

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Help a Camper go to Camp!

Camp Minneboji
Sunday-Saturday
morn

June 16-22

Lake Okoboji Iowa
(Ages 10 through
finishing 9th Grade)



AND/OR

Circuit Bible
Camp

July 15-17

Downstream

Oahe Dam

(ages 10 through
finishing 8th
Grade)

On Sunday morning, April 14, join us for a scrambles egg and sausage breakfast with fresh biscuits and jelly hosted by the men of our Men's Fellowship. All proceeds will go to help our youth go to Camp. Our camps have gotten expensive so let's do all we can to help a lot of our youth to go to camp.

Our 2024 Confirmands

Chevelle Elizabeth Brakke

Amara Mae Garcia

Laela Aletha Kost

Laiken Keith Marnell

Sawyer Michael Overweg

Brylee Jo Pelle

Kaehlyn Danielle Pfeffer

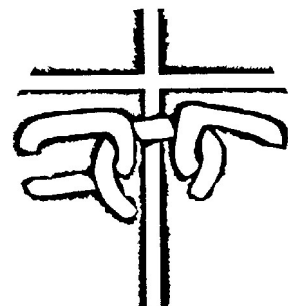
Anthony William Poelstra

Brianna Kay Roman

Ann Marie Tjerdsm

Confirmation Questioning—
April 24, 2024 at 6:00 in the
Sanctuary

Confirmation—Sunday, April
28, 2024 at the 11:00 wor-
ship service



Security System

This month, instead of talking about a theological topic, I want to take the opportunity to discuss some changes to our security here at Faith. Our church was broken into in December of 2023. The police arrested the person who broke in and his court case is in progress. This incident caused us to evaluate how people are able to access our building as well as our camera coverage of our campus.

You may have noticed some new cameras in the inside and outside of our church. We now have cameras covering the parking lot, playground, and both east and west sides of the building. We also upgraded some cameras in the main hallways (between the church office and the elevator) to be able to monitor those better. Fortunately, our existing cameras were able to catch the person who broke in and assist the police in their investigation. These additional cameras will allow us to monitor our entire building and campus.

Along with changes to our cameras, we have made some alterations to exterior door locks. Any exterior door with a handle is now connected to a card reader. We previously had one of these card readers by the triple door near the church office. The doors can be locked and unlocked on a set schedule (such as for Sunday and Wednesday worship or during business hours). We have the ability to set the schedule for each door individually. For example, during the week the triple doors by the office will be unlocked while the rest of the doors will be locked. This means that people coming in to the church will pass by the office. Our intent is to be able to see when someone comes in and assist them with directions or questions.

During the month of April, we will be switching over from physical keys to key fobs. The external key locks will be removed. Under our prior system, if someone had a copy of the main key, they were able to access most of the building at any time and for any reason. If such a person meant to harm our building or employees, they would have ready access to do so. Our only option would be to re-key the entire church each time such a threat existed. With the new locks, we are able to activate and de-activate any key fob immediately, removing access for a person who intends to harm us or our building.

My hope is that many of you are completely unaffected by our changeover. The church will remain open for Sunday and Wednesday worship. The triple office doors will be open from morning to night. Some of us need to be able to access the church outside of these hours. The Board of Property Management is putting together a list of people who need such access. There will be some growing pains, like when we needed to prop open a door during Lent worship one Wednesday. I think this new system will benefit us and help us to keep this a safe place for God's people to gather.

The cost of this new system is just under \$29,000. This is for new cameras, locks, the labor to install them, and training. I ask that you prayerfully consider if you are willing and able to give additional offerings to offset this cost.

Pastor Sam



Let's Go!

STARTING OUT THE DAY

“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.” Psalm 5:3

How do you start the day? Do you jump in the shower right away? Or do you go out for a jog or a run to wake up? How about downing a hearty breakfast? After rolling out of bed and getting dressed, do you grab a cup of coffee and head off to work? Maybe you read the paper while enjoying a leisurely breakfast. When I was growing up, you could set your watch to my parents’ routine – it never changed, regardless of the day. They were up early, turned the radio on for the weather forecast, and got dressed for the day. Dad brought the paper in and Mom started breakfast – all by 6:00 am. Because Dad was a common laborer, he needed a solid meal early in the morning. He was often out of the house before my brother and I arrived at the breakfast table – many Saturdays, as well – and on Sundays, he dashed out to ring the church bell an hour before service – and in winter, to shovel snow. When my boys were in their teens, my husband was often out the door before 7:00 to make rounds; even earlier if he had a surgery scheduled. I was teaching school, so I was rushing around, and the boys had their own agenda, depending on the season. Breakfast was pretty much a “grab-and-go” affair, all laid out the night before. Each of us was busy, taking off in different directions.

**With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise, and when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes;
be to Him commended.**

My folks set time aside for family devotions before we kids headed to bed. It was definitely easier when we were little, and as we got older, it required more strategy. Sometimes one of us kids was missing, so Mom laid the Portals of Prayer on the kitchen table, that way we’d be

sure to see it when we came in at night. I can’t speak for my brother, but when I went off to college, I’ll admit I wasn’t very intentional about devotions, even though I attended Sunday services pretty regularly. The older I got, the busier I became, and many times I fell asleep during my bedtime prayers. While I was raising my family, I attempted to let the boys know that, outside of worship, regular prayer and time with God was important. As they became older, I would buy devotional books specifically for teen boys – even some with testimonies written by sports heroes and other celebrities – and leave them in their rooms. There were also times when, Chris, especially, would meet with an FCA prayer group before school.

**Let your day begin with prayer, praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev’ry care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter’s might,
with His presence cheer you.**

At the beginning of January this year, I had back surgery. Even though it was a same-day procedure, it was major surgery. I was sent home with strict rules: No bending, no lifting, no twisting for six weeks, and no driving until cleared by the doctor. I’m used to leading a busy life, so it really cramped my style. I also wasn’t used to depending on others. Since I was pretty much stuck at home, I did make a major change in my morning routine, however, and it’s stuck. Pastor Wexler had given me a One Year Daily Bible Reading Plan at Christmastime, and since Rodd and Megan were doing it, I decided I would, too. Then a friend gifted me a daily devotional, “Jesus Listens,” and it was one with room for journaling. Having always read the “Portals of Prayer” and other devotionals at bedtime, I decided to move my devotions to morning and combine it with the Bible reading plan. Not having to get up and go anywhere for three to four weeks, I began reading the “Portals of Prayer,” and “Jesus Listens” while eating breakfast. After showering and getting ready for the day, I’d begin reading the assigned Bible passages for the day. It was an

STARTING OUT THE DAY continued

easy habit to stick to, an enjoyable one, and I've looked forward to it. Now, with few restrictions, I'm still spending time early in the day doing my devotions – even on Sundays, when I leave for church at 7:30. Now, most days, the Bible reading plan ends up being later in the day, depending on my schedule.

**With your Savior at your side, foes need not alarm you,
In His promises confide, and no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose in the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows how to stem disaster.**

St. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:17, the text on which this hymn is based, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Everything we do, from morning till night, is to be done in a Godward way, in reliance on his grace. Whether we're at school, working our job, caring for children, whatever – in our home, a workplace, in school, we should work heartily, keeping focused on Jesus, the one we are working to please, honor and glorify. While it is good to have human authority, ultimately, authority isn't a man or woman. We need to look above them to the Lord, as we are working for the Lord, not for men. There are times when we will wander off the path by not always speaking, thinking or acting as we should, yet the Lord is with us, directing and ordering our ways according to his will.



**Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask, until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done to Your praise forever.**

Karen Lindbloom

This and That

HVAC UPDATE

Total cost \$83,279.74
Total donations \$72,108.53
Remaining \$11,171.21

Security System Update

Total cost \$30,370.04
Total donations \$2,840.00
Remaining \$27,530.04



**Mexico Mission Trip
Spring Yard Work – Rent-A-Worker**

Be watching in the Narthex for information about our spring rent-a-worker program. We will again be doing yard cleanup, power-raking, window cleaning, small odd jobs, and other fund raising opportunities for you to support this mission financially.



