each other (although sometimes we are called to make a choice between something which is legal in our country but that God has spoken against and says is forbidden). Our allegiance to our Lord is a reality upon which no nation of the world can have any claim. Any and every Christian can speak with one voice that they love and follow Jesus. National boundaries do not prevent anyone from joining us in speaking this pledge, just as the kingdom of heaven will be filled with people from every different country.

As we worship and follow God, we do so at a certain geographical place. I am (as I suspect many of you are) a Christian American. We will not split hairs over that designation compared to American Christian (that is a “coffee-or-beer” conversation). God has called us to worship him while also being citizens of America. We have certain duties and privileges while also remembering with Saint Paul that “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Next month we will explore the ways in which our faith and our American citizenship work together, being people who are loved and redeemed by God who also witness and spread his love in the country where we live.

Pastor Sam

THE PERFECT HOUSE

“The Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:41-42 NLT

When I was growing up, many women, including my mother, were housewives. Before she was married, my mother worked in an insurance office, and then at the bank in my hometown. After my brother and I were born, Mom became a fulltime housewife and mother. From time to time, she filled in at the bank, and always worked at the Red Cross Bloodmobile; however, dedicating her life to taking care of the house and raising her children were her top priorities.

Mom and Dad built a new house in 1954. It was a small, cozy frame house with a second story, an attic, and a single-car garage. Mom took great care to see that the house was always clean and tidy. The windows sparkled and it always passed the white glove test. However, her pride and joy were the hardwood floors throughout the house. The floors had been laid painstakingly by my dad’s uncle, slat by slat by slat. Actually, those floors were the crown jewel of the house – and still are.

The folks entertained relatives for Sunday noon dinner somewhat frequently, and Mom would also host her cottage Bible study, plus neighborhood coffee parties. The week before these events, she put a lot of elbow grease into cleaning – especially, those hardwood floors. She scrubbed, waxed and polished those floors into a high-intensity gleam, and woe to my brother and I if a black mark or scratch appeared! We would never hear the end of it!

Hospitality was an important part of the biblical world, even as it is today. Jesus mentions it often, in such stories as that of the Good Samaritan and the wedding at Cana. We need to remember that in the above passage, Jesus isn’t criticizing Martha for her work in making the disciples feel welcome. Instead, He’s pointing out that she’s being distracted at that moment from what’s more vital – hearing His words and treasuring His presence.

Continued on page 4

THE PERFECT HOUSE continued

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,

Open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see You.

I want to see You.

In today's world, many often feel a crushing pressure to make their homes "perfect." Right out of a magazine. Spotless. Uncluttered. Monochromatic color schemes. Tastefully decorated. Choice window treatments. And there's certainly nothing wrong with keeping a house clean and orderly. But hospitality is more than a clean house. It's providing a welcome place for people to gather and enjoy each other's company. It's sharing your love of God as well as a good meal. It's an open heart as well as an open hearth.

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

St. Paul says in Ephesians 1:18 – "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." In other words, open the door of your life (and home) and allow God to stay because He is holy. Experience the holiness of God by opening your spiritual eyes; focus on his word and being near to Him. We want God to stay in our lives and live in our hearts.

Holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy,
You are holy, holy, holy.
I want to see you.

Karen Lindbloom

Sunday School Children



**THIS GROUP OF SUNDAY
SCHOOL CHILDREN HAD THEIR
PICTURE TAKEN BEFORE
SINGING ON MOTHER'S DAY,
MAY 14, 2023.
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!!**

MEXICO MISSION TEAM—HEADING SOUTH!



Elidia, Rosalba, and Mateo

The picture on the left is a picture of the family that our Mission team will be helping with a new home.

The 2023 Mexico Mission Team departed from the church parking lot on Saturday, May 27. They will travel in style this year in our 1999 model motor coach, which was given a facelift with new

flooring, electronics, outside lettering, and much, much cleaning before last year's trip. The team will be serving and sharing the Gospel and looking forward to seeing God's mighty love and power work through the team members and those with whom they come in contact. The team thanks you for all your prayers and support and they look forward to sharing about the trip when they return.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TEAM:

Pat Huisman

Carolyn Ryckman

Roland Degen

Samuel Ryckman

Ethan Martinmaas

Cassandra Ryckman

Tate Westergren

Joshua Ryckman

Dennis Ryckman

Recipients of a New Home



Elidia, Rosalba, and Mateo

Rosalba is a 25-year-old single mother of 6-year-old Mateo. Her 51-year-old aunt, Elidia, has been her source of support for several years. While Rosalba works, Elidia takes care of Mateo, making sure he gets to and from school safely.

A few months ago, Rosalba, Mateo, and Elidia experienced a difficult and painful situation -due to jealousy over Elidia's care

of Rosalba and her son, Elidia's daughter demanded her mother, cousin and nephew leave her house. Rosalba had been saving up money and slowly paying off a little piece of land, but they had nowhere safe to go. The small family of three lived in Rosalba's van for several days, withstanding cold and frightening nights. Mateo had to be withdrawn from school as Rosalba worked to save up as much as she could to finish paying off her small piece of land.

Rosalba has been a member of Iglesia Luterana La Santa Biblia for 18 months now, helping organize and implement events along with other women of the congregation. It was through a conversation with Rosy Lira, deaconess at La Santa Biblia, Rosalba's painful struggles were shared.

