

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

6th Annual Mexico Mission Trip in May

We are planning our sixth mission trip to Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, TX. The focus of the trip will be to build a home for a family in Juarez and share the Gospel. The week-long trip will include various mission activities, including handing out Bibles and blessing the people with the Good News of Jesus in a region filled with poverty.

We ask that you keep this trip in your prayers regarding those who are on the team as well as those whom God appoints to place in our paths. Also be watching for fund raising opportunities for you to help with financially. If you want to know more, please contact **Dennis Ryckman** (222-7713) or the Church office (224-2216). The trip will be one week long starting June 1st through 8th.

Mexico Mission Trip Rent-A-Worker

Our team is ready to help with your projects. In the past they have painted, cleaned drain spouts, removed rocks from ditches, built projects, raked leaves, tilled gardens, power raked yards, removed snow. Let them know what you have in mind and they will get you on the schedule. They have an energetic crew and are looking forward to serving you and the community, their neighbors.

Please contact Carolyn Ryckman (605-280-6347) or the Church office (605-224-2216).



Lenten Schedule Guided to the Cross

March 6, 2024

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

“Guided to Peace”

March 13, 2024

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

“Guided to Trust”

March 20, 2024

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

“Guided to Perseverance”

March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

“Access!”

March 29, 2024

Good Friday

7:00 pm

“Agnus Dei”

March 31, 2024 Easter

8:30 am & 11:00 am

“Against All Odds”



EASTER

Let's Go!

“Let’s Go Work”

God moves us to himself and then to other people. We have been tracking the movement of our lives using the theme “Let’s Go.” These words encourage and remind us to seek God where he has promised to be found, in his Word and Sacraments. They spur us to action in our world where we transmit the message of Jesus’ death and resurrection to others in word and deed. In this final segment, we will examine more closely the way in which God uses our work to spread his kingdom. In all of the roles and responsibilities that you carry, you work for the people that God has placed around you.

Work is sometimes used in a narrow sense as the place where you clock in and clock out. Maybe a government building, a school, or a business. These are the places where you work. While true, we need to hear and understand work in a much broader sense. To use a fancy word, your work encompasses all your “vocations.” The catechism gives some examples of what those vocations might include: parent, child, employee, employer, student, citizen, parishioner, and others. These can and will change throughout the course of your life. God grants and removes various vocations as we advance through life. These vocations are ways in which you are connected to other people. Look back at the short list to see what people might be affected. Our work is for the benefit of other people. It may be a parent cooking dinner, an employee who performs their work well, or a citizen voting in an election. Someone benefits from the work in all of these examples.

In our work, we mirror what Jesus has done. As he shares his final meal with his disciples, Jesus reminds and reinforces his command to love one another. In 1st century Israel, this was exemplified by the washing of feet. In 21st century America, we have many ways to carry out the same command to love. As you perform your responsibilities, whatever they may be, you are obeying Jesus’ words. Your work gives a concrete way to manifest your faith.

When viewed this way, work is an essential part of our lives. Even those of us who are retired still work in other vocations. Work is not just the place where you receive your paycheck. Your work is multi-faceted and might include some places and people that you have not realized. “Let’s go work,” knowing that in this way God uses your time and energy to spread his love. You are the hands and feet of Jesus in whatever setting he has placed you.

The movement of our lives begins and ends with God. Our work drains us both physically and spiritually. God gathers us back in his presence where he refreshes us. We draw strength from the reminder of Jesus crucified and risen. Renewed, we witness and work to share with others what our Lord has done for us. In our worship, our witness, and our work, God is moving each one of us. “Let’s Go!”

Pastor Sam



*We have
waited for him,
so that he might
Save Us.*

ISAIAH 25:9, NRSV

Let’s Go!

THOUSAND, THOUSAND

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.”

Isaiah 53:4, 5

Back in the day, when my boys were in elementary school, I had taken Chris (5th grade) to Mid-week on a Wednesday evening in Lent. After dropping him off, I headed back home and proceeded to finish serving Rodd (second grade) and my husband their dinner. Shortly thereafter, Rodd and I jumped in the car and made our way back to church for the evening worship service. While riding in the car, this is how the conversation went:

Rodd: Mom, when are we going to sing thousand, thousand again?

