

# MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

**FAITH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
714 NORTH GRAND AVENUE**

## LOOKING AHEAD



### A LIVING LAST SUPPER

**Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

The Last Supper will come alive at Faith Lutheran on Sunday, April 2 in a dramatic musical experience presented by members of the Faith Lutheran Congregation and the Faith Choir.

"The Living Last Supper" is a live re-enactment of the classic mural painting by Leonardo da Vinci. It portrays the night in which Jesus and His disciples gathered in the upper room on the eve of the crucifixion. It is where Jesus ate one final meal with His closest companions, and where He revealed that one of them will betray Him before the night is over. We will hear from each of the disciples, and listen to the story from their perspective. The choir will offer several inspirational anthems.

Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity for light refreshments and fellowship.

**You will not want to miss this moving and poignant beginning to your Holy Week experience.**

## Lenten Schedule

### GRACE

**March 1, 2023**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

*"Grace for the Despairing"*

**March 8, 2023**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

*"Grace for the Lost"*

**March 15, 2023**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

*"Grace for the Blind"*

**March 22, 2023**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

*"Grace for Those Ashamed"*

**March 29, 2023**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

*"Grace for the Wretched"*

**April 5, 2023**

**Maundy Thursday**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

*"Grace for the Loveless"*

**April 6, 2023**

**Good Friday**

7:00 pm

*"Grace for the Guilty"*

**April 9, 2023**

**Easter**

8:30 am & 11:00 am

*"Grace for Those Who Lament"*

## “The Changing Seasons”

I had a thought, as I was growing up, about celebrating Easter. “Wouldn’t it be more meaningful,” Little Sam thought, “to celebrate Jesus’ milestones as he lived them?” We would pick a year to celebrate Christmas. Then, thirty-three years later (since we think Jesus was thirty-three when he died), we would celebrate Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter. This would make those holidays more meaningful.

Maybe it would. But losing the annual celebration would be more tragic. In my desire to impart additional meaning to these celebrations, I had (ironically) forgotten how forgetful humans can be. When we are not reminded of a thing, we forget pretty quickly. After a year, how well do you remember something? After thirty-three years, the memory is pretty much gone. We need the annual celebration to remind just as much to rejoice.

The Church seasons (Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, etc.) help us remember. We highlight the big milestones in our Lord’s earthly life. We join him as he performs ordinary actions (although I hardly think any of them could be ordinary): healing, feeding, and teaching. The ordinary leads us into the special. The special punctuates what appears ordinary. The miracles of feeding lead us into Maundy Thursday, where Jesus institutes communion. His resurrection on Easter receives a small reminder as we gather each time to worship.

Living in a place with all four seasons (allegedly), it would be strange to have only one. I could not imagine a tropical paradise. For me, it would be anything but. The natural seasons help me to understand the passage of time and teach me something about God. He continues to renew and sustain despite the apparent length of winter. The Church seasons accompany what I see in nature. As we come into a sanctuary adorned in purple, we remember Jesus the King, crowned with thorns on the cross. Royal? Not to those who stood by, but only to us. A wooden throne? Not one we would choose for ourselves but the exact one that Jesus desired.

Lent gives way to Easter, as suffering will be removed by the resurrection. Although we may desire to remain in resurrection victory forever (which will occur in paradise), we eventually move into Pentecost. The joy of the resurrection is also a duty to our neighbor. “Paradise would be that much better with you in it, friend,” we say to those around us. Pentecost, the longest season by far, shows us the importance of our duty. It will require the rest of our lives. But before long, Pentecost becomes Advent, as we anticipate both the birth of our Savior and his Second Coming in glory.

I could see a world in which we celebrate Easter only every thirty-three years, but it is not a world that I would want. Forgetful as we are, the constant reminders and celebrations are a necessary part of our journey. From the somber reflection of Lent to the joy of Easter. From the dutiful ordinariness of Pentecost to the hope of Advent, until at last our Savior comes in glory...