Due to needs for repairs, the dorms of Iglesia Luterana San Lucas were closed after the last Haitian refugees got processed to enter the US. For Rosy, it was the place where Rosalba, her son, and Elidia could stay while Rosy reached out to the Servant Event ministry of Ysleta Lutheran Mission to help provide a little house for this small family of three.

A Letter from Rosalba



Salutations to all who will be helping me and my family!

Through this letter, we want to greatly thank you for your support during our situation. We are a family of three. My aunt, Elidia, is 51 years old and I have a son of 6 years. I am 25, a single mother. My name is Rosalba Kristell. Our life has been difficult and now, even more so, we need a house to call a home of our own. Unfortunately, my parents have not been in my

life, and I sought support and refuge with my aunt Elidia. She supported me, caring for my son while I worked. She opened the door of where she was living to us, but her daughter became jealous of my aunt caring for my son and evicted her, and us.

We stayed several days in my van. They were difficult days because it was during winter. My son had to withdraw from school as I kept working.

We shared our situation with Rosy Lira, the deaconess of our church. The congregation of San Lucas, where another deaconess, Yessika Lira, serves opened their refugee rooms for us to stay in. We are so thankful for the blessing of a roof over our heads.

We are thankful, from the bottom of our hearts, for the wonderful people you are and for all your support.

May God always bless each of you.

Blessings and thank you!

Rosalba



A home built on a previous trip

Faith Lutheran Daycare

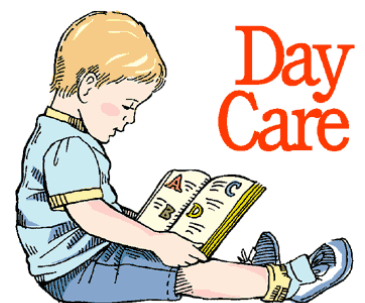
Goodness! May was extremely hectic and went by so quickly. We said Goodbye to our school-aged children and are looking forward to a busy summer with the children that will be heading off to Kindergarten. We also enjoyed Muffins with Mom for Mother's Day, great turn out. We have Donuts with Dad planned for Father's Day.

We are wanting to expand our Infant (Manger) Room as it is a need in the community, so if you know of anyone looking for a meaningful job, who are passionate in their faith and about children, and have a positive mindset-PLEASE send them our direction! If there is anyone in the church who may be interested in volunteering or subbing, we would love to have you added to our sub list (which is quite short right now). The state requires that we still have an application and background check on file, but all of that can be done right inside of the daycare! Easy-peasy.

Thank you everyone who has been supporting and praying for the daycare, its mission, its staff, its children, and the program as a whole. We would not exist without your support!

God bless,

Kim Jensen/Mandy Vogel





**POTLUCK DINNER
FOR SENIORS**

**FOREVER
YOUNG**

Our Forever Young gathering for June will be **Thursday, June 15, at noon**. Bring a dish to share. Beverage is provided. This is a good way for our **55 years old and older members** to fellowship, have a great meal, and get to know newer members. We meet in the fellowship hall/gym by the kitchen. All are welcome. Please join us!



Father's Day

**This & That
Official Acts**

Baptisms

Benjamin Clayton McCue
5/13/23

Funerals

Cecil McGruder
Gladys Rajewich



**Installation of New
Church Officers**

is June 4th at our
8:30am and/or 11:00
am services.

Any new officers not able to attend on Sunday will be installed during our Wednesday, June 7th evening service at 7:00 pm.

Equipping God's People for Life

**Outgoing Board
Members**

Please turn in your church key (if you have one) and your binder so we may pass them on to our new board members. Bring them to the office and leave them with Helen or Pastor Sam. Thanks for your service to our church family!



The deadline for articles going into the July/August newsletter need to be submitted to Helen by **June 16** before **noon**.

Little Dresses Project



Faith's LWML is "sew happy" to announce 243 dresses have been sewn, displayed and packed for our Mexico Mission team to distribute on their trip to Mexico.

Thank you and blessings to all who donated materials or cash and to the many volunteers who made kits, created beautiful dresses or contributed their time and talents in any way. Little Dresses truly is a fun project with many willing servants.

Thinking ahead: The Little Dresses tote is in the west coat closet for any donations of gently used pillowcases, buttons, lace and trim for future little dresses.

Twelfth Annual Diaper Derby ends Father's Day, June 18, 2023

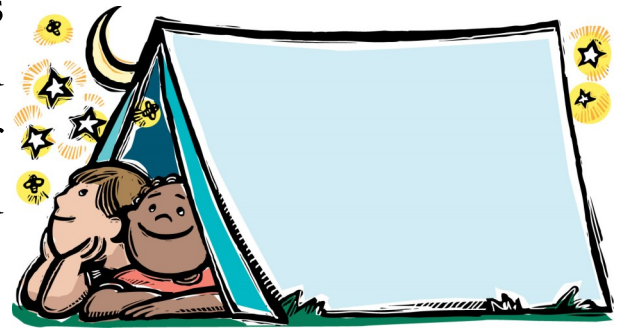
Donations for the Twelfth Annual Diaper Derby will continue through Father's day, June 18! Please bring your donations of new diapers (any size) and baby wipes and place them in *either crib in the Narthex / Living Room*. Three area agencies and families will benefit from your donations: Birthright, PARS and Missouri Shores Shelter.



YOUTH NEWS

Camp Minneboji

Camp is scheduled for **June 18-24, 2023**. 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.



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