

# January 2024 Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Over two thousand years ago, the world received its greatest gift. That is when God gave His Son to be born in a manger to fulfill the plan for our salvation. God's gift was planned centuries before it was given. God didn't give His leftovers. What is the greatest, best gift He could give? Himself! And so He did in the Person of His Son, Jesus. He gave His Son Who gave His life. What gift could be more appropriate? Christ is exactly what we need! What He wants from us is our hearts.



Line Dancing

Learn to Line Dance  
January 21 & 28, 2024  
2:00 PM start time

In the CFLC fellowship hall  
Refreshments will be served  
Sponsored by the Board of  
Parish Fellowship

Come kick up your heels!



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K.Spear

"I'd like to get saved. There's just one problem—  
I'm terrified of getting baptized."

Let's Go!

## Let's Go Witness

We have a wonderful, loving God who cares for each one of us on a personal level. God has given us his son, born in Bethlehem, who suffered, died, and rose from the dead. Because of him, we have forgiveness and eternal life. But not only that, God watches over us and protects us now. We've been looking at how God directs the movement of our lives. Our theme for 2023-2024 is "Let's Go!" Let's go worship, at we come into God's house to remember and give thanks for all that he provides. Let's go well, knowing that God provides healing and the solution to whatever may be bothering us. This month, let's go witness, as we carry this message into our community and world.

Jesus specifically instructs us to spread the gospel to people around us. He speaks about this at the end of Matthew's gospel as well as in Acts, where he says, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." We can share our faith and our hope wherever we may go. Perhaps one of the most concentrated examples is travelling to another place where in both words and actions to gospel is shared. Mission trips allow Christians in one area to make an impact upon people in another area. They are not the only way to share this wonderful message.

How can you tell people about Jesus? There is no guaranteed method that will work equally well for every person in every situation. Jesus did not give his disciples a script to read. He told them where to go (which was everywhere). One helpful suggestion is to find out more about the person you are thinking of. What are they thinking about? What are they struggling with? The gospel, our salvation in Jesus, can be expressed in many different ways. The forgiveness of Jesus can free someone who feels trapped in their past. The healing of Jesus can provide hope and direction for someone struggling with the limitations of our physical bodies. The resurrection of Jesus gives comfort in one of the worst moments of life. Focusing on a certain aspect of our faith can help someone begin to understand what Jesus brings to them and what might be missing from their life.

However and wherever you spread the message, it might not work. At least, it might not seem to work. Creating faith is the work of the Holy Spirit. That means that it is not your work. We do not create faith. You get to share what you believe. You might not ever know what happened in a person's life. I think when we all stand before Jesus, we will be able to understand the impact we had on other people. In the meantime, continue to interact with people that God puts in your life. It may be a conversation, it might be a kind gesture or grateful attitude, God will use you and your life to spread the word about his son Jesus. Next time, we will finish looking at our "Let's Go" theme with let's go work.

*Pastor Sam*

*Let's Go!*

# JOY IN JANUARY

*“But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;  
let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them,  
that those who love your name may exult in you.” Psalm 5:11*

Last evening, during the band portion of the TF Riggs Winter Concert, director Gage Ruhlman indicated that several of the band’s selections had an underlying theme of joy running through them. This was obvious in the following titles: “joyRIDE,” and “Choose Joy.” Most of us associate the holiday season with joy, excitement and happiness. He went on to explain how it is possible to find joy in the simple things, the everyday things, but also in sad times. Ruhlman shared that he encouraged his students to explore the background of the music they are learning, so they can perform the music with feeling and expression. One selection was based on a hymnsong by Philip Bliss, but the text was penned by Horatio Spafford in the 1800’s. Spafford not only lost four children on an ocean liner that sank in the Atlantic Ocean after a collision with another sea vessel, but the Great Chicago Fire had ruined him financially. Because of his deep faith, he was inspired to write the hymn we know as “It Is Well With My Soul.” Ruhlman commented that despite those tragic events, Spafford obviously felt a little spark of joy, knowing he would see his daughters again.