Me: Rodd, what are you talking about?

Rodd: Well, you know – thousand, thousand...

Me: I have no idea what you're talking about!

Rodd: Mom, you KNOW! Thousand, thousand!

Me: Rodd, I'm sorry, I don't have a clue!

By that time, we had arrived at church, and the discussion ended. I really didn't give it another thought, until.... a few weeks later, we were back in church, attending worship. The hymn was announced and we stood up to sing, Rodd and I sharing the hymnal. We got to the refrain, and then it hit me: "Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee." I looked at Rodd and he was beaming! He loved singing that refrain! Whether his second-grade mind could comprehend the full text of that hymn, it gave his young boy's heart great joy to sing it! (He said later it was the melody.)

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thy-self for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe;
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus unto Thee.

This is a hymn of thanksgiving to the Redeemer and Savior for his bitter suffering and atonement for our sins. The text speaks of the terrible torment our Lord endured, including beatings, being whipped and mocked, and eventually death by a barbaric crucifixion. It was penned by Ernst C. Homburg, a lawyer by profession, who wrote most of his hymns for his own devotions. In earlier years, he was the writer of love and drinking songs. However, after a difficult time of family illness, he experienced a religious conversion and his poetry took a more serious turn. He wrote hymns to express and strengthen his own faith rather than for public use.

Thou hast borne the smiting only, that my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, blessing unto me securing,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus unto Thee.

Continued on page 4



THOUSAND, THOUSAND continued

While I was researching the author of this hymn, I ran across a quote by Leonard Ravenhill, an English Christian evangelist, whose subjects focused on prayer and revival. This quote was inscribed on his headstone at his gravesite: "Are the things you are living for worth Christ dying for?" That really gave me pause to think. To me it means living for Jesus. We choose to live for Jesus instead of living for ourselves. It means we use our gifts to serve God and others. We strive to live as Jesus lived; we study Him in the Scriptures and pattern our lives after His. One of my Bible studies once indicated that the human heart is an idol factory, so we continually search our hearts for idols that steal our time and affection away from total devotion to Him. In our present culture, it's a real challenge. Because He gave unselfishly, we set aside our preferences and devote our time, resources and energy to His purposes. It's truly a matter of priorities. It's about action. We find our greatest fulfillment in serving Him. Both of my parents served in various capacities at church into their 90's. We have many opportunities right here at Faith Lutheran.

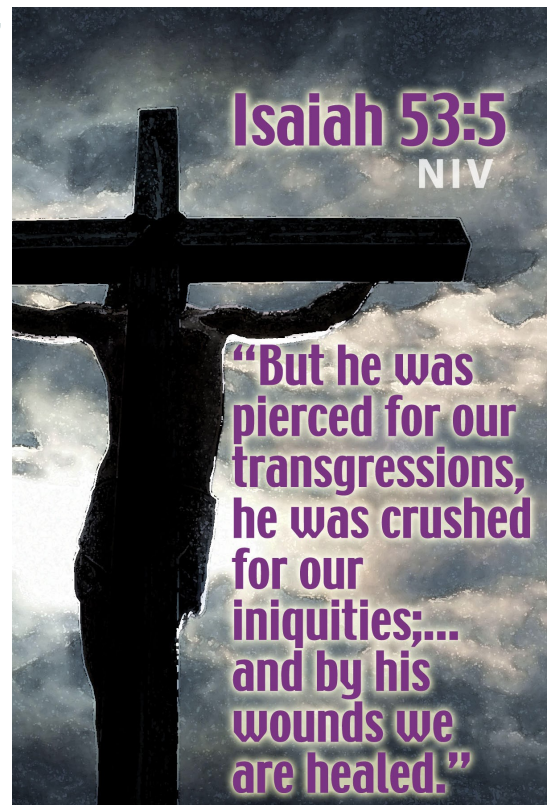
Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, that from pain I might be free;
 Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security;
 Comfortless Thy soul did languish me to comfort in my anguish.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus unto Thee.