*Pastor Sam*

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

*“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:26-28*

On Palm Sunday evening, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30, the congregation is cordially invited and encouraged to attend a dramatic and musical experience presented by members of our congregation, as well as members and friends of Faith Choir. We have presented this event twice in the past; once in 2013 and again in 2017. We attempted a third (and final) time in 2020, before Covid made its appearance and we were forced to shut down.

*In remembrance of Me, eat this bread;  
In remembrance of Me, drink this wine;  
In remembrance of Me, pray for the time  
When God’s own will is done.*

There are several reasons for bringing back this moving event. First and foremost, the state of our country and the world is such that people heed a desire to return to Christ. Our culture and society is at odds with God’s Word, and we all need to be reminded, especially, during the season of Lent, that we are poor, sinful beings. We are weak, weary and broken; crushed and separated from God.

*In remembrance of Me, heal the sick;  
In remembrance of Me, feed the poor;  
In remembrance of Me, open the door  
And let your brother in, let Him in.*

The Living Last Supper is a live dramatization of the famous painting by Leonardo DaVinci. It portrays the night in which Jesus and his disciples gathered in the upper room on the eve of the crucifixion. This is where Jesus ate one final meal with his closest companions, and where he revealed that one of them would betray him before the night is over. The Twelve, a combination of the two previous casts and several of our present elders, will share their thoughts and tell the story from their perspective.

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# “RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD, FOR HE IS GRACIOUS AND COMPASSIONATE...” Joel 2:13b

Greetings to you in our Lenten Lord! Lent in the church year is a 40 day journey of thanks and invitation.

While I could list a loooong list of things for which I am thankful, I will share just one. I wish to thank Pastor Handschke and our Board of Elders for extending for another year the opportunity to be Faith’s Visitation Pastor and to preach at least once a month. I enjoy both.

During Lent we will have a Sunday theme **“In View of God’s Mercy”** and a midweek theme **“Amazing Grace”**.

**Mercy and Grace**, what a double header that will be. Concepts for which we are thankful.

That brings me to invitation, or if you will, “visitation”. I am seeking to visit, visit, visit. These visits might be in your home, at the hospital, at a nursing home, an independent living center, at a gas pump, a congregational event, a store aisle, so many places where I can inquire how you are and share that continuing invitation, “see you in worship.”

We are seeing the blessings of God’s family returning to worship. Many things disrupted our worship yet every Sunday sees our beloved parish rebounding.

A couple reminders please:

Are you or someone in your family ill or perhaps even in the hospital, please let us know. Thank you. When I have the joy of visiting you please know that my visit with you is a pastoral call from both of our pastors. This provides Pastor Handschke with time for planning, Education, Board work, youth ministry and the many other things to which Pastors respond. By the way, if you have your coffee pot on feel free to give me a call, always looking forward to an opportunity to see how you are.

So there— **“mercy”** and **“grace”**, “thanksgiving” and “invitation”.

It reminds all of us to continue to every day **“Return”** to God’s goodness and love.

The Lord be with you.

**In His grace and mercy,**

Pastor Brad Urbach



## 2023 LWML- LITTLE DRESSES

**Thank you** to a great group who assembled kits last Monday night (2/13/23). The completed kits with dress, trim and directions are located on a table in the narthex and ready to be sewn.

Please return the completed dresses in the plastic bag to the “Little Dresses” tub located under the table.



We are in need of **pillowcases** that are new or gently used. Any trim, notions or cash donations to purchase specific bulk items are welcome.

They can also be placed in the Little Dresses tub.