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; when sorrows, like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.*

The band’s final selection, “Choose Joy,” was a festive exultation that certainly exuded joy. It was based on Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy,” with phrases of the song darting back and forth in the music, before the entire melody appeared in the composition. “Ode to Joy” appears in the final movement of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. The text was loosely based on the work of German poet Friedrich Schiller. When Beethoven composed the entire work, he was completely deaf – he couldn’t hear a single note – which had to have been extremely frustrating, yet shows what a musical genius the composer was. The Ninth Symphony was completed in 1824 and is considered one of the greatest works in classical repertoire. It is known that Beethoven fought bouts of depression, and in addition to his deafness, dealt with tinnitus. Despite all that, perhaps there was a spark of joy in Beethoven’s life as well. Today, the tune HYMN TO JOY appears in our Lutheran Service Book, along with the following text:

*Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of Love!  
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee, praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

Joy is a deep-rooted emotion. It is perhaps a state where we are least likely to focus on ourselves. It’s a moment of delight. The apostle Paul wrote that joy is a fruit of the Spirit. From that comes comfort, contentment and peace; a natural part of the Christian faith. God gives us joy and peace. I have dealt with sorrow at the deaths of my husband and my parents, and I miss them on a daily basis. I would like to enjoy conversation with my husband again; there are so many things I’d like to tell him.

[Continued on page 4](#)

*Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year*

*Let’s Go!*

## JOY IN JANUARY continued

While going through Mom and Dad's house, their belongings, photo albums and family history, I now have so many questions I never thought to ask. Yet, there is joy, too. Reflecting back over their lives, I know all three had a strong faith – it's a comforting thought. We will begin a new year in a few short weeks; I am determined to find joy in the simple things – every day!

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, fountain head of love divine;  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Karen Lindbloom

## Are You a Giver or A Taker?

Even though we know that 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, but we're just not sure He means it.

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 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).

*Let's Go!*

## Daycare News

December was a busy but blessed month. We hosted the Christmas program where had soup and sandwiches before it started. We had families vote on their favorite decorated classroom door, and we gave the top 3 winners an amazon credit for something they would like for their classroom to help improve their teaching. As winter draws in, we have had lots of sick children and teachers and the children have been asking to pray for them to get better. This has really been a nice thing to hear, and they are excited tell their friends when they get back to daycare.

As you know, the daycare participated in this year's Christmas Program. Our classrooms sang the following songs, Little Lamb's- 9 Little Angel's, Lion's Den Preschool- Jesus, Savior of The World, The Garden- A Savior Born, The Ark- Long Ago, The Good Shephard's- Jesus Taught Sharing, and The Lion's Den Schoolers- Away in A Manger. They all did well, and families enjoyed watching.

Curriculum Themes -- January:  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>: Snowmen and Winter  
January 16<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>: Space  
January 30<sup>st</sup>-February 10<sup>th</sup>: Dental

We're looking forward to all the great things to come in 2022. Happy New Year! I hope you all had a blessed holiday season.

God Bless,

Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen  
daycare@faithluth.com



Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

## Preschool News

A Blessed New Year from Faith Lutheran Preschool! We had a great time in December learning about the birth of Jesus and having a birthday party for him here at school. We also had our Christmas program that was a great turn out and the kids did so wonderful.

This month we will be working on the letters S, I, M, and P, along with the numbers 12, 13, 14, and 15. We will also be emphasizing on the color blue and the shape of a rectangle. The kids will also be doing a show and tell, its always fun to see what the they bring and like to share about it with the class.

Our Bible lessons this month will be talking about the New Testament, and about Jesus teaching and healing. I always enjoy getting to teach the children about Jesus healing people.

Gods Blessings,

Mrs. Kampfe  
Preschool Director/Teacher  
[Preschool@faithluth.com](mailto:Preschool@faithluth.com)



Let's Go!

## Jesus Accepts and Perfects our Gifts

As sinful people, we are incapable of giving God what He deserves from us. However, we can be confident that our gifts are acceptable to God through Jesus. To illustrate this point, a story is told about a wood-carver who early in his life was a renowned carver. He passed on his craft to his son. Later in his life, the old man's eyes began to dim, and his hands began to tremble. He could no longer carve

the perfect figures of his youth. He would mar the figure, and imperfections blighted his work. His fading eyes could no longer see the flaws.