Jesus came to do the Father's will. He thought we were worth dying for. We are all going to die some day. There are those who might deny it, as if they can cheat death. Others fear death. We have been saved for a purpose. The apostle Paul identified his life for Christ; he preached Christ and Him crucified. He knew by preaching that anything he accomplished in his (earthly) life was "rubbish" compared to gaining Christ. When he met the Lord on the road to Damascus, he asked, "What do you want me to do with my life?" He, too, endured hardships in his ministry – he was stoned, shipwrecked and jailed. That didn't stop him from living his life for Christ.

Thou has suffered great affliction and hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion, full to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus unto Thee.

What are you living for? Is the life you are living worth
 Christ dying for?

Karen Lindbloom



Let's Go!



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

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

Place donations in the Narthex.

Food Items Needed

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

- Beef stew
- Cake mixes
- Cereal (cold and hot)
- Cooking oil (24 oz bottles preferred)
- Elbow macaroni
- Flour
- Fruit (cans)
- Jelly (plastic bottles)
- Juice (plastic bottles/cans)
- Ketchup & mustard
- Pancake mix
- Pasta and pasta meals (boxes/cans)
- Peanut butter
- Soup: chunky / hearty
- Spaghetti sauce (cans)
- Sugar (2 pound bags preferred)
- Syrup
- Tuna and canned chicken

Other Items Needed:

- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry detergent & fabric softener
- Lotion
- Paper towels
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Soap & body wash
- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes

• Financial donations are welcome. Checks are payable to PARS; leave in church office or place in offering plate. Write Food Pantry on the memo line.

• 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 March-May, local banks and credit unions will provide a percentage matching amount!



Let's Go!

THIS AND THAT

FOREVER YOUNG



Our Forever Young potluck will be the third **Wednesday** this month, **March 20**. We will have our meal after our morning Lenten service. This event will be a regular potluck. Beverage will be provided. Bring a dish to share and a friend.

pm before Midweek and the Lenten services.

Palm Cross Assembly



If anyone would like to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday our assembly day is **Saturday, March 23 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



Bristol Ann Schulz
1/21/24

Parker Kayanne Schulz
1/21/24

Lorelai Jane Swanson
2/11/24

Funerals



Lorraine Tople 1/5/24

Glenn Sandal 1/10/24

Donald Huebner 1/28/24



LENTEN MEALS

Our Boards are invited to take their turn serving a Wednesday meal. They will be hosting Lenten meals from 5:15-6:45

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, 2024.

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 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 2 in Sioux Falls at Faith Lutheran, 601 N Cliff Avenue.

Captain's Meeting at 10:30 am

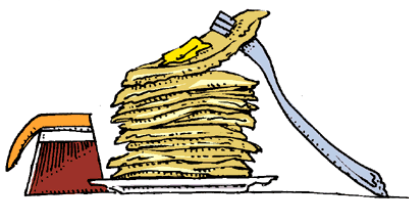
Devotion at 10:45 am
Tournament start-11am



Men's Club Breakfast Fundraiser

March 10, 2024
Between services

The funds from this fundraiser will go to help finance the new security system that is being installed.



Pancake Breakfast



Our Men's Fellowship is Monday, March 4 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 9 or You Will Be Late for Church on Sunday, March 10.





Passover Seder Meal

March 25, 2024

6:00 pm

Our Passover Meal will take place on the Monday of Holy Week, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. We limit the participation to 70 people. While middle school and youth are also encouraged to attend, they must have a parent attend with them. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table in the Narthex. Sign up today.



Corned Beef 'N' Cabbage Meal

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Noon meal following the late service

Freewill Offering proceeds will go toward the Lutheran Witness subscriptions

It is back again this year! The Kenefick-Aschoff family is organizing the Corned Beef N Cabbage meal as we have done in the past.

Menu:

Corned Beef N Cabbage

Red Potatoes

Macaroni and Cheese

Dark Rye Bread

Bread Pudding with Caramel Sauce

This meal will be once again served family style. Take-out or eat in. Please sign up in the Narthex so that we know you are coming.

Let's Go!

**JOIN US for a Faith Lutheran Trip
ARK + CREATION MUSEUM
July 28 — Aug. 3, 2024**



See the latest details at www.faithluth.com/ArkTrip

You will be amazed at how the Bible comes to life at the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter! Travel via the Faith Motor Coach. Travel cost per person, \$225, deposit required. Lodging and Meals on your own. Tentative Itinerary:

Day 1/2: Travel to Lawrenceburg, IN

Day 3: Tour Creation Museum

Day 4: Tour Creation Museum or Ark Encounter

Day 5: Tour Ark Encounter at Williamstown, KY

Day 6/7: Travel to Pierre, SD

Again, sign up by April 1. We need 30 people to go. Contact church office @ 605-224-2216 or Dennis Ryckman @ 605-222-7713 for more information.