### **MEETING TIMES:**

Thursday afternoons: **1:30-3:00**

Monday evening: Feb. 27, **7:00-8:30**

We will keep you posted of any schedule changes. **THANK YOU!!**



**March is  
Faith Lutheran's  
month to collect  
items for the  
Pierre-Ft. Pierre  
Food Pantry**

**Faith Lutheran is one of the largest supporters of the Food Pantry, so this annual food drive is very important to our community.**

**Nonperishable food items, paper products, hygiene items, and cash donations are welcome**

**Food Items Needed**

**(No glass jars and no homemade food items, please):**

- Beef stew
- Cans of fruit
- Cereal
- Chunky soups
- Cooking oil
- Elbow macaroni
- Flour
- Juice (in plastic bottles)
- Pancake mix
- Spaghetti sauce (canned)
- Sugar
- Syrup
- Paper towels
- Pasta meals
- Tuna and canned chicken

**Other Items Needed:**

- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry detergent & fabric softener
- Lotion
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Soap
- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste

**In conjunction with the Ardis Townsend Challenge to Fight Hunger, for every pound of food and every dollar donated to the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Food Pantry in March and April, local banks and credit unions will provide a percentage matching amount.**

**Checks may be made payable to PARS. Write Food Pantry or Townsend Challenge on the memo line.**



# THIS AND THAT

## FOREVER YOUNG

Join us March 15, 2023 for Forever Young after our 11:00 am Lenten worship service.

Please bring a dish or salad to share.

Everyone is welcome to join us.



## LENTEN MEALS

Our Boards will be hosting Lenten meals from 5:15-6:45 pm before Midweek and the Lenten services. Wednesday, March 1, the meal will be served by the Mexico Mission Team. This will be a Free-will offering meal and the proceeds will go to help fund our Mexico Mission Trip this year. Other entities within the church are invited

to take their turn serving a Wednesday meal.



## Palm Cross Assembly



If anyone would like to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday our assembly day is **Saturday, April 1 at 8:30 a.m.** Many hands will make the large job go much quicker. It is a fun time of fellowship for the many who come each year.

There will be some veteran folders on hand to help show everyone how to fold the crosses.

Please bring a pair of scissors with you.

## Official Acts

### Baptisms

Lynette Myrna Jo Rageth

2/8/2023

Javion Lee Thompson

2/18/2023

### Deaths

Ellen Carter

2/7/2023

## March 17



## Attention Thrivent Members

Please direct your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Faith Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Preschool or Faith Lutheran Daycare before they expire on March 31, 2023.

It is simple and doesn't cost you anything but your time.

There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) and in the "Get Started" section click **Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars** or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at automation.

**YOU MUST RENEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. YOUR CHOICE OF A PRIOR YEAR DOES NOT CARRY OVER.**

## State Dart-ball Tournament



The state dartball tournament is on March 4 in Mitchell. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Our Men's Fellowship is Monday, March 7 at 7:00 PM.

Come enjoy a fun evening of darts and bring a snack to share. Beverage will be provided.

## Daylight Savings Time Begins



**Set Your Clocks Ahead One Hour Saturday night, March 11 or You Will Be Late for Church on Sunday, March 12.**





## Faith Lutheran Daycare

February was a great month, for the most part families and staff have been fairly healthy to start the new year. We are still struggling to get 3 staff in to replace staff that has left us. When we get these positions filled we can then get our enrollment percentage back up. We have been blessed with a few applicants – while we haven't made any hires yet (we're still working through the interview process) we are hoping a couple of these will make a good fit! Just having people start to apply has been such a relief!

We are wanting to start a garden this summer to teach the children about where our food comes from

and all the work that goes into it. If you or anyone you know is willing and able to make a couple raised gardens that would be amazing.

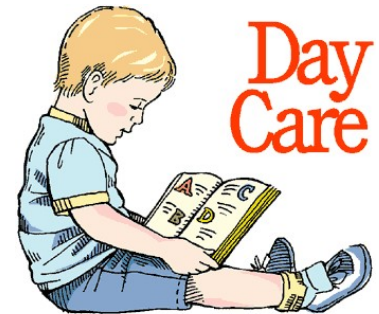
We welcome any of the members to take a tour of the daycare and see what we are up to. The teachers have been and continue to work hard with their Bible verses during circle time and Pastor Sam at Chapel.

In March we will be hosting a Butter Braid fundraiser. The money will go to sending our employees to a training conference in September. This will allow them to get most of their

training hours in and spend some time building relationships with each other.

Thank you for all the ways you support our daycare!