During the night, as the father was sleeping, the son would sneak down and correct his father's flaws in the newly carved wood. When the figures passed through the

hands of the son, they were made perfect again.

In the same way, we may bring our imperfect gifts with the confidence that, as they pass through the hands of Jesus, they will all be placed before the Father in absolute perfection.

### Official Acts

#### Baptisms

Leland Lonnie Standing Bear  
Kimimila Joe Standing Bear  
Charlotte Mae Gustafson  
Johanna Rae Poppe

#### Funeral

Neil Schochenmaier  
Aaron Zimmerman  
Forrest Wixon

# Endowment Fund

It has been requested that we give an explanation of the Endowment Fund and the options within that fund.

The Endowment Fund is truly about leaving a legacy. A donation to any part of the endowment would insure that you could support the ministry of this church well after you have passed on or left the church. The different accounts within the endowment were created to help a giver to have the opportunity to be specific about the areas where their investment is directed. Additionally, the giver is not limited to these specific accounts. Other fund accounts may be added (example: Scholarships for the daycare or preschool). The Board of Endowment wants this to be flexible and accommodating to the givers desires for their donation.

**Blessings in Faith** is the **original Fund** and is where any **undesignated** gifts to the Endowment fund go. The earnings are disbursed as follows: the first 15% to Missions (District/ Synod), the second 15% to Seminary student aid, the rest goes to numerous projects within the congregation as requests are received and the Board designate.

**Generations in Faith** gifts go into the **Endowment General Fund**. The earnings here are used for general operations of the church. Just as if you were designating your offering for the general fund.

**Foundations in Faith** gifts go toward the **Endowment Building Fund**. Earnings from this fund go for building and maintenance projects.

**Future in Faith** gifts go toward **Education**. Earnings here are used for the support of Christian education within the church.



**Our February newsletter** will be the Annual Report. All entities within the church are to submit their report to the office by **January 19**. I know some of you are new to this process so if you need an example of previous submissions let me know and I will print one for you.

These are usually a summary of events or other actions taken by the entity reporting. Thanks in advance for submitting your reports in a timely manner. Helen



*Let's Go!*

# YOUTH NEWS

## Sunday School Classes

Our Sunday School Classes will resume January 7, 2024.

## Midweek Catechism Classes

Our Midweek classes will resume on January 3, 2024.

## Higher Things Retreat

**Sunday, January 14 from 6PM through Monday, January 15 at 3PM**

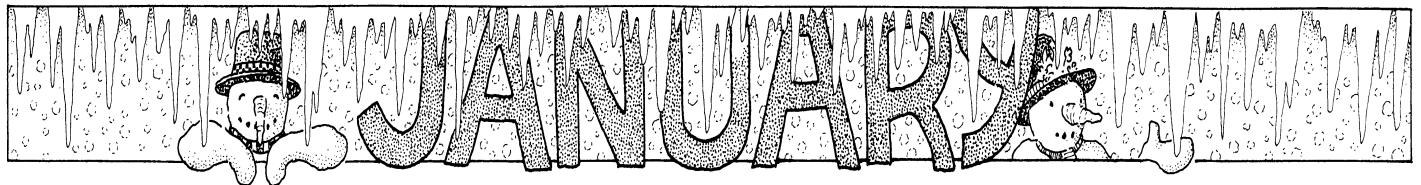
Have you ever wished to see more clearly and know more confidently what is of God and what is not? If so, then this Eyes to See retreat is for you! The devil makes nothing new yet re-markets his old deceptive ways to new generations. This presentation will give you Eyes to See both the works of the devil to avoid, and the works of God to cling to that you may abide in His peace and safety.



### EYES TO SEE

Faith Lutheran Church  
in Pierre, SD  
January 14-15, 2024

**SEE THE WORKS OF GOD AND CLING TO THEM IN PEACE AND SAFETY**



*Let's Go!*