Let's Go!

The LWML is taking a break from assembling Little Dresses kits this year. We will be doing it again, so please continue to donate your items for this project. Instead, we are assembling **Health Kits** for **Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Shelter** here in Pierre. We are starting with several items that were already donated for other health kits but were not used. We have added a few things to our list of needed items so we can complete 50 kits. **The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex – please list what you are donating and be mindful of what is needed. Only donate those things listed.** We will be collecting these items through April. If we fill this request, we will add more kits. Thank you for your help with this. If you have questions, please call Jan Larson 650-280-0862. PS We do not need any soap for the kits – they already have plenty of these!

**Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
South Dakota District
63RD Convention**

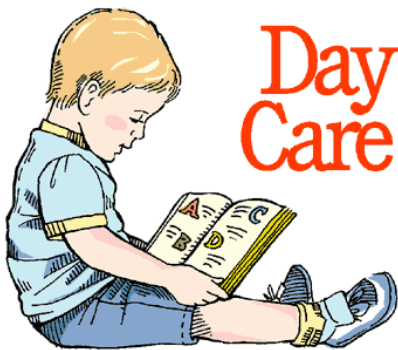
**Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center
Aberdeen, SD**

“Inexpressible Joy-Matchless Savior”

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Let’s Go!

Faith Lutheran Daycare



Day
Care

February was a great month, children and staff have been staying healthy. We are excited to have enough staff to be able to expand our three to five year old classrooms. We

are thankful and hopeful that the new staff will be with us for a while to keep enrolment up after the kindergarten aged children graduate.

In February/March we will be hosting a Butter Braid fundraiser. The money will be used to have teachers get their training hours for the year as well as supplies for the classrooms. We are in the process of getting prices for a T-shirt fundraiser go-

ing as well, we have had some parents express interest in it.

Thank you for all the ways you support our daycare!

God Bless!



Faith Lutheran Preschool

Wow, have we been having fun learning! 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. Lastly in February we will be having some fun Dr. Seuss activities.

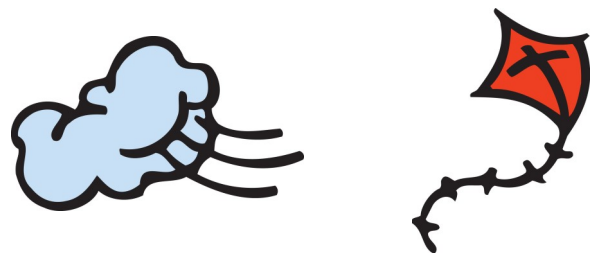
In March we will be talking about how Jesus takes care of us, and leading up to Easter. Letters for the month are going to be D, J, E, and U numbers will be 19 & 20

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 (\$50) if you are interested in enrolling your child for the fall of 2024.

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



Let's Go!

Bible Bowl 2024

We received word from the South Dakota LCMS district on the 2024 Bible Bowl. The books of the Bible are Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Students from sixth grade to seniors are eligible to participate. The statewide competition is before Palm Sunday. **The Bible Bowl is set for March 23, 2024.** For more information or to register please see Bible Bowl coach LeRoy Kropuenske. He is around on Sunday for Sunday School and Wednesday for confirmation.



OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH!

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Brookings invites youth from throughout South Dakota to join their youth June 2-7, 2024, for a very special trip. They will be traveling to the Ark Encounter....Join



us June 2-7, 2024 for a Youth Trip to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Kentucky (staying 2 nights at nearby Potter's Ranch), with additional overnight stops at Concordia University Wisconsin, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, and Concordia Seminary St. Louis. The trip is intended for youth who will have completed 7th grade through those who have completed 12th grade in 2024 & their chaperones. The cost is \$850 per person (everything included except 5 meals). The trip will leave/return from Sioux Falls. More information can be found online at <https://www.mountcalvary1.org/kentuckytrip>.

Let's Go!