God Bless!  
Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen



## Faith Lutheran Preschool

We are having a great year so far!! February, we learned about Jesus' love for us, and all the different ways he shows it. We also exchanged valentines and had a little party. We will be wrapping up the end of February with our preschool assessments and getting ready for conferences with parents for our Kindergarten readiness class.

In March we will be talking about how Jesus takes care of us, and leading up to Easter. Letters for the month are going to be D, J, E, and U numbers will be 19-23.

Registration for next year is now open, you may grab a registration form from the narthex or we have them on the preschool website. Please return this form with the non-refundable registration fee (\$30) if you are interested in enrolling your child for the fall of 2023.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our program. It is greatly appreciated. Also, thank you for the generous donations to Faith Lutheran Preschool.

Blessings to you all,  
Kelsey Kampfe  
Faith Lutheran Preschool Teacher/Director



**Night of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Questioning**—All are invited to attend the evening when our 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students read their essays. Join us **Wednesday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

**Confirmation Date: Sunday, April 30, 2023.**

**Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF)** Our LYF is a time for high school students (and brave 8<sup>th</sup> graders) to come together for games, fellowship, and God's word. The game is always a surprise, from egg drops to capture the flag or Pictionary. We meet each Wednesday from 8:00-9:15PM. Please come and invite a friend. Talk with Pastor Handschke or Mike Shoup for answers to questions.



## IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME continued

Take, eat and be comforted;  
 Drink, and remember, too,  
 That this is My body  
 And precious blood shed for you.

Our time on earth is not just short; it is filled with evil days as well. Everywhere we look, unwise people live for themselves and reject the grace of God. Our lives should be led by wisdom that comes from God, so we can be pleasing to him and an example to others. When we live like this, we can make the most of every opportunity to witness to others.

In remembrance of Me, search for truth;  
 In remembrance of Me, always love;  
 In remembrance of Me, don't look above,  
 But in your heart for God;  
 Do this is remembrance of Me.

Please take this opportunity to be reminded of the importance of the Last Supper and reflect upon the tradition that has been handed down from the beginning of the church. There will be choral, vocal and instrumental musical offerings throughout the dramatization. This is a most touching and wonderful manner in which to begin your Holy Week experience.

Karen Lindbloom

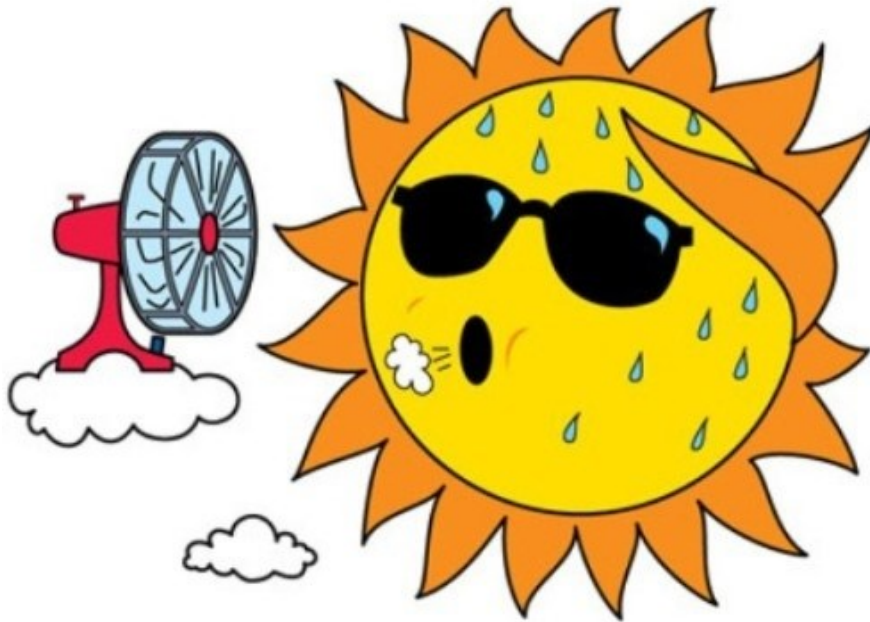
# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday school class had a good time raising money for Kids for Kenya. Through the LCMS World Relief and Human Care program, the students learned about Kenya Kids by watching videos of how the children in Kenya live each day, caring for animals, hauling water, walking long distances to school, maintaining the garden, and playing kick ball. The Sunday school class learned that children in Kenya are a lot like them. For every \$15, a child gets to go to school and learn about Jesus. The children wrote a letter to the children in Kenya to be sent with the \$153 they donated. The letter told the children to know that God is always with them and they hope to see them in Heaven someday.