Let's Go!

Preschool News

YAY! We finally see spring! In the month of April, we hope to get out and go on some walks to find sightings of spring. We have a busy month planned with learning our final letter R, C & Z, we will also be talking about color green and the shape octagon.

As we wrap up the month of March and into April, we learned all about the sacrifices Jesus made for us when he died on the cross. I love teaching the children the Easter Story and spreading the word of Jesus.

A few fun things as we wrap up our school year is the kids will be getting to have ZESTO for the letter Z, and the two



He is Risen!

Kindergarten readiness classes will be taking a field trip to the Discovery Center.

We still have a few openings for next year's preschool, if you know anyone in need send them our way. We would love to have them.

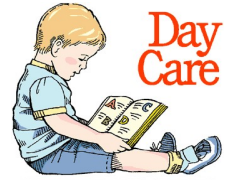
God's blessings to all of you as we enjoy the beautiful spring weather and experience the joy of Easter season.

Kelsey Kampfe
Preschool Director/
Teacher

Daycare News

In March we hosted our Butter Braid Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who supported us through this fundraiser! Our waitlist continues to grow, we need baby room staff! Any word-of-mouth advertising would be greatly

appreciated. We were able to clean up the 3-5-year-old waitlist down to 7!!



We have started our little gardens in all classrooms, and we will be transplanting them to our raised gardens when they are ready. We are truly blessed to have the support from all of the church members.

April Curriculum Themes:

Bible Story: *Easter Story* –
Concept: Jesus Died for our sins

We do a Jelly Bean Prayer that the kids really enjoy!

Thank you for all the ways you support our daycare!

Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen
daycare@faithluth.com

Official Acts

Baptism

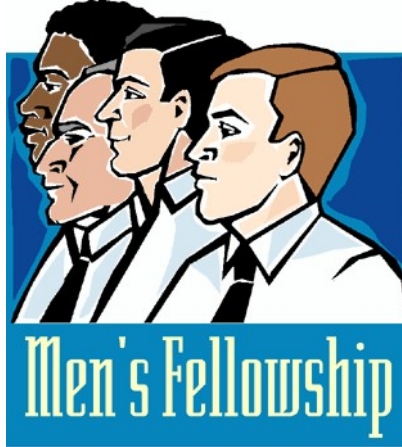
Korbin Leander Austin
Reagan Marie Martin
Otto Charles Benson

Deaths

Opal Tousley
Clara Shelbourn
Arlene Barker
Luella Tople
Ryan "Opie" Taylor



Men's Club



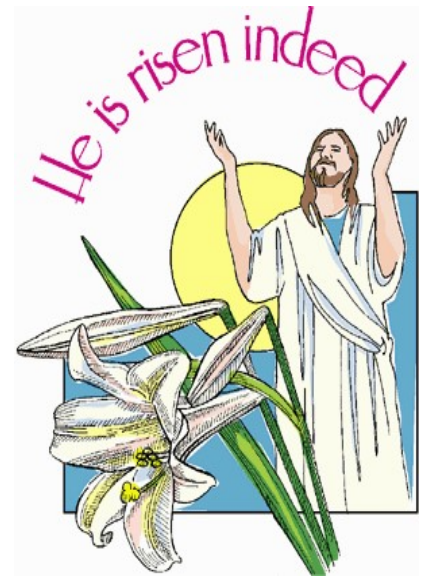
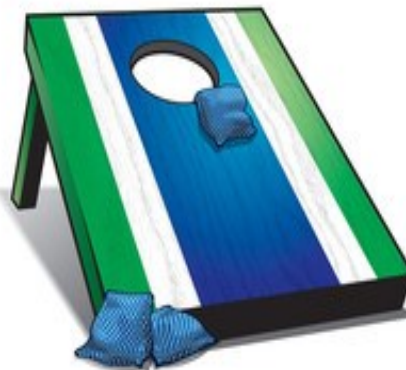
Forever Young
Our Forever Young
 meal for April will
 be the third Thurs-
 day in April, April
 18.