## Fund Raising for Sanctuary Heating and Cooling Unit



Dear Faith Lutheran Members,

Over the years, our congregation has raised funds for many new additions, a parking lot, and other major undertakings. The Lord has always provided through your generosity to successfully close out these campaigns.

Now the time has come again. As many of you are aware, the sanctuary heating and cooling unit failed last November. A temporary fix was applied. This unit is twenty-three years old and ailing. At the December voters' meeting, approval was given to move forward with the replacement unit. The process has been started on building the new heating and cooling unit and will be completed and ready for installation within the next several months.

The total cost for the new heating and cooling unit, including removal and disposal of the current system, is \$83,280. Please pray about the amount you can contribute to this significant investment. Many hands can do great work. If 300 families contribute \$280, the project will be paid in full. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 19, between services. The Faith Lutheran Men's Group will be hosting a breakfast for the purpose of raising money for the new unit.

Thank you for all the support you have given Faith Lutheran over the years. We trust that together we can address this project the same way we have in the past.

God's Peace,

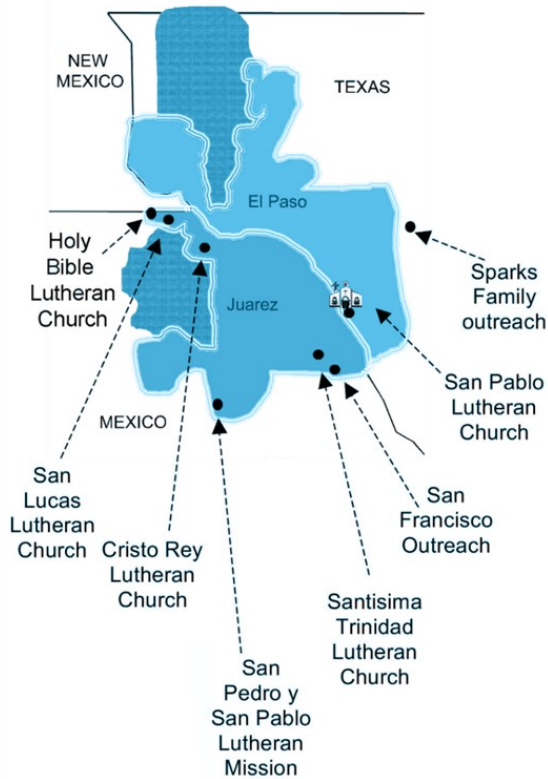
Faith Lutheran Church  
Board of Property Management



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

John 14:1 NRSV

## Mexico Mission Trip / Ysleta Lutheran Mission



As members of the body of Christ, we all have gifts according to the grace given us. On the Mexico Mission trip, we all have a purpose and contribute according to our own gifts. The mission trip is life changing, both for you and for those on the border whom we serve.

The house building projects are coordinated through Ysleta Lutheran Mission (YLM), an LCMS Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, stationed in El Paso, TX. While at YLM, we help with a community food distribution and campus maintenance projects. YLM, which began its work in 1982, supports thirteen distinct communities in the United States and Mexico.

Will you or you and your family join us this year on the Mission trip to Mexico? If so, we would like to hear from you soon. The trip is scheduled for June 2 through June 11.

Soon we will be coordinating many spring projects to help with raising the funds needed. We have regular meetings to prepare our hearts and minds for this event. Please contact Dennis or Carolyn Ryckman for more information.

*Ysleta Lutheran Mission has many churches they support in Mexico and Texas*