Forever Young is a
 group of retired and
 semi-retired mem-
 bers who get togeth-
 er once a month for
 food and fellowship.
 Please join us for a
 potluck luncheon.
 Bring a dish to
 share. Hope to see
 you there!



POTLUCK DINNER
FOR SENIORS

Our Men's Club
 will meet on
 April 1. We will
 be throwing
 some bean bags.
 Let's warm up
 those throwing
 arms! Please
 bring a snack to
 share.



LWML Presentation
 Monday, April 8th at
 7pm, LWML will have
 speaker Nance Orsbon
 representing Church of
 Hope. She will be talking
 to the group about the
 needs of women leaving
 the South Dakota Wom-
 en's Prison. Each lady
 receives an exit bag
 which includes toiletries,
 feminine products,
 etc. LWML will be
 holding a silent auction
 that night, with all pro-
 ceeds going to support
 this great mission.

We invite everyone
 to join us on the 8th in
 the sanctuary to hear
 Nance, enjoy fellowship,
 treats, coffee & help sup-
 port this local mission!

Let's Go!

COMPASSION SUNDAY

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a Compassion Sunday on Sunday May 5, 2024.

Compassion has more than 1 million alumni around the world whose lives have been changed. They are doctors, lawyers, government workers and community leaders. Research indicates that sponsorship is a reliable and effective way to help children. And right now more than 720 million people face food insecurity amid the global food crisis. Children are suffering. In the face of such injustice, it's imperative that the Body of Christ take action.

That's why Compassion Sunday events can be so powerful. We know that helping a child see themselves as a precious and valuable child of God is our most potent weapon against poverty. Children who feel cherished are more likely to stay in school, become leaders in their communities and build tomorrow's church. By connecting a child in poverty with a sponsor in our church, you'll help make that possible.

There will be many packets on the table in the Living Room with descriptions of a child in need of support. Check them out before, after, or between services.

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Psalm 82:3 NIV



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.

POVERTY FACTS

Worldwide, **385 million** children live in extreme poverty.
 Every **2 minutes**, a child dies of malaria, a preventable and treatable disease.
 An estimated **61 million** primary school age children worldwide don't attend school.
 Around **45%** of deaths of children under 5 are linked to undernutrition.
 Globally, **2.1 billion** people don't have safe water at home.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Proverbs 31:8 NIV



Let's Go!

It's a Record!

The Faith Lutheran congregation donated a whopping 2,553.4 pounds of goods to the Food Pantry during the month of March. It's the highest weight we've ever recorded in this annual mission project that serves families in need in the Pierre-Ft. Pierre area. The donations were sorted, counted, boxed and labeled before being delivered to the Food Pantry on April 3rd. The donations were truly needed - some items went out the door the same day!

BY THE NUMBERS

- **2,738 items** - including nonperishable food, household products, and personal care products
- **182 boxes** were filled and labeled
- **\$6,205 in financial contributions** - among our highest years
- **\$250 from Thrivent Financial** was used to purchase diapers, detergent, flour, sugar, oil and cleaning supplies

You donated **379** diapers - **266** cans and packages of soup, stew, chili and ramen noodles - **208** personal care items including shampoo, soap, deodorant and lotions - **161** cans of tuna, chicken and other canned meat - **159** boxes and bags of dry pasta - **118** toothbrushes and toothpaste (a record!) - **112** household products such as detergent, dish soap and cleaning supplies - **87** boxes of macaroni and cheese - **84** boxes of cereal - **79** cans of spaghetti sauce - **66** cans of pasta meals - **59** boxes of potato mixes - **45** bags of flour and sugar - **and more!**

A HUGE THANKS to the Faith Congregation for your generous support of this important project and for the crew of volunteers who helped deliver the donations to the Food Pantry!



FAITH'S YOUTH GROUP meets every Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m. at Faith. Open to anyone in eighth grade through high school and is intended to be a safe place where high school aged youth can come together to spend time and fellowship together as young Christians each week. Pastor Handschke and Michael Shoup lead the group. If you have an activity that you would like to do, please let them know! Creativity is welcome